

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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2021 BMAA Meeting Scheduled

By Jeff Swart, President • BMA of America

We would all acknowledge that 2020 has been a year that we will never forget. Although we were not 100% positive at the time, canceling the national meeting in 2020 turned out to be the correct decision. Now, it is time to consider the 2021 meeting and we are again facing a great unknown. After spending time praying and considering the various alternatives, we have decided

to schedule the national meeting in 2021 and will practice social distancing with no close contact of messengers.

The BMA of America national meeting will be held Monday, April 19 through Wednesday, April 21 at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. The meeting will be conducted with the same format as the 2019 meeting with the exception of the breakout sessions that are normally held on Tuesday morning. We will not be having the breakout sessions in order to comply with social distancing requirements. Should the health department regulations change between now and the time of the meeting, we will comply with all state and local regulations and may need to modify the format of the meeting.

The hotel booking information and a draft of the schedule for the meeting will be printed in the January 2021 issues of the *Baptist Trumpet*. The available hotels will be the same as last year (You can find last year's hotel information at www.baptisttrumpet.com/bmaa2021meeting).

Please pray that we will be able to host the 2021 national meeting because there is a great need for all of us to be together as we conduct the Lord's business. Please pray for your officers and the national meeting production team as we plan a meeting that will glorify the Son and edify the messengers and guests of our churches.



MOVING with Ministers and Staff

This is only a news column, and the publishing of a person's availability should not be considered a recommendation by the Trumpet. To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at www.baptisttrumpet.com.

Rodger Cole recently retired from Antioch Baptist Church, Carthage, Texas after 30 years of service. He is available for pulpit supply or interim service. Contact him at (903) 315-8917, (903) 315-8919, s9co@aol.com or 120 Patton Ln., Judsonia, Ark. 72081.

Antioch Baptist Church in Carthage, Texas is seeking a pastor. Resumes may be sent to Pulpit Committee, Attn: Scott Dyer, 442 County Road 1081, Carthage, Tex. 75633 or sedyer57@gmail.com. For more information, call (903) 690-4819.

Spring Branch Baptist Church at Taylor is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to Jody Taylor at jodytaylor2019@icloud.com or P.O. Box 366, Sarepta, La. 71071. For more information, call (318) 230-5856.

Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas is seeking a full-time lead teaching pastor. Resumes, ministry philosophy and sermon links can be emailed to jobs@keltys.org or mailed to Attn: Pastor Search, P.O. Box 3043, Lufkin, Tex., 75903. Visit keltys.org/pastorsearch for more information and a job description.

It's Time To Order

By Jordan Tew,
Asst. to the Executive Director
Baptist Publishing House

Baptist Publishing House is excited about the upcoming winter Sunday School/Bible Study curriculum covering the Sermon on the Mount. The winter quarter runs Dec. 2 through Feb. 28 and is written by Dr. David Hellwig and Dr. Philip Attebery. For more information or to place your order, visit www.baptist-publishinghouse.com or call (800) 333-1442.



I Can't Do It!

By Diane Spriggs, Editor Emeritus • Baptist Trumpet

Executive Editor's Note: This article was written by Diane at Lifeword's request, and is reprinted with their permission.

Have you ever been called on to do something that you knew, without a doubt, you weren't capable of doing? Well, that's exactly what happened to me 15 years ago!

Although I had been at the *Baptist Trumpet* (the weekly religious newspaper of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas) for over 25 years, and was serving as assistant editor, I never even dreamed about being the editor/boss. But that was exactly what I felt like I was being called to do.

I struggled with the idea for almost a year and had some long (and short) conversations with God about it. Those "conversations" mostly consisted of me telling Him why I "couldn't possibly" be the editor and Him answering back. (In my head, of course, not audibly; and in words that I could best understand.)

My first reason was simply that the editor had always been a man and a preacher — and I was neither one! God's answer? "I know, I pretty much made you!" He convicted me that He was, indeed, calling me and that it was something a woman like me could do. After all, they wouldn't want an editor of "few words," and I certainly had a lot of words and used them with great regularity.

So I went to the second reason: I only had a high school education and had never even taken a journalism course. God's answer: "Do you want to do it, or do you want me to do it?"

When I answered, "That would be you, if it's going to be done at all."

His response was "Then I could get a monkey to do it!"

To which I responded, "If you get me, you'll have one!"

Well, I came up with a few other flimsy excuses, but the bottom line is that He won. I applied for the position, still thinking I'd never be chosen for the job; but, sure enough, I was, and I have been serving in this position since then. Of course, I've made some mistakes, but I hope I have finished well overall.

I will retire next month, and it has caused me to reflect on some lessons I've learned along the way and the Bible verses that go along with those lessons:

• **Those God calls, He equips.** No general would send his soldiers into battle

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Lifeword By the Numbers

By Jon Dodson, Director of Digital Strategies

Donny Parrish, executive director at Lifeword, brought me on board to build what we now know as the Lifeword Cloud or Lifeword.org. Following that implementation in September 2018, Donny asked me to create a digital strategy that would ensure Lifeword could reach more people online — connecting them to Jesus. Connecting people to Jesus is a big part of Lifeword's vision and mission. This year at Lifeword.org has been a banner year.

I'm going to share some information with you about how Lifeword.org is doing. I love to look at the data because I do not just see numbers, I see numbers of people. I hope that you will also see people represented in the information I'm about to share.

The month before we launched Lifeword.org or the Lifeword Cloud, we had approximately 1,900 new users hit the website. New users are people that have never been to Lifeword.org before. That's not a bad number by any means. It's a great number for many organizations. For now, I want to couch that piece of information so I can come back to it later. I think this number gives us a benchmark that shows how far we have come and how God is truly blessing right now.

The theme of Lifeword Sunday this year is "Make His Name Famous." Here are just some of the ways God has allowed Lifeword.org through our digital strategies to make His name famous around the world as we've made this transition to engage the culture:

• **Lifeword currently has 145 Lifeword Community Radios (LCR).** These are low wattage, FM transmitters all over the world. Some of them are deep in the jungles of South America and others remote locations around the world. They are an incredible support for missionaries and church planters as they reach communities to share the gospel. By May 31, the end of Lifeword's fiscal year,

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PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President

CBC to Participate In GivingTuesday on Dec. 1

CBC will join non-profit organizations all over the world and participate in GivingTuesday. (Visit givingtuesday.org to learn more.) This is a global day of giving on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, GivingTuesday takes place after the Black Friday and Cyber Monday events and begins the charitable giving season.

Days like GivingTuesday are so important to CBC and other non-profit organizations. It increases public awareness about CBC and allows individuals to offer their support in a virtual setting, which is especially important since we still find ourselves in the midst of a global health pandemic.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Dec. 1! On this day I am asking you to give generously to one of the nine funds which make up the Gifts that Transform annual giving program for CBC. To give, visit cbc.edu/givingtuesday. Each gift given is a transformational gift because it helps further the mission and ministry of CBC.

Memorial / Honor Gifts

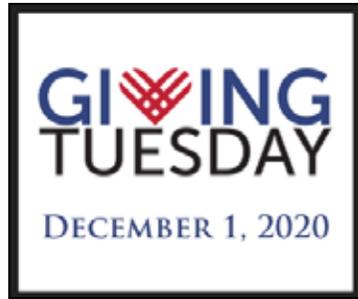
The following are memorial and honor contributions received since the last report. Some of the contributions are recurring gifts but are only listed once. However, the family and/or honoree received an acknowledgement each time an honor/memorial gift was received.

In Memory Of

Kenneth R. Brown, J.E. Cobb, Dr. Harold E. Cooper, Rufus Crawford and Rena Hoggard by Mr. & Mrs. Tommy L. Wallace; **Billy T. Garner** by Mr. & Mrs. Hershel D. Newton; **Henry Hall** by Mr. & Mrs. Travis Faulk;

Elmer "B" Lindsey by Howard Cranor, First Baptist Church of Caldwell, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff D. Garrison and Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hughes; **Donna "Micki" M. Mitchell** and **Dr. Ron Mitchell** by Esther M. Kershner-Mitchell;

James Ray Raines by Mr. & Mrs.



Charles E. Blackmore, Mr. & Mrs. Travis Faulk, Esther M. Kershner-Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Sims, Dr. & Mrs. Joel Slayton and Mr. & Mrs. Tommy L. Wallace;

Wayne Smith by Mr. & Mrs. Neil Corder; **Dr. Jesse Thomas** by Mr. & Mrs. Steven McDermott, Dr. & Mrs. Virgil Porter, Jr., Gary W. Thomas and Mr. & Mrs. Tommy L. Wallace.

In Honor Of

Judy Gabbard by Mr. & Mrs. Tommy L. Wallace; **Crystal Long** by Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Whittingham; and **Diane Spriggs** by Mr. & Mrs. Travis Faulk.

tangs in the fall and is the second signee to join for next year. Palmer is a setter, defensive specialist and outside hitter from Lindale, Texas.

Women's Basketball

Moore, Okla., Nov. 14 — On the road for the second time this season, CBC took on the Saints of Randall University at the Randall Activities Center. CBC (3-0) used a dominant third quarter, outscoring the Saints (1-3) 18-0, to cruise to a 74-36 win.

Wrestling

Marietta, Ga., Nov. 14 — CBC was on the mat at the Life University Open. CBC finished in 13th place overall, scoring 10.5 points in the match.

CAN'T

(Continued From Page 1)

without the proper equipment, and neither would God, our Commander-in-Chief! If God has asked you to do something, you might not have everything you need to do the job right then, but He will make sure that you have what you need when you need it.

"He will equip you with everything good that you may do his will" (Heb. 13:21).

• **Don't sell yourself short.** You are capable of a lot more than you give yourself credit for, so tap into your hidden strengths and trust in yourself. If your friend had the same talents and expertise you have, would you think they could handle the job you're about to tackle? Probably so, right? Then why can't you? After all, you're the one who has been called to do the job!

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me... and without him, I can do nothing" (Phil. 4:13, John 15:5).

• **Be willing to get more training if needed.** Just because you've never done it before doesn't mean you can't do it. If it means taking an online course, correspondence course or just reading and studying at home on your own — go for it! The only person who can't learn something new is in the cemetery.

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, and workman that doesn't need to be ashamed..." (II Tim. 2:15).

• **To achieve a goal, just keep doing the next thing.** Sometimes we short-circuit ourselves by looking too far down the road. We've all heard that every journey begins with the first step, and it continues with each step we take toward our desired destination. The secret is to just keep on keeping on, no matter what the obstacle.

"Do not grow weary in doing good" (II Thess. 3:13).

• **Don't be discouraged if you take two steps forward and one step back.** That will happen sometimes, so don't be surprised when it does. Just remember that, even then, you'll still be one step forward. Being knocked down isn't the end — staying down is!

"No matter how many times you trip them up, God's people don't stay down long" (Prov. 24:17 MSG).

• **Give it your best shot!** No matter what you do, do it full out, with nothing held back. If one way you try doesn't work, try another way! Never retreat from a problem, just do what the Marines do — "back up and regroup!"

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10).

• **Don't think you have to do it alone.** Surround yourself with supportive and truthful people who aren't afraid to "tell it like it is." If you're in a supervisory position, hire people who are smarter than you and don't

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 16 — CBC wrestler Alejandro Mas was picked as the American Midwest Conference's wrestler of the week.



Student Ministry Matters

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Thankful for 2020

2020 has been a year like none other. We have experienced a pandemic with shelter at home orders, postponed celebrations, canceled conferences and camps and periods of only virtual worship. There were racial unrest and riots. It was all topped off with an unusual presidential election.

There is no way we could have predicted what 2020 would turn out to be. Many churches even began the year with visions of 2020 goals of clarity and excitement. My church had hoped to gain 20 new members over the course of the year — 20 for 2020. These goals and dreams have definitely been altered.

While it has been a time of discouragement, I am reminded that God uses trials and disappointments to shape us. I often ask my students and LIFEgroup, "What has God been teaching you through these unusual days?" One of the big lessons I have been learning and trying to pour into those under my watch is an attitude of gratitude. How can we be thankful during this crazy year? Here are some of the reasons that I remain thankful for 2020.

• **Ministry has been boiled down to the most important things.** What are the most important things we should invest our time doing in life? According to my pastor, Kirk Shelton, those things are eternal in nature — God's Word and the souls of men and women. While there are plenty of good and valuable things we do in the church, there is nothing more important than God's Word and people. Not being able to meet has given us time to evaluate how what we have been doing stacks up to this standard. We don't need to mourn the loss of programs; instead we should be thankful for a return to what is most important.

• **Parents have been reminded that the spiritual well-being of their children is ultimately up to them.** As a youth pastor, there is only so much I can do with the 1-3 hours out of the 168 in a week. With so many things canceled, families have spent more time with each other than they have in previous years. That extra time together has helped parents see the need for greater spiritual investment. As student ministry workers, we need to be equipping our parents with tools to aid them in this process.

• **I have learned to trust God more.** From finances to health to education, our family has been through some tough times this year. Through it all, God has proven Himself to be in control. He does that time and time again. Hopefully, you have experienced the same.

As you look ahead to Thanksgiving in 2020, you may be struggling to figure out what you are thankful for from this trying year. Take some time and sit with this question: "What has God been teaching you through these unusual days?" Ask your students what they are thankful for. Their insight may even prompt some ideas for you. It may be hard to verbalize, but there has been much to be thankful for in 2020.

be intimidated by that fact. The old adage of "iron sharpens iron" is true — nothing gets sharper by rubbing against a marshmallow!

And, most important of all, remember that you are never alone if you're a child of God. He will be your best cheerleader and coach at the same time. He believes in you, so believe in yourself, and remember His promise — "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Heb. 13:5).

Could I do this job? Absolutely not! But could God do it through me? He could and He did!



The First Family Gospel Singers, Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m.: Shiloh, Waldo.

Drive Through Bethlehem, Dec. 4-5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Unity, Hope.

CBC Homecoming, Jan. 29-



Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw added one by letter; Lane Garner, pastor; Russ Carlton, reporter.

First, Damascus gained two by letter; Daniel Williams, pastor.

Grace, Russellville welcomed two new members; Roger Pearce, pastor

Lemonwood, White Hall received one by letter; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

Liberty, Stamps rejoices over one by baptism; Adam Rogers, pastor.

30; Central Baptist College.

CBC Scholarship Gala, Feb. 20, 6:00 p.m.; Conway Expo Center. Contact Amy Reed for more info at areed@cbc.edu.

Fresh Grounded Faith Women's Event, Aug. 6-7, 7 p.m. Fri., 12:30 p.m. Sat.; Antioch, Conway.

Ark. Ladies Retreat, Sept. 25, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Softball

Conway, Nov. 10 — Head coach Jordon Jones has announced two more signees to her class of 2022. **Mollie Johnson** and **Taehler Watkins** bring the number of newcomers for next year up to 14. Johnson is a native of Texarkana and played corner infield. Watkins is a catcher from Galena, Kan.

Volleyball

Conway, Nov. 11 — Head coach Stephanie Irwin has announced that **Chelynn Palmer** will join the Mus-



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LARRY BARKER

Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

Are You Ready to Answer?

Two new ministry catchphrases have developed during the pandemic we are experiencing. Church leaders are talking about decision fatigue and opinion fatigue. Hard decisions are being made with far more frequency and opinions are abundant—everyone has one on what is wrong and what you should be doing.

One pastor of a megachurch remarked that he is concerned that 80% of pastors are one crisis away from walking away from the ministry. Without any empirical data to back up this declaration, I fear how true it might be.

We are reminded in the Word of God that no matter what challenges you are facing you should not be intimidated (1 Peter 3:14). When you fear God, you do not have to fear anything or anyone else. Warren Wiersbe has stated, “The fear of the Lord conquers every other fear.” With so many negatives over the last eight months, there must also be a resolve to persevere and to focus on continuing to be obedient to what God has called us to accomplish. Peter reminds us that we are to “be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks” (1 Peter 3:15 HCSB).

Begin by doing whatever is necessary to get a vision of how to carry out your mission in your city, your community and your church. This year has not caught God by surprise, and He placed you where you are for a reason. He has assigned you right where you are for this appointed time — right there and right now. You must find a way to love your people. God gave you the people you have for you as His church to advance His Kingdom right now. How can your church demonstrate the love of Christ by meeting needs in your community?

Quit making excuses about why you cannot make a difference for His kingdom. One pastor commented, “I was leaning on excuses instead of leaning on the Lord.” Quit talking about what you do not have and start trusting in **Who** you serve. You may not have the resources or workers you would like to have, but you do have a testimony, the gospel and a biblical mandate to fulfill. Commit to being a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. The time has come to get off of your “blessed assurance” and become outwardly focused by living on mission.

For this to become a reality, you will have to battle the pessimism and overcome any “stinkin’ thinking” you may be struggling with. It is so easy to focus on the negatives, but you are to have the mind of Christ and set your affections on things above.

The devil will fill your head with lies, telling you all the reasons you cannot live on mission in such difficult times, but your church has limitless power in Christ. Move your church away from a consumerist culture toward sacrificial living. How can you encourage one another to reach your neighbors for Christ?

Are you dwelling on what you lack? Why not consider taking steps of Holy Spirit-led risk? Call for a time of intentional intercessory prayer for God to guide and direct your ministry. It is not just planning, but prayerful planning. The answer is not strategy, but Spirit-led strategy. In *Presence Centered Church*, Bill Elliff challenges us to make sure that everything we do is God-initiated. There comes a time that you will have to step out in faith and trust Him because it is impossible to please Him without faith.

What kind of participation do you think God expects in our obedience to the Great Commission? Do you think the Father turns to the Son in Heaven and says, “Look, we have 50% participation, isn’t that great?” Of course not! As crazy as it sounds, whenever God gives us instructions, He expects 100% participation. You are either obedient or disobedient, faithful or unfaithful, surrendered to His commands or rebellious to His requests. Jesus said it best: “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Your church has a niche, and you need to find it. It takes all kinds of Christians to reach all kinds of people, and it requires all kinds of churches. It’s time to move forward, regardless of your present circumstances. The Great Commission did not come to a screeching halt because of a pandemic. If you are not careful, you will miss out on an open door of opportunity with people asking questions that require a biblical worldview answer. Where did we come from? (Creation) What has gone wrong? (The Fall) How can we fix it? (Redemption)

Just because you disagree with someone’s conclusions does not make him or her your enemy. Sit down with them and show them what you believe and why you believe it. Are you able to clearly articulate a comprehensive biblical worldview in a way that proves you are ready to defend your faith to anyone at any time? It is not just the ability to share the plan of salvation, but establishing God as the Creator and His rule over His creation. Are you ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you?



Oakley Moore, 8, poses with his deer, killed on Nov. 14 in Saline County.

Don’t Test Your Luck For a Trophy Buck

(From Attorney General Leslie Rutledge’s Office) Even though many activities have changed in 2020, Arkansas is still an outdoorsman’s paradise. According to Arkansas law, all hunters are required to carry a valid Arkansas hunting license while hunting and must check all harvested deer within 12 hours.

“Hunting in Arkansas is deeply rooted in our culture, tourism and family traditions,” said Attorney General Rutledge. “Arkansans are well-aware of the importance of hunting safely, responsibly and legally because they are conservationists dedicated to passing on our great traditions to the next generation. I am deeply grateful for the many wildlife officers committed to preserving the resources of the The Natural State for future generations.”

AG Rutledge urges hunters to follow all regulations and to use the guidebooks and other resources provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC).

Arkansas hunters and anglers 16 years or older are required to purchase a hunting or fishing license. A license can be purchased online through the AGFC smartphone app, agfc.com, or over the phone at (501) 223-6300, at participating sporting goods stores, nature centers and at AGFC offices.

Arkansas hunters and anglers can carry a digital copy of their hunting and fishing licenses using the AGFC smartphone app. The digital copy also may be carried on their phone as a screenshot of the license image or as an image saved in their phones’ files. They may also carry their license as a paper copy or even a reloadable plastic card to show proof of purchase.

Arkansas hunters are required to check harvested deer within 12 hours, either by the AGFC app, agfc.com or by phone at (877) 731-5627. Anyone born after 1968 must complete a hunter education course to hunt in Arkansas, which can be completed via instructor or online. Children under 16 may hunt without hunter education as long as they are under the direct supervision of someone who is 21 years or older. For more information on hunting safely and legally, visit www.agfc.com.



A BMA Trailblazer Whose Impact Continues

In my teens, I met a preacher who made an impact on me. At that time he was serving as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville. Those were the days of district Baptist Training Services (BTS) meetings. As we traveled from Ashdown to Nashville, I would overhear J.P. Jones talking about the great pastor Immanuel had. As I watched the two of them interact with each other, along with the kids who took part in the meeting, it was impressive. The pastor of Immanuel was Roy W. Ward.

Bro. Ward was born in Bee Branch, near Fairbanks, Ark., in 1902. He was the fourth-born of eight in the family of John T. and Ida Sims Ward. In 1923, the young Mr. Ward married Mamie Richardson. She was the daughter of George Richardson, a former state missionary who led in the establishment of West Race Baptist Church in Searcy and Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. Bro. and Mrs. Ward had eight children and were married for 48 years.

I am grateful to their two surviving children, Bill Ward and his sister Judy, for their contribution of information for this article. I wish space would permit me to share much more about this trailblazer of the BMA of Arkansas.

Bro. Ward became a student at the Missionary Baptist College in Sheridan in 1928. He was also called to be pastor of First Baptist Church in Damascus in the same year. He subsequently pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Marvel, Old Hickory Baptist Church (now Parkview Baptist) in Laurel, Miss. and Bethel Baptist Church in Morrilton. In 1947, Bro. Roy became the full-time pastor of Needs Creek Baptist Church in Greenbrier. That was the only place he and Mrs. Mamie ever had a home of their own — which Bro. Ward built.

Bro. Ward was instrumental in the organization of the North American Baptist Association (which is now the Baptist Missionary Association of America) in 1950. On the day of the initial meeting, Dr. D.N. Jackson was elected to deliver the organizational message. However, since the auditorium of the host church, Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, was beyond capacity, an unfinished educational building served as a place for the overflow crowd. The assembled messengers from the churches decided to have two organizational sermons that day, and they elected Roy Ward to deliver the message to those meeting

in the educational building.

For a short time in 1951, Bro. Ward was pastor of Little River Baptist Church near Blytheville and then moved to First Baptist Church of Damascus in August. Four years later, he and his family moved to Nashville where he served as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church for 11 years.

In 1966, Bro. and Mrs. Ward retired to their farm near Bee Branch. There they re-established the church he fondly remembered from his childhood, Euseba Baptist Church. With the assistance of several churches where he had served as pastor or preached revival meetings, the effort began to rebuild the little church. It was re-named Old Euseba Baptist Church and it was his final pastorate.

The name Euseba has always intrigued me, dating back to my days at Central Baptist College. As I was preparing for this article, I decided to research the name. Not much information was available. However, I did find that its root word has to do with “reverence and awe.” Additionally, there is a Euseba River in Guadalupe. So, I have chosen to believe the early settlers chose a spot near the Bee Branch stream and were so awestruck they named the church Euseba. Now, whether Bro. Ward had that in mind when rebuilding on the old church site, I don’t know. But that’s my part of the story and I’m sticking to it!

The ministry of Bro. Roy Ward made an impact in the work of the BMA. Hundreds of lives were affected during his ministry. Even though I was young when I met him, his impact continued to my college days. I met his son, Bill, on April 10, 1965, when a tornado cut a path through Conway. We have been friends ever since. I now realize that I had met the son of a BMA trailblazer.

I have found a common thread among those about whom I have written over the past year. They loved their Lord and the Lord’s people. Bro. Ward loved Central Baptist College, the work of missions and young men and women in ministry. Oh, that every BMA of Arkansas pastor and missionary would strive to make an impact like Bro. Ward.

Mrs. Mamie died in February 1971. Shortly after, Bro. Ward resigned Old Euseba and moved to Conway to live with his daughter, Judy. On Dec. 11, 1972 the Lord called the seasoned saint to his heavenly reward. What a legacy and what a trail he left behind.



By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

We Never Know What Will Stick

This past Sunday, while worshipping with my family at church, we sang one of my favorite songs. When the song began, I noticed that my daughters were doing the sign language to this song they had learned years ago. In that moment I was reminded of the following facts regarding my life's journey:

• **I don't know what will stick.** For over 20 years Kristin (my wife) and I worked directly with youth and children. Throughout those years, we invested countless hours into the lives of hundreds of students in a variety of ministry settings. One ministry we called "stick ministry." We used choreographed movements with dowel rods and sign language to songs that share the message of Jesus.



A favorite of many was the song we sang on Sunday, "In Christ Alone." This song prompted my daughters to worship in a unique way because of what "stuck" from their involvement in past ministries. Kristin and I didn't plan for the end result of the "stick ministry" to be the ability of our daughters (and other students) to use what they learned as a way of worship. But God so engrained it into their hearts, as they participated in this ministry years ago, that anytime this song is heard, the automatic response is to worship in this unique way.

• **I am not required to change lives.** As we participated in various ministries throughout the years, there were different responsibilities along the way. It might have been to manage 100 kids while teaching them what it means to be loved by God. Sometimes it was to coordinate things for church camp so that everyone could hear the message with as few distractions as possible. In these and in other situations, it was never my responsibility to change lives; the reality is that God is the only one who can do that. We are just called to faithfully obey and share His love and His Word. Along the way, God molded and shaped not only those who were being ministered to, but also those who were involved in the ministry, in ways that we never planned.

• **I am asked to be faithful.** The only person for whom I am solely responsible is me. Yes, I have a responsibility to my family and to my ministry, but I am not able to make decisions for others, even in my own family. Ultimately, each of us must make our own choice to be faithful to what God is asking us to do. I have learned that even when other people fail you, God will be faithful. He simply asks us to trust Him and be obedient to the task He has given us. I am not able to be faithful in my own power, seeking to accomplish things that "I" can do; but instead, I must fully rely on His power and His strength to accomplish the task He has for me.

As we journey through life, my prayer is that we will be reminded that God has a path prepared for each of us to walk (Eph. 2:10). As we are faithful to walk the path, God will work in the lives of those we come in contact with to change them in ways that only He can.

Remember, we never know what will "stick" when we surrender our lives to serve and minister to others, so be faithful to the task at hand, and leave the rest up to Him.



By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Hate Crimes Law Filed in Ark.

Arkansas State Senator Jim Hendren (R/Gravette) and State Representative Fred Love (D/Little Rock) filed S.B. 3 to enact hate crimes legislation in Arkansas. Family Council President Jerry Cox released a statement, saying, "No law has ever stopped hate, and no law ever will. It's a matter of the heart. The experience of other states proves that hate crimes laws do not work. Over the past few years, we've seen despicable crimes committed in states that have hate crimes laws. According to the FBI, the states with the most hate crimes all have hate crimes laws. It's clear that hate crimes laws simply do not work. We all agree something needs to be done to address racism in our state, but passing a hate crimes law isn't the answer."

Cox said hate crimes laws promote unequal justice. "Laws like S.B. 3 treat crimes and their victims unequally. Targeting anyone and committing a crime is wrong and currently illegal. When hate crimes laws levy harsher penalties for targeting some people but not others, the punishments can differ even if the crimes are the same. The penalty for assault or murder should be the same no matter the victim's race, religion, or sexual-orientation."

Cox said Family Council will oppose S.B. 3. "We have opposed hate crimes laws like S.B. 3 every time they have been proposed at the Arkansas Legislature since the 1990s. This legislation was a bad idea 25 years ago, and it's still a bad idea today." (familycouncil.org)

Arkansas Lottery's Prize Budget Dwarfs Scholarship Budget

A new report that indicates the Arkansas Lottery's prize budget for lottery players is more than four times larger than its budget for college scholarships. The Arkansas Lottery's financial report for the month of October shows that since July 1 they have spent nearly \$134.1 million on prizes but spent less than \$32.6 million on students. All told, only about 17% of the Arkansas Lottery's budget actually funds college scholarships, but nearly 71% of its budget pays for prizes for lottery players. The typical state-run lottery budgets approximately 60% of its revenue for prizes and 30% for education. The Arkansas Lottery could pay millions of dollars more to scholarships if it would simply reduce its prize budget and raise its scholarship budget. (familycouncil.org)

La. Voters Approve Pro-Life Amendment

Voters in Louisiana overwhelmingly supported adding a pro-life amendment to their state's constitution. The amendment reads, "To protect human life, nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion." The

language is very similar to Arkansas's constitutional Amendment 68 that voters passed in 1988.

Arkansas' pro-life amendment says that: "no public funds will be used to pay for any abortion, except to save the mother's life; the policy of Arkansas is to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the Federal Constitution; this amendment will not affect contraceptives or require an appropriation of public funds."

According to different news outlets, Louisiana's pro-life amendment makes it more difficult to challenge the state's trigger law that prohibits abortion if and when the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. Arkansas passed a trigger law similar to Louisiana's in 2019. Act 180 of 2019 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R/Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) prohibits abortion in Arkansas if Roe v. Wade is overturned. The bill was hotly debated at the Arkansas Legislature, but ultimately passed and was signed into law last year. (familycouncil.org)

Guidance on Protecting Churches from Lawsuits

The ERLC and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group (SAAG) issued the document "Facilitating Abuse Disclosures by Nonprofits" on Oct. 30. The paper provides guidance on enacting state laws to protect churches and other nonprofits from civil liability when they report sexual abuse allega-

tions to a former employee's current or potential employer.

The white paper offers a 2019 Texas law and a 2020 Missouri bill as samples of measures that address the need to protect churches and nonprofits from being sued when they seek to prevent sexual predators from abusing victims in other locations. State laws to guard churches and nonprofits from lawsuits are needed because employees who are caught committing sex abuse or are suspected of doing so often move to another congregation or charity, according to the paper. The Texas law grants immunity from civil liability to churches and other nonprofits that report in good faith, allegations of sexual abuse, harassment or misconduct "reasonably believed to be true" of a former employee or volunteer to a current or potential employer. (baptistpress.com)

New Zealand Legalizes Euthanasia

The October referendum, called the "End of Life Choice Act" had the support of both major parties, and received over 65% support from voters as New Zealand became the sixth country to legalize euthanasia. Kiwis (a nickname for New Zealanders) are being promised that proposed "safeguards" will prevent the sort of abuse and spread of the practice that has been seen in the Netherlands and Belgium. One journalist assured Al Jazeera that the New Zealand law is "more stringent," because it is only for "terminally-ill patients," that "they need two doctors to approve" and "there's a long checklist" of necessary conditions. But of course, the Netherlands and Belgium had their own "safeguards" which didn't hold.

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From the President...
Think Globally—Act Locally

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Being Thankful For What I've Not Been Thankful For

Several years ago, I received an email from one of my daughter's friends about an experience that happened to her. She wrote:

Today, while I was getting my haircut, an older lady walked into the beauty shop and I could tell everyone in that salon just loved her. About that time, I heard the beautician next to me say to the older lady, "So, are we ready?" To which the older lady responded, "I'm ready! Let's do it!" Then, the beautician said, "Yay! I'm so excited! Here we go everyone!"

I'm sitting there thinking "Wow lady, it's just a haircut. Why in the world are we excited and ready?"

I looked over and saw the beautician take a wig off the lady's head, and underneath was short, gray hair. I soon learned that this lady had been going through chemotherapy for three years and this was her very first haircut since she lost her hair. For the first time in three years, she had some hair of her own. They all hugged her and celebrated with her, then she went on her merry way.

But I was left sitting there feeling so extremely selfish. I was complaining about having too much hair and for my hair being too long while she was just excited to have any hair at all.

So I decided that, this thanksgiving, I am going to thank God for the things in my life that I've actually not been thankful for:

- My hair being too thick — now I am thankful I have my hair.
- Being so small and not being able to gain weight — now I am thankful I don't have to struggle with trying to lose weight.
- Having to study and go to classes — now I am thankful for the opportunity to attend college.
- Having to walk for five minutes to get to class — now I am thankful for the ability to walk.
- My mom calling me eight times a day — now I am thankful my mom cares enough about me to want to talk to me and invest in my life.
- Having to sit in traffic at 5 p.m. — now I am thankful I have a car to sit in traffic in.
- My teeth not being perfectly straight even after six years of braces — now I am thankful I had the chance to even have braces.
- Times of loneliness — now I am thankful for the time to be alone with God.
- Times of humiliation — now I am thankful for the opportunities to be humbled.
- Having to eat a "college kids" diet every day — now I am thankful I have food to eat.
- The loss of friendships and relationships — now I am thankful for the opportunity to make new friends.

Now I ask you, what should you be thankful for this Thanksgiving that you have never told God you are thankful for?



NUMBERS (Continued From Page 1)

we plan to have 150 LCR stations.

• **Lifeworld has added more language programming.** When I came on board in 2018, Lifeworld had programs in 42 languages. Now we have programs in 90 languages, more than double, with aggressive plans to increase to 200 languages in the next five years. At our current rate, Lifeworld is on pace to hit that goal.

• **Lifeworld can reach one quarter of the world.** Lifeworld's broadcasts can be heard in 123 countries around the world by 2 billion people (one quarter of the population of the earth) on any given day.

• **Lifeworld has boosted its production partners.** Lifeworld has over 50 agreements that we've established with churches, associations and producers all over the world that make up a team of 200 people producing 100 formats on a weekly basis.

• **Online radio stations are being created.** There are currently a half a dozen online radio stations that have popped up as a result of Lifeworld productions and the media being produced in multiple languages.

• **Lifeworld is now offering devotional videos to a severely underserved population in the world using American Sign Language (ASL).** Lifeworld has partnered with an organization called the Deaf Millennial Project that creates ASL ministry that reaches out to people who are deaf in the communities around us. This is an exciting ministry opportunity.

• **Daily (and sometimes twice a day) Lifeworld.org is publishing gospel-based articles/blogs.** Lifeworld has been blessed to pull together an incredible team of writers from across the BMA, allowing us to publish solid, gospel-based and biblical articles that speak to people's needs. People are searching online daily in an attempt to meet their heartfelt needs. These articles are speaking into the lives of people daily.

• **Lifeworld is podcasting.** We currently offer the audio from Dr. Cliff Johnson on the Day By Day devotionals, as well as the audio from Lori Cline's devotions from The Lori Cline Show in podcast form. Lifeworld will be increasing the number of podcasts as we go forward.

• **Lifeworld has an app.** You can find the app at Apple's App Store, as well as Google's Play Store, simply search for "Lifeworld." The app is a great way to stay up-to-date with Lifeworld.

What are the results of all of that? Lifeworld currently manages seven Facebook pages in different languages. Across the seven Facebook pages, there are 56,000 people who have liked one of those seven pages.

Lifeworld's Instagram account has 13,600 followers and is growing every day. Facebook has become a primary platform for Lifeworld to reach the lost.

From January 1 to November 4 of

A Sip From The Saucer

By Valarie Fish

P.O. Box 66 • Emerson, Ark. 71740 • dvfish@swat.coop



Because He First Loved Me

He was washing dishes the day after Daylight Savings Time. Just because the time changes on our clocks, does not mean our bodies got the memo. You would think an extra hour of sleep would be great, but when your body thinks it is 5:30 a.m. (when it is really 4:30 a.m.), you are awake for the day.

As a result, my wonderful husband got up, washed the dishes and folded and put away the laundry. He does those kinds of things regularly because "acts of service" is his primary love language. My love language is "words of encouragement," so I will often send a text or call to tell him how I feel about him.

A well-known author has identified five major love languages — besides the two already mentioned, he adds gift-giving, proximity/touch and quality time. My husband and I have learned how to give and receive love in each of our love languages over time — 30 years and counting means something must be working right!

"We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). There are many times when I know I am not lovable. Rebellion, stubbornness and pride take the lead and there is nothing in me that makes me even a little bit worthy of the love God shows to me, but He loves me anyway. When I am aware of the magnitude of His love for me, how can I NOT love Him?

For that matter, there are a lot of things I do because He first loved me. I love others — because He first loved me. I forgive and show compassion and offer mercy — because He first loved me. I serve — because He first loved me. I provide for the needy and cook for shut-ins and volunteer in various ministries — because He first loved me.

I study and teach — because He first loved me. I prepare lessons and research Scripture to share with children and adults alike — because He first loved me. I give — because He first loved me. My tithe and offerings provide for the physical needs of the ministry of the church and her projects — because He first loved me. I sacrifice my own will and my own plans — because He first loved me.

I feel sorry for those who serve, sacrifice and do because they think God requires specific works to earn salvation. They argue my "no strings attached" salvation is reckless and self-serving. My only answer to them is, "When I comprehend the kind of love God has shown — when I really understand the depth, height, width and breadth of His love for me — my heart cannot contain it all!"

I love Him through my words because that is my primary love language (words of encouragement). But I also love to feel His presence (proximity) and spend time in His Word (quality time). I follow His commandments — serving and doing and ministering to others (acts of service) — as well as present my time, money and effort toward furthering His kingdom (gift-giving).

I deserve nothing, but He loves me anyway. How can I NOT love Him?

this year (309 days), 10 million minutes of Lifeworld ministry videos have been viewed. That's a 115% increase over the previous 309 days.

Since Jan. 1, 451,000 engagements have been made on Lifeworld Facebook posts, videos, audio and images. These are Lifeworld Facebook posts that people have liked, commented on or shared. People have engaged in some way with the ministry of Lifeworld on Facebook — this represents a 97% increase over the previous 309 days.

Lifeworld has had 36,000 new followers as a result of its seven Facebook pages, which is a 320% increase in followers.

I mentioned the 1,900 new users to the Lifeworld website the month before we launched the Lifeworld Cloud. As of the last 30 days, given all of the activity that I've shared with you, Lifeworld.org has surpassed 80,000 new users in a 30-day span. That is 80,000 new people who've never seen Lifeworld.org before who are being exposed to the gospel.

Lifeworld has seen more growth in the last couple of years than at any other time in the history of Lifeworld's ministry. God is moving in a powerful way, and for that all we can say is "Praise God." If the growth patterns continue, I believe we will have over 1.2 million new users visiting Lifeworld.org on an annual basis — not a small thing by any means. And the exciting thing is that Lifeworld.org is just getting started!

The next phase is to bring more and more languages online at Lifeworld.org with their writers, video and audio. God is doing an incredible thing and we hope you'll continue to pray and support the Lifeworld team all over the world.

On behalf of the Lifeworld team, we want you to know that we love you and appreciate you. Thank you for praying for us and for your support of what God's doing through your ministry at Lifeworld as we grow the kingdom together. As stated in Lifeworld's hashtag, #WeTellTheStory.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Canceled - Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., Central, Hughes.

Jonesboro District WMA, Jan. 9, 10 a.m., Prospect, Jonesboro.

Central Ark. District Brotherhood, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m., Pleasant Grove, Carlisle.

Southwest District GMA, Jan. 23, First, Taylor.

Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Mar. 8, 6:30 p.m., Central, Hughes.

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Christian Women

By Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director • Moral Action

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself. Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (I Timothy 2:12-15).

Is the church behind the times in its attitudes toward women? A growing number answer, "yes". They say we have restricted women. What should the Bible-believing Christian say about equal rights for women within the church? How should church leaders respond and what should be the attitude of Christian women?

The World and Women's Rights

The battle for women's rights has touched virtually every aspect of our national life. Now it is touching the church, and it brings up a difficult question — are women underprivileged in the New Testament Church? The tension concerning the role of women in the church is great in some churches. As women remove the barriers to once-forbidden secular occupations, some liberal church leaders are upset because they believe the church is lagging far behind.

Critics argue that churches are steeped in prejudice and that it is high time they became enlightened. On the surface, arguments may seem convincing. Why should women not serve as pastors? Many church women equal or outstrip the men in spiritual gifts and abilities. The church, we are told, is missing out by not letting them use their talents.

Some theologians hold that the requirements for pastors outlined in I Tim. 3:1-7 have been grossly misinterpreted and that they merely reflect cultural prejudices of Paul's day. How should the Lord's church respond to such pressure? What shall we say to sincere dedicated young women who truly want to serve the Lord?

God's Word and Women's Rights

The Bible answers several basic misunderstandings. There is a basic error in understanding the scope and nature of the differences between the sexes. The Bible does not in any way teach that men are superior to women, but it does teach that they are different. In creating woman, God did not make a carbon copy of what He had already made. He fashioned a personality and spirit that would complement men and supply some qualities that man lacked. Today's tendency is to assume that except for physical differences, men and women come from the same mold and therefore they are to be competitive, but that is not God's intent. God created male and female to work together, not to compete.

We commit a basic error when we try to sweep the differences under the rug. It may appear to succeed for a time, but in the end, we violate something elemental in our inner structure.

"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (I Tim. 2:12). The New Testament makes clear that administration is a man's calling. Early church leaders were called elders and deacons. Qualifications spelled out for both offices to be made of men.

"For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety" (I Tim. 2:13-15). Paul gives two reasons why the woman cannot scripturally usurp authority over the man. First, woman was not created to be independent; second, the woman had been the first to give place to sin.

The man's office in the church and home is not just a badge of honor. It is a mantle of responsibility. Men make a mistake to think that their headship makes them far superior and women inferior. But God has set the guidelines for men and woman. Women matter as much as men to God, but we are called to different tasks.

In a *His* magazine interview, Elizabeth Elliott made an interesting point. "Positions of leadership in the church are not rewards of competence alone. They are not earned or assigned purely on the basis of ability. They are assigned sovereignly by God. Those who take positions of authority in the church must be ordained of God." Do not be misled by secular arguments that the Scriptures are influenced by cultural bias — for God's Word is inspired and adaptable to all ages.

Christian Women & Women's Rights

Christian satisfaction comes not from title or position but from faithfulness in service. Since apostolic times, women have found fulfillment in the church. We list such women as Phebe of Romans 16:1, "Commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchræa," Mary, Martha, and the certain women of Luke 8. They found honor in faithful, effective service. Paul saluted Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persia for their faithful "labour in the Lord" (Rom. 16:12).

God has planned for women to teach where authority over men is not involved, to pray powerfully during church discussions and to witness to family and neighbors. The gifts and insights of women can help and encourage the Christian men in leadership roles. The world has its ideas of who should lead the church. Those who do not understand Bible teachings will wave banners of new equality. They will minimize and rationalize. But the true Christian understands and knows that God's way is best.



John Thomas Talley, 85 of Emerson, passed away Nov. 15. He was a member of Western Baptist Church.

Charles Alton Grisham, 94 of Maumelle, passed away Nov. 13. He was a decorated WWII veteran. He was a member of Parkview Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

Mary Eva (Phillips) Hines, 63 of Magnolia, passed away Nov. 11. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Wilma "Jeannie" Jean Glover, 70 of Guy, passed away Nov. 10. She was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Charles "Doug" Sattershite, 93 of Conway, passed away Nov. 10. He was a member of Central Baptist Church.

Betty Marlar Kreiger, 73 of Magnolia, passed away Nov. 9. She was a member of Brister Baptist Church in Emerson.

Clarence Wilson Lusk, 85 of Batesville, passed away Nov. 7. He was a deacon at Ramsey Heights Baptist Church.

Jimmy Glenn Cockrell, 83 of Stephens, passed away Nov. 6. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Magnolia.

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

They never do.

Once a nation accepts that some lives aren't worth living and that it's okay for doctors to become killers, it's impossible to prevent financial incentives from entering consideration or the most vulnerable from being pressured. (familycouncil.org)

Nevada Protects Gay Marriage

Nevada has amended its constitution to protect same-sex marriage and concurrently exempted clergy and pastors from litigation if they refuse to perform such unions. Previously one of 30 states with constitutions limiting marriage to one man and one woman, Nevada became the first to remove the provision when a ballot question was approved Nov. 3 by 62.5% of voters.

The amendment institutionalizes in the state's constitution a right to same-sex marriage regardless of the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a 5-4 ruling in 2015 that states must recognize marriages between people of the same sex. Nevada legislators approved the constitutional amendment in two successive legislative sessions (2017 and 2019), as a required condition under state law for it to be placed on the ballot.

Regarding the pastoral and clergy exemption, the U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled on a case challenging the First Amendment rights of pastors to refuse to perform same-sex unions. But writing the majority opinion in

See NOTES, Page 8

Pendleton, Seminary Professor, Called Home



Dr. Joe Pendleton, Jr., 78 passed away Nov. 9 after over 50 years of ministry, teaching and service. Following his retirement from full-time ministry, he continued to teach and preach at every opportunity.

He surrendered to preach in 1957 and felt that education was the key to developing his ministry calling. He attended Jacksonville College in Jacksonville Tex. where he met the love of his life, Carolyn Sue Wright. They both graduated in May of 1962 and were married on Aug. 17, 1962. They both graduated from Texas Tech University in 1965 and he then attended Southwestern Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree in 1972 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1977. Mrs. Pendleton passed away in 2002.

Bro. Joe served as pastor for seven churches in Texas and Arkansas during his ministry, including First Baptist Church in Magnolia. He served the BMA Theological Seminary for 24 years as professor of Church Ministries and also as Dean. He also served as chairman of the Religion Department of Jacksonville College and president of the Columbia Baptist Bible School.

After retiring from full-time ministry, he began ministering to Hungarian-speaking Romanian people and a partnership of mission work began with his brother-in-law, Larry Burleson to establish a ministry training school in Romania. For 20 years, he traveled to Romania several times a year to train pastors and raise church buildings.

Survivors include: a sister, Judy Burleson of Dallas, Texas; two sons; Joe III (Marie), of Rockwall, Tex. and Joshua of Richardson, Texas; a daughter, Kathryn (Jimmy) Thomas of Sulphur Springs, Texas, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Graveside services were held on Nov. 18 at Resthaven Cemetery in Lubbock, Texas under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Jacksonville College Selects New VP

By Dr. Mike Smith, President

Dr. Joe Lightner has a distinguished background of pastoring growing churches and serving as an executive leader in para-church ministries. Dr. Lightner holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from Liberty University and will complete a Doctorate degree in Biblical Ministries from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has a business education degree (BA, Business Administration) from the University of Ark. and business experience that has strengthened the ministries that he has served. Joe's training and experience as an administrator, communicator, preacher and evangelist will be of immeasurable value to Jacksonville College.

He officially starts with the college on Jan. 4, 2021, but will be making visits in November and December to orient himself with the Jacksonville College family. Please be in prayer for Joe, his wife, Rebekah, and their two daughters, Hanna (15) and Julia (12) as they make this transition.

I'm excited and thankful that God has led us to Dr. Joe Lightner. He has the credentials, business experience, ministerial experience, and Godly leadership that we need.



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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Part 2: Prayer

In this world we ask our earthly father for things and then he sifts out what we do not need — the things that might hurt us — and so does our Heavenly Father. I read where a pharmacist went in to catch up on some prescriptions and took his three-year-old son with him. The boy grabbed a bottle sitting on the counter and the father quickly took it away from him. While the boy did not understand the danger, the father did.

There are a few things we need to understand about our prayers:

We should move in the direction to bring about our request. A story is told of a farmer who bought a truckload of seed and then he prayed, “Father in Heaven, give us a good crop this year for we really need it.” Then he walked into the house and left the seed in the truck. Would not that be foolish? Yet many times our prayers are just as foolish.

We need prayers of intercession. *“As we also forgive every one that is indebted to us”* (Luke 11:4). We are admonished to pray for others. That is called intercessory prayer. It is what Jesus does for us, even now, as He sits at the right hand of God making *“intercession for us”* (Rom. 8:34). Paul is a great example for us. He prayed that he might be accused in order that his people might be saved. We must take caution not to simply speak to fill in the gaps of our prayers. God answers prayer sometimes on an individual basis (private, closet kind of praying). So, we need to pray in specifics, calling out the name or need of the person we are praying for.

We need to pray giving thanks. The lives of most Christians are missing gratitude. Remember the 10 lepers who came to Jesus — only one came back to thank Him. *“Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever”* (Psa. 145:2). We are not bashful to ask; we should not be bashful in giving thanks.

All of these are directions for prayer and can be used separately or collectively. It has been said that prayer changes the one doing the praying. Yes, friends, prayer is profitable to the believer in that prayer is talking to God. That is an effective way to pray. Many people are considered prayer warriors because they know God’s desire is to answer us.

Let us end with these recommendations:

- **Be in a spirit of praise all the time if possible.**
- **Enter prayer for repentance and daily strengthening the lines of communications.**
- **Enter petitionary and intercessory prayer daily.** To enter means to desire an audience with God for either one or all of the above.

It has been suggested that the best time to pray is when you least feel like it. Like the song says, take it all to him in prayer. Remember the words to this great old hymn:

“Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care. And bids me at my fathers’ throne, makes all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter’s snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.”

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, “We had a decent week at Connection Point. Our attendance and offerings were down. The combination of quarantines, illness, travel and deer season took a toll on our numbers. However, we had a good day and are thankful to be able to continue to meet in person.

“Sunday, we began signing up to help purchase Christmas for some needy children in our community. This is one of the highlights of our year. Our ladies are also providing a Thanksgiving meal for a large needy family in our area. We pray that God receives the

glory from these outreach ministries.

“Saturday, we had our men’s breakfast with a good turn out and some great food. Saturday, we also finished repairing our sign. It is back up and working great. Pray for us as we continue to move forward. We are trusting God to provide for all of our needs.”

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, “Our covered walkway should be completed this week. Our folks are very excited about this addition to our facilities. We realize that the community is watching, and this gives them an even greater assurance that we are here to stay.

“I want to thank you again for your

support during State Missions Special Emphasis. The money received from this went a long way toward paying for this project. We have remained debt free here at the mission, and that would not have been possible if not for your generosity.

“Pray for us as we continue to reach our community with the Gospel.”

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, “Sunday, we took a ‘Deep Dive into Walking on the Water’ during our worship service. One thing that hit me hard during my preparation is how that story begins. The Bible tells us that Jesus sent his disciples away (I picture that as a pastor telling his kids to leave him alone for a while), so He could be by Himself in prayer. As exciting as the story is (with the storm, the disciples’ thinking that Jesus was a ghost, the walking on water, etc.), it is also exciting to see that Jesus needed quiet time, too. I tend to be a busy person. Serving as a missionary, working at Tyson, being involved with community activities, and having three (almost) teenagers at home, it is easy for me to forget the importance of the quiet times. In fact, I often have to schedule quiet time or simply get outside to listen and enjoy God’s creation and draw near to the Creator. In the business of life, don’t forget that we need time alone with God. Jesus needed it; so much more do we.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “This week has been full of activities. On Monday night, the Berean Group (cell) in Chenal was growing in the knowledge of the Word of God. On Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., I met with Henri Forcella for discipleship and vision transmission. Thursday was interesting since the Baseline Berean Group met and the Berean Group that we have online did the same. The wonderful thing was to see how members of the online group are from Chile, Colombia, Panama and the USA; but the groups that we have in person are people from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Venezuela and the USA. It is our desire that, at Ebenezer, we experience a little bit of heaven converging.

“I thank God for the opportunity to attend our annual meeting of the association and hear brothers say to me, ‘We are praying for you.’ Wow! What a blessing it was! Feeling your love and support was wonderful.

“Then on Saturday morning, my whole family went to Houston, Texas to celebrate the wedding of my brother, Efrain Isturiz. On Sunday, I transmitted



— Don Burke, Trumpet Photography Club

How to be a Shepherd Sheep Can Trust

By Stephen Rummage • Baptist Press

A writer spent time with a shepherd on the Texas plains. One night, the shepherd built a fire, and the sheep gathered close. Around midnight, a coyote howled in the distance, followed by another coyote from the opposite direction. The fearful sheep began bleating.

The shepherd tossed logs onto the fire. As flames shot up, the writer looked out and saw 4,000 tiny lights — the fire reflected in the eyes of 2,000 sheep. With enemies all around, the sheep looked only toward the shepherd. Why? They trusted him.

Ezekiel 34 describes wicked shepherds, leaders of Israel who exploited God’s people. They fed themselves, not the flock. They butchered the sheep. They let weak sheep become prey. As a result, God said, *“Behold I am against the shepherds... I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out”* (Ezek. 34:10-11).

God’s sheep need shepherds they can trust. I want to suggest four “trust” questions every pastor should ask.

• **Can my intentions be trusted?** God intends to search for His flock, feed them and care for them. The word that best expresses the Lord’s intention toward His flock is rescue. God says, *“I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered”* (Ezek. 34:12). Rescuing means snatching the sheep away from harm. God never leaves His sheep to danger.

As shepherds with trustworthy intentions, pastors will not abandon the sheep to which God has called us. We will preach the Word of God even when it harms our popularity or offends people of influence. We will sacrifice our preferences and comfort for the sake of the flock.

• **Can my ability be trusted?** God repeats a phrase over and over in Ezekiel 34: *“I will...”* Each repetition underscores God’s ability to accomplish His purposes. Faithful shepherds should develop and strengthen our abilities to do what we are called to do. Most significantly, we should depend on God to empower our abilities.

When I began my first pastorate, the work seemed impossible. As I tried to preach, lead and care for people, I prayed so many times: “Lord, I can’t do this. I need your help.” God answered and graciously used me. Today, I have ministered to people in nearly every scenario imaginable. Along with every other pastor, I face the danger of thinking: “I’ve got this. I can do it myself.” Training and experience can enhance our skill, but leading with trustworthy ability means constantly relying on Jesus’ power.

• **Can my judgment be trusted?** God promises, *“I will feed them in justice”* (Ezek. 34:16). His leadership will flow from wisdom and righteousness. Pastors with trustworthy judgment make choices that follow God’s best purposes. Our congregations want to trust us. We must work not to lose their trust. By seeking the Lord’s direction through Scripture and prayer, a shepherd honors the Lord and blesses the church with wise decisions.

• **Can my character be trusted?** One of my mentors entered ministry after years in the telephone industry. He told me, “I’ve seen employees lose thousands of dollars for the phone company because of bad decisions and still keep their jobs. I’ve also seen people get fired for stealing quarters out of a pay phone.” The lesson is clear — errors of skill and judgment can be overcome. Errors of character destroy.

The problem with the false shepherds in Ezekiel 34 was moral and spiritual. Their hearts were corrupt. Psalm 78:72 says of David: *“With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.”* David’s skill as a shepherd was important, but his heart was essential. A tragedy in ministry is when we elevate ability over integrity.

To guard our character, pastors should ask questions like: Do I consistently tell the truth? Do I seek forgiveness when I mess up? Do I guard my relationships to avoid temptation and reproach? Am I completely above-board in my finances? Am I the same person with my family, by myself and before God that I portray myself to be in public? Questions like these are a good starting place for shepherds who desire to protect the purity of their heart.

an online service from this city and the people of Ebenezer developed their gifts as someone led the service and a brother gave a meditation on the Word of God.

“Once again, thank you for your support. Glory be to our God.”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “What a difference a week makes! After not having services last week (while waiting for a COVID-19 test, which finally came back negative, praise God), we resumed in-person services, beginning on Wednesday evening with our prayer meeting. This was our best attended prayer meeting

ever; but beyond that, it was one of the most worshipful, reverent, spirit filled prayer meetings I have ever been a part of. We did nothing the entire service but pray, and the love and fellowship we all felt for each other and for the Lord afterward was amazing.

“It just continued Sunday morning as though we hadn’t stopped, and though our numbers were down a little, we had a wonderful time of worship. We thank you all for your support, we could not do this without you! We thank you most of all for your prayers, that is what truly keeps us going.”

Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

By Dr. Chad Meeks

(Ark. Baptist News) On Nov. 5, Ben Arbour and his wife, Meg were driving home from a late night date. We can only speculate, but it seems Ben either did not see the street racer or he thought he could easily make the turn before the car approached. Unfortunately, the street racer crashed into the Arbour car killing both Ben and Meg. They leave behind four beautiful, young children.

Ben was a loving husband and father, never met a stranger, was highly intelligent and a devoted follower of Christ. The resurrection was an anchor for all of his intellectual pursuits. He commonly told friends as he was struggling with a theological or philosophical issue, "But you know what? Jesus has risen, so it is all good in the end!"

Meg was a devoted wife and mother. She commonly served at her local church and homeschooled her four children. And her perpetual smile was a gentle reminder of her love for Christ and peace in life.

These were, humanly speaking, good people. So how can God allow such good people to die so young and tragically? How can a good God allow four young, happy children to be orphaned in an instant due to such a senseless act? In these very difficult situations, many ask: "Where is God? Why would He allow such evil to take place?"

The thought is usually fleshed out like this: God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and perfectly good. So, if God is all-powerful, then He has the power to stop evil. If God is all-knowing, then He has the knowledge to stop evil. And if God is perfectly good, He would want to stop evil. So why does evil exist? Does the existence of evil prove that God does not exist?

The main focus of the argument is that if God is as we think He is, then He would never allow such evil to happen. But there is a significant problem with such a conclusion.

If, indeed, God is all-knowing, it is possible that He has a reason for allowing the evil that we finite creatures just can't understand. Perhaps He allows it because it produces a greater good. Perhaps God allows evil because it is a natural consequence of having some sort of human autonomy. The point is — given that God is all-knowing, and we are not — God could very easily have a reason for allowing evil that we just can't understand.

But perhaps you claim: "Look, it isn't really the general sense of evil that seems to disprove God, it's the pointless evil. If God is all-powerful, all-knowing and perfectly good, He would prevent pointless (or gratuitous) suffering." For example, what purpose does it serve for a fawn burned in a forest fire to slowly die an agonizing death? Or for a young child to suffer the painful effects of a disease that slowly takes his life? What God would allow this pointless suffering? According to the atheist, such heartbreaking realities are cause for unbelief.

But I fail to see how evil in general or "pointless" evil gets around the objection above. Granted, I do not know why God would allow such suffering, but that's just the problem — we finite creatures may be incapable of knowing why an infinite being would allow such suffering.

It is very possible that God values free creatures in such a way that He allows them to abuse their freedom and this abuse leads to the suffering and pain in the world. No one knows for sure if this is the case, but it is definitely a possibility. And given our limited knowledge, a mere possibility is all we need to counter these two arguments.

— Dr. Chad Meeks is the Associate Pastor at Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock and an adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Original article can be found at <https://arkansasbaptist.org/post/why-does-god-allow-bad-things-to-happen>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Bradford Baptist Church in Bradford is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to the Pulpit Committee at P.O. Box 16, Bradford, Ark. 72020 or bbcbradford@gmail.com. For more information, call (501) 344-2414.

Columbia Baptist Association in Magnolia is seeking a missionary to fill the position of ABS Director at Southern Arkansas University. Resumes should be mailed to ABS Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Magnolia, Ark. 71754-0456 or emailed to cindy@firstmagnolia.org. The deadline is Nov. 30.

First Baptist Church, Jackson-

ville, Tex. is seeking a pastor. Please send resumes to: Search Committee, 210 Philips St, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or reception@firstjax.org.

Meadowside Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Kan. is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Greg Hardister at (620) 704-6860.

Oakland Heights Baptist Church in White Hall is seeking a pastor. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 21144, White Hall, Ark. 71612. For more information, contact Bill Eubanks at (870) 267-5043

Walnut Street Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Tex. is seeking a senior pastor. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 587, Winnsboro, Tex. 75494, wbsc75494@gmail.com or via our website at www.walnutstreetbaptist-church.org.



Letter from Unborn Infant

By Beverly Strain-Eads

The following letter is written from the perspective of an infant to his mother who has decided to have an abortion. It is written to be the voice that this baby will never be allowed to utter and its name is known only to God.

Dear Mom, what did I ever do in my short lifetime to incur the horror and pain that you are getting ready to inflict on my tiny body? Is the reason you made this conscious decision to end my life because I am an intrusion into your life and it is inconvenient for you to carry me within your womb?

I did not ask to be created, but here I am. I have been waiting to see you in person, but instead I will be utterly destroyed in the most violent way imaginable. I am being fearfully and wonderfully made within you by the hand of God and resting in what I believed to be your love. But now, I am awaiting execution.

In the beginning, God made a decision to put babies in their mother's womb — a place they could develop, be protected and safe until they were ready to enter the world and do their part to make it a better place to live. But now, what God intended to be the safest place has become the most savage and dangerous. I will never have a chance to live, love or honor the Lord due to the decision that you have made.

Mom, God's perfect plan has been completely destroyed due to your choice. Once this is accomplished there will be no do-overs. I beg you, please don't do this to me. Even though I now reside under your heart, comfortable and happy, and I realize you don't want me, I still love you as I am a part of you — even for this short period of time.

— Beverly Strain-Eads is 82, a great grandmother and a member of Lifesong Baptist Church in Greenbrier. She also volunteers with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (beveads2@gmail.com, 99 Del Strain Lane, Greenbrier, Ark. 72058).

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NOTES

(Continued From Page 6)

the 2018 Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado, which reversed a lower court decision against a Christian baker who refused to design a cake for a same-sex union, now-retired Justice Anthony Kennedy alluded to pastoral rights. With the change, Nevada is one of seven states and the District of Columbia that provide some protection for pastors who refuse to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies, according to ballotpedia.com. (baptistpress.com)

New Mandated Sex Education In Washington State

Newly mandated sexual health education in kindergarten through senior high public schools in Washington state includes guidance contrary to Scripture, according to several groups opposing the change. Referendum 90 passed with 57% of the vote Nov. 3. It is based on a law the Washington legislature passed with only Democratic Party support in March.

Groups against the measure forced a ballot measure giving the public a chance to strike down the law, but voters instead approved the law. It would eventually require "comprehensive sexual health education" beginning in kindergarten. Opponents call the referendum "graphic and extreme," citing the teaching of more than two genders, the acceptance of homosexual behavior and the normalization of sex outside of marriage.

The instruction also focuses on different types of underage sexual activity and treats abstinence "as more of an afterthought." The sex education mandate requires all public schools to provide "comprehensive sexual health education" in accordance with a state-approved curriculum. (baptistpress.com)

When you count your blessings, you realize you're actually doing just fine.



Count Your Blessings!

If you reduced the world's population to 100 people, 57 (or 57%) would be Asians, 21 would be Europeans, 14 would be from the Western Hemisphere and 8 from Africa.

Among those, there would be 52 females and 48 males; 70 would be non-white and 30 would be white.

Seventy would be non-Christian; 30 would be Christian.

Six would possess 59% of the world's wealth, and those six would all be Americans.

Eighty people would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read and 50 would suffer malnutrition.

Only one person would be college-educated, and only one person would have a computer.

If you have food to eat, clothes to wear and a place to sleep, you are richer than 70% of the world's people.

If you're alive at this time next week, you won't be among the one million people who died during that time.

Think about your blessings as you spend time being thankful in this season. (reprinted from Jan. 17, 2007 Baptist Trumpet)



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
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