

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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Directors' Prayers and Goals for 2021

Executive Editor's Note: As in previous years, each departmental director in the BMA of Arkansas and the BMA of America was given an opportunity to share their "2021 Prayers and Goals." Please join me in praying for each of these ministries this year. (Due to length, the articles will be continued in upcoming issues. They are being printed in the order they were received, except that the *Trumpet* always goes last.)

Lifeword

Donny Parrish, Executive Director

Although 2020 will go down in history as the most turbulent and difficult year in modern history for the ministry of Lifeword, it will be remembered by our staff as the year that Jehovah Jireh provided. When COVID-19 restrictions moved us from our studios and we realized that we would have to produce media content in a new way, Jehovah Jireh provided for our every need. Not only were we able to move

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**BMA Theological Seminary
Dr. Charley Holmes, President**

Several years ago, we were all amused by Hillary's big red reset button and its comic failure with the Russian diplomats. Yet, sometimes, a "reset" can be positive. The majority of Baptist churches (as well as all others) currently see about 50-60% of pre-COVID attendance. Almost as many are having only Sunday morning worship without Sunday School or youth auxiliaries. It seems God has pushed our reset button without asking our permission. My first prayer is that our churches and BMA Seminary would have a refreshed interest in, appreciation for and dependence upon the "ordinary" means of grace — preaching, praying, singing, reading the Word and a frequent, solemn observance of the Lord's table. These things, alongside a renewal of family worship, reaching out to new and non-believers with personal discipleship, and an abandonment of religious fads, would be a fabulous "reset" for God's people.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8). In more modern language, this might read, "Be on guard so that no one can fool you with empty, deceitful philosophies based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ."

A goal we have is to use all the Seminary's facilities according to the best stewardship. Our campus was designed for the times when young men moved to a college setting to

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**BMA of Ark. State Missions
Paul White, Executive Director**

Greetings from your missionaries and office staff. These have been interesting times in church planting without much of the necessary one-on-one evangelism. Yet, despite all that has transpired, your faithfulness to this great work is to be commended. Not only have we been able to maintain, but to add new areas of work.

What an awesome thought — every time a service is held, the gospel is presented, a family is aided in all these various locations, it is because of you.

State Missions work is just one of the areas of ministry that benefits from us being associational. No matter your size or location, when you give financially, each person in your congregation has a hands-on involvement in reaching the lost. That thought must produce a feeling of accomplishment and having made

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**Central Baptist College
Terry Kimbrow, President**

Look at goals and dreams differently. Goals to me seem to be more short term — what can be accomplished in the next 1-3 years; Dreams are more long term. They are God-sized, only things that He can accomplish. I am pleased to be able to share some of Central Baptist College's goals for 2021. (By the way, we have dreams too! Maybe I can share those with you another time very soon.) As I share these goals, I am also going to share ways you can support CBC and help us reach these goals.

Goals for 2021

• **Continue to fulfill the mission of Central Baptist College.** Since CBC opened its doors in 1952, countless lives have been changed — transformed — at this place! That transformation has occurred because of the power of the truth of God's

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2020: A Year in Review

To say that 2020 was an "interesting and unusual" year would be a huge understatement. It was certainly a year that was filled with many trials, but it was also a year filled with blessings.

Since space is always limited in the first of the year issues of the *Trumpet*, the following is a list of highlights that happened in the BMA last year. For full stories on these and other items of interest, check out the *Trumpet* archives on our website at www.baptisttrumpet.com.

• **Natural Disasters** — The U.S. and foreign countries (especially The Philippines) were hit by tornadoes, typhoons and other natural disasters this year. The BMA of America and Just the Crumbs ministry worked in many areas, helping any way they could.

• **Free Class** — BMA Seminary offered a free online course (Introduction to Christian Teaching) taught by Dr. Ronnie Johnson. The class began on Feb. 4 and ended March 31.

• **Chaplain Sworn In** — Dr. Scott Carson (director of BMAA Chaplaincy) reported that Chaplain Chris Freeman, from Laurel, Miss. had been sworn into the Mississippi State Guard and will serve as a chaplain.

• **Arkansas Right to Life March** — An estimated 2,000 people took part in Arkansas' 42nd March for Life on Jan. 19. The march, which began in a parking lot on Wolfe Street and ended at the Capitol building, was to protest the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in America on Jan. 22, 1973.

• **Ministry Supporting Ministry** — During their annual retreat in Gary, Texas, the Master's Builders were surprised with a check for \$1,678.72 from Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. The Builders were the missions focus this past camp season.

• **CBC Homecoming 2020** — Central Baptist College held Homecoming festivities on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Activities included the Half Century Club Induction, SOS Reunion, Endowed Scholarship Breakfast, Alumni & Friends Luncheon, presentation of the Homecoming Court and crowning of Queen

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Our Loss, Heaven's Gain

COVID-19, and other illnesses and accidents, claimed several of our beloved BMA members this year. Our sincere sympathy goes to every family and church that is mourning their losses. Space would not allow us to run full obituaries on each one of them, but articles on the following BMA ministers, leaders and immediate families can be found in the *Trumpet* archives at www.baptisttrumpet.com:

• **Deward Mullen**, 91 of Fairfield, Texas passed away Dec. 25, and it was reported in the Jan. 15 issue. For over 60 years, he pastored churches throughout Texas.

• **Junior Sterling Small**, 83 of Greenway, passed away Jan. 31. He was ordained to the ministry at age 18 and pastored five churches.

• **Simon David Hayes**, 74 of Henderson, Texas, passed away March 11. He was a graduate of BMA Seminary, a BMA of Texas pastor and a police officer for 20 years.

• **Ricky Burroughs**, 66 of Clinton, passed away March 18. He surrendered to the ministry in 1995.

• **Carol (Anni) Berumen**, 67 of Jonesboro, passed away March 25 after a long battle with cancer. Her husband, Sal serves as a Hispanic missionary for the Jonesboro Association.

• **Richard Lunnie Walters**, 90, passed away April 2. He was a BMA pastor and served for many years as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in

Little Rock (now South City).

• **Jason Douglas "Jay" Kidd**, 52 of Holiday, Fla., passed away April 8. He was the son of BMA of America Missionary Care Director Jerry and Sue (Hudson) Kidd of Bryant.

• **Joyce Ann Speer Fagala**, 90 of Conway, passed away April 13. She was the widow of BMA Pastor Charles "Dan" Fagala.

• **Mary Jane (Janie) Bloxom**, 85 of Benton, passed away April 19 from Alzheimer's related complications. She

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**MOVING
with Ministers
and Staff**

To view previous listings
from this column, visit
our website at
www.baptisttrumpet.com.

Jared Kathcart resigned as lead pastor at North Lake Church in Smithville, Mo. after 8 years of service.

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PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Terry Kimbrow
President

CBC Announces New Trustees

The BMA of Arkansas, in their November 2020 annual meeting, elected four new members to serve five-year terms on the Central Baptist College Board of Trustees beginning in 2021. They are: Ali Chambers of Memphis, Tenn.; Jim Fink of Little Rock.; Kellie Harper of Sarepta, La.; and Dr. Kristi Roberts of Greenbrier. Also elected to serve a two-year unexpired term, is former Board of Trustees member Zane Clark of Benton.

Ali Chambers is the lead pastor of Mosaic Church of Memphis, Tenn. where he has served for seven years. He attended Central Baptist College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He also earned a Master of Divinity from Mid-American Theological Seminary of Memphis. Ali and his wife Anetta have three children — Nathanael, Samuel and Benjamin.



Jim Fink is the chief financial officer at Little Rock Christian Academy of Little Rock, where he has served for 11 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts of Business Administration from Rhodes College (formerly Southwestern) of Memphis, Tenn. Fink served three previous terms on the CBC Board of Trustees. He also served as CBC Board Chairman for many years. Jim and his wife, Lisa are active members of North View Baptist of North Little Rock. They have three children and six grandchildren.



Kellie Harper is a teacher at Benton High School in Benton, La. where she has served for seven years and teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science, Pre AP and AP Biology and English. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from Northeast Louisiana University, an alternative certification in Elementary Education from LSU at Shreveport and earned a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from South Arkansas University of Magnolia. Kellie, her husband, Jeff and their three children are active members of Walnut Road Baptist of Springhill, La. where Kellie served as Youth Ministry leader for 13 years and currently serves as Women's Ministry leader.



Kristi Roberts is a resident physician for UAMS Family Medicine Department of Little Rock, where she has served for three years working in the clinic and area hospitals. She received a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Central Arkansas of Conway, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine of Tulsa, Okla. and accomplished her residency in Family Medicine at UAMS of Little Rock. Kristi, her husband, George and two children are members of Bethlehem Baptist of Shady Grove where she has served as a GMA counselor, Children's Worship leader and Sunday School teacher to various age groups.



Leland "Zane" Clark is the retired pastor of Village Creek Baptist of Mabelvale, where he served for 28 years. He received an Associate of Arts degree from Central Baptist College, a Bachelor of Science in Education from University of Central Arkansas of Conway and Master of Science in Education from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. Zane and his wife Donna are members of Celebration Baptist of Haskell, and enjoy 3 children, 14 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.



I have been extremely blessed with strong leadership on the Board of Trustees and I'm looking forward to adding these men and women to the 20-member board and drawing on their expertise.

CBC Board Officers for 2021 include: Chair Jimmy Elrod, Benton; Vice Chair Bobby Stoner, Conway; Secretary Danny Kirk, Bella Vista; and Assistant Secretary Michele Corder, Plumerville.

Check Out The
Trumpet Archives At
baptisttrumpet.com

CBC

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Word, which is infused into all that we do! My number one goal remains that Central Baptist College continues to fulfill its mission of "transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment." And that by staying true to this mission, students will continue to be impacted for God's honor and glory! Will you pray for all of us who work at CBC? Will you pray that we continue to make decisions with this goal in mind?

• **Churches of the BMA will support our mission and ministry by hosting a CBC Day in their church in 2021.** I am praying and respectfully requesting that all BMA churches set aside one day or service to highlight the mission and ministry of Central Baptist College. CBC Day 2021 is scheduled for Sept. 12, but your church can select any day in 2021 that best fits your schedule. It is my prayer that pastors would lead their churches to take a one-time offering for our annual fund program — "Gifts that Transform" — and/or make a pledge to give additional offerings over the 12 months to follow. It is my strong desire that the churches of the BMA come together for one day of our three-month Special Emphasis and see what God can and will do through our people. Why not set an aggressive goal, challenge your people to meet that goal, pray for CBC and see what God can and will do as you support **your** college — Central Baptist College.

• **Revision of the campus Strategic Plan and the campus Facilities Master Plan.** Strategic plans are ever-evolving because people and plans and campus operations are ever-evolving. I am thankful that the CBC Assessment Committee, under the leadership of Committee Chair Rachel Whittingham, has stepped up to lead this strategic planning process. Please pray for this group. Once the strategic plan is completed, needed changes to the Facilities Master Plan will be determined.

• **Increase awareness of the PACE (Professional Adult College Education) Program.** We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the PACE Program in 2020, and thousands of students have been able to earn their college degree through this non-traditional program. Our goal is to increase awareness of this program so that more working adults and adults with family obligations can still fulfill their dream of earning their college degree.

Do you know someone who started college but was never able to finish because their life circumstances changed, and they have always wanted to finish what they started? Or do you know someone who was never able to begin college but would like to? Tell them to visit cbc.edu/pace to learn more about the PACE Program at CBC. This program is uniquely designed for them to



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Some Conclusions From COVID-19

I did my best to avoid it, but on Dec. 28, I received my official diagnosis. It has been a crazy week, full of ups and downs. Let me start by saying that I don't wish this on anyone.

The biggest headache is that this past Sunday was the first Sunday that I missed church since the beginning of this pandemic. The idea of missing church made me panic a little. How would the church get online? How would the tech things get accomplished that I have been responsible for? Who would fill in for me? Those types of questions tell me that I haven't done a good job at training others to make sure that my roles are fulfilled.

Our job and role in ministry should be a constant giving away of our jobs. That should be at the top of our list as ministers of the gospel and leaders in the Lord's church. Why is it important?

• **It is Scriptural.** God calls us to equip the saints for ministry. In Eph. 4:11-12 (ESV), the Bible tells us, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ministry takes on a number of different forms in the modern church. We need tech people, musicians, teachers, small group leaders and more. Show your people different ways to utilize the gifts that God has given them.

• **It is logical.** Simply put, we can't do it all by ourselves. You may be one of the most talented people in the world, but it is impossible to do all that God has tasked us with alone. My lead pastor and I don't try to do it all by ourselves, but I know that I need to be more aware of including more people in the work of ministry.

• **It allows others the opportunity to receive a blessing.** One of the greatest things about serving in the church is the feeling of satisfaction and blessing that one receives by being used for the kingdom. By insisting on doing everything ourselves, we rob others of their blessings. We don't want that to be our legacy as we go forward.

Delegation is the business word to describe what I'm talking about. However, in biblical circles, equip is the better word. We are called to pour into our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that when we aren't available to serve, someone is ready to stand in the gap for the kingdom. Ultimately, it is about making disciples. Are you making that a priority in your life and ministry?

be able to attend college while fulfilling their family and career obligations.

• **Meet or exceed our new student enrollment goal.** All of the personnel involved in the student recruitment process are working very hard to meet enrollment goals for Fall 2021. Like other institutions of higher education, we are working very hard to overcome the trend of declining enrollment. Much has been written about the impending "enrollment cliff," but we believe CBC has something to offer that students and parents alike are searching for — we call it the "CBC Experience." Our challenge is to reach prospective students and their families with the message that they should consider Central Baptist College in their college search by coming for a campus tour, completing the financial aid process to see how affordable CBC is and finding out what the "CBC Experience" is all about. You can help us by asking prospective students you know to go to cbc.edu/visit to schedule a virtual or in person Campus Visit Experience or schedule an appointment with a Personal Admissions Officer to learn more about CBC.

• **Meet or exceed our fundraising**

goals. There are many ways to give to CBC to support our fundraising efforts. However, we have a very special way coming up that you can participate in! On Feb. 20, CBC will host its second annual Scholarship Gala at the Conway Expo Center. The black-tie optional event will be a celebration of patriotism and faith and will feature keynote speaker, Ret. Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell, a survivor of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. The proceeds from the event benefit the CBC Scholarship Fund which supports all institutionally funded scholarships.

We recently announced that we have received a \$400,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor. This puts the 2021 event goal at \$800,000! To purchase single event tickets or make a one-time donation, which will be matched dollar for dollar, visit cbc.edu/gala. Event sponsorships begin at \$2,000. Contact Amy Reed, Director of Development, at (501) 205-8934 or areed@cbc.edu for more information.

• **That students would come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during their time at CBC.** Many activities take place at Central

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HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org (coming soon)



Healthy Church Solutions

As the director of Healthy Church Solutions, I am excited to inform you of some improvements and changes to this ministry. As a division of BMA Missions, we are focusing on the various aspects of church and pastor health in a more holistic way. Healthy Church Solutions desires to come alongside you to help when and where you need it most. We are focused on providing resources in areas like personal soul-care, leadership, team building, handling conflict, church systems and other areas of pastor and church health.

We have rebranded Activate as the revitalization arm of Healthy Church Solutions, and we will continue to offer everything we always have. Activate will focus on more intensive church health through revitalization and will keep the step-by-step process many of you are already familiar with. We will still support and pour into churches needing deeper health care as much as ever, but are evolving into a ministry that also offers resourcing in other ways. We are committed to assisting you in developing a healthy culture in your life and in your church.

Healthy Church Solutions places a high priority, first and foremost, on the importance of prayer. One of the resources we greatly recommend is *Presence Centered Church* by Bill Elliff. He challenges us, as leaders, to make sure that everything we do is God initiated and that we never move forward without His presence and direction. We also offer three video lessons, with attachments, on developing this prayer strategy in your life and in your church. Make sure that you read the account of Moses in Exodus 33:12-17.

We have resources to teach staff, leadership teams and churches how to ensure that your ministry is established firmly, not only on the Scriptures, but also on the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We have always, and will always, stressed making sure that every ministry is biblically faithful and culturally relevant. Prayer is how we discern how to break the missional code of the community He has called us to minister in and reach with the gospel. Prayer, levels 1-3, teaches a prayer system, a prayer ladder and how to have a personal prayer retreat.

Under this umbrella of Healthy Church Solutions, we plan to offer resourcing for pastor health/soul care, church leadership, family health and ministry health. We want to be all about starting and strengthening churches and leaders however we can. All of our resources will soon be available through Right Now Media, and you will be able to utilize the training for yourself, your

team and your entire church. Through this new partnership, we are uploading our content to their site and archiving a library of our trainings. This will help make it easier for pastors and leaders to access and utilize the materials.

We have begun a Pastor Encouragement Initiative that goes out by email and on social media twice a month. These are videos and prayers done by pastors for pastors, letting pastors know that you are not alone in this hard season during this pandemic. We are serving our pastors by attending webinars, doing research and scoping out what we believe is worth your time. We make suggestions and pass that information along. A definition of the word encourage is "to pour courage into." We are admonished in the Scriptures to encourage one another to love and good deeds.

We are producing the Healthy Church Podcast, which comes out weekly on a variety of church leadership topics. You can listen to these timely challenges and discussions of real ministry at healthychurchpodcast.com or through your favorite podcast provider. We also host bimonthly Pastor Zoom meetings that provide a space for pastors to get encouragement and feedback. These online meetings have pastors from all over the United States, all sizes of churches, from many contexts, both bi-vocational and full-time. Pastors then receive a follow-up email with resources and attachments we believe will be a blessing to you and your ministry.

We are launching a new interactive website (see heading) that will be constantly evolving to give you a web-based ministry resource with more options to reach every pastor, staff, leader and church. You will be able to find our new assessments there that will be free and managed by our own team instead of an outside source. We will include opportunities to Refocus, Retool, Reenergize, Revitalize and Replant. There are three timeless functions of the pastor that include protecting, preaching and leading your flock, and we want to help equip you.

Lifeword will soon be producing a monthly broadcast where we will speak to issues pastors and church leaders are facing. We have dreams to begin offering short consultations with pastors to hear about what the issues are and give suggestions about where to start the church health journey.

Another great resource for you to consider is *The Nehemiah Code* by O.S. Hawkins. It is an excellent resource to remind us that, "It is never too late for a new beginning." He stresses that you must know where you are going and

BMATS

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study full-time in residence. Now, new ministerial candidates do not expect to relocate and many study primarily online. The goal of greatest stewardship for our building and other property will require God's guidance and resources.

A second prayer is to see a renewed interest and practice of our associational Baptist polity in our students and churches. I am convinced that the original polity of associational Baptists is not just one of the ways to practice our faith, but it is the Biblical way.

MISSIONS

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a real difference. Pastors be sure your people are aware of what a tremendous blessing they are to this ministry.

In the way of prayers, at the top on my list would be:

- That the virus will go away, saving lives and allowing the much-needed outreach for planting that is necessary.
- That God will keep His hand of protection around our missionaries and their families.
- That He might strengthen each missionary with a double portion of His Holy Spirit during these discouraging times.
- That God will bless their efforts put forth for Him with lives changed and souls saved for their labor of love.
- That even more of our associational churches will place this ministry into their budgets.

Goals

- To add another new Hispanic work in the Rogers area.
 - To seek another person and place to prepare to plant.
 - To see two of our present work's, organize in 2021.
 - To witness two others come close to doing the same by 2023.
 - Having seen how your Special Emphasis offerings were such a blessing to each missionary in 2020, my goal is to be able to do even more for them in 2021. If you have not participated, please do so.
 - And for our Department to be able to help churches in the areas such as: what to look for and at, when considering a pastor etc. More to come concerning this.
- On behalf of, Donna, Michael, Chad, Jim, Juan Carlos, Darrin, Carter, Ruben, Johnny, and Clinton, we wish you and your family a very Happy New Year.

know how you will get there.

Rest assured that we are committed to following the leadership of the Holy Spirit alongside of you and serving you the best we can by offering help in as many ways as possible. Please reach out to us if we can be an encouragement to you and your church in any way.

As Paul David Tripp said in *New Morning Mercies*, "Change is possible for you and me even in the places where change seems the most hopeless."



Let's Covenant to Pray

As I pondered the events, both positive and negative, of 2020, I was just thinking that believers need to pray fervently in 2021.

Let's pray for God's grace to be abundant as our nation and world continues to deal with the coronavirus. We have learned much about how the world can be changed abruptly by pandemic illness. Last year, more than 300,000 died from the virus in the U.S., and more than 3,600 died in our state. Let's pray that the Lord will intervene and that those numbers will decrease rapidly in the new year.

Let's pray for churches to safely resume full worship services in this new year. Many long to gather in sanctuaries and fellowship halls, to be able to again shake hands and hugs necks and to worship unmasked.

Let's pray that believers have not become so accustomed to online worship that they choose not to return to in-person worship with family and friends in houses of worship. The meaning of church is to gather, not to isolate.

May we never lose sight of the fact that prayer is essential to maintain a real burden for lost souls. Let's pray for a renewal — a revival, if you please — of evangelism and discipleship in our communities and churches because we realize, as never before, that we are definitely living in the last days.

Let's pray for our association of churches and its departmental leaders, missionaries, faculty and staffs of the entities which the BMA of Arkansas supports. In 2020, these were greatly affected by diminishing offerings and other means of funding.

Let's covenant to pray for pastors and staff of the churches. Let's also give thanks to God for them because they faced challenges last year that have never before been encountered.

My personal prayer is for each reader of the *Baptist Trumpet* to receive the abundance of God's blessings in 2021 and that our churches serve with hearts of love — not only for the lost — but for one another.



Happy New Year!

On the last evening of each year, a celebration is held throughout our land. This celebration climaxes at the stroke of midnight at Times Square in New York City when multitudes of people cheer and shout "Happy New Year!" They blow toy horns and other noisemakers, laugh and embrace and kiss someone. This same spectacle is repeated hour by hour in succession in the various time zones from the Atlantic Seaboard to the far away islands of Hawaii.

For Americans, the new year symbolizes new opportunities, new hopes and new dreams; yet the stroke of the midnight hour simply marks the dawning of another day. Whether the year really will be "new" lies within each person. If, when the celebrating is over, we fall back into the same old life — then nothing has really changed except the date on the calendar. New Year's only becomes "new" if we make it so.

As you face the new year, I want you to understand that God is far more interested in your future than He is in your past. Some folks think God is fixated on their past, reminding them of the things they've done wrong. The simple truth is that God isn't interested in your past — He is interested in your future. God reminds us that we are to "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isa. 43:18-19). In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul made a similar statement: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" (Phil. 3:13).

Regardless of the failures you've had in your life this year — financial, moral, relational, marriage, etc. — God is offering you a new beginning. You are not a failure because you fail — you are only a failure if you quit. You matter to Jesus Christ, and He can make the rest of your life turn out in a whole different way if you give Him the pieces. He wants to exchange His peace for your pieces.

God specializes in new beginnings because He possesses the power to change lives. God doesn't want you to turn over a new leaf — He wants to give you a whole new life if you will let Him.

Give this new year to God and you will be amazed at what He can do with it. Remember, it is never too late to start anew.



What's Your One Word?

Faithful gym-goers know that with the new year comes crowded treadmills, weight stations and cardio-classes. Why? People make new year resolutions and among the favorites is losing weight. Those resolutions result in increased gym attendance. Those same faithful gym-goers know that about the third or fourth week of January the crowds will dwindle. Why? The enthusiasm for change wanes and people abandon their resolutions.

I suggest that during 2021 you prioritize internal or character change above all other change. Being conformed to the image of Jesus should be a priority and involves change. *"For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers"* (Rom. 8:29 HCSB). Paul's expectation for his readers was internal or character change. *"You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth"* (Eph. 4:22-24). From the beginning, God's priority for Christ-followers was spiritual transformation. *"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God"* (Rom. 12:2).

Could there be a better way to see genuine change happen in your life than personal resolutions? Yes. However, the issue may be focus more than desire. One sage suggested that the best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. Incremental change is the key to significant overall change.

A couple of years ago, a friend introduced me to the idea of choosing one word for an entire year and viewing the events of that year through the lens of that word. She chose the word **trust**. As her year unfolded, everything that happened was viewed through the lens of trusting God. She lost her job — trust. Finances became tight — trust. Other situations unfolded that dramatically affected her life — trust.

As she regularly read the Bible, she noticed how often God instructed His people to trust Him. She was very sensitive each time her pastor spoke on the subject of trust or mentioned it in sermons. Songs seemed to echo the principle of trust, and conversations trended toward trust. God wanted to teach her to truly trust Him that year. It positively affected her spiritual life and her relationship with God. That year was spiritually life-changing.

As the new year approaches, consider not making new year resolutions, but instead, choosing the one-word approach to change. For some practical assistance, visit myoneword.org, which is maintained by Mike Ashcraft and Rachel Olson. There, you will find many practical helps to move you along your One Word journey.

Here is a synopsis of the plan:

- **Step #1** — Determine the kind of person you want to become or the area of change you need to see change the most.
- **Step #2** — Identify the characteristics of that person or characteristics needed in your focus area of change.
- **Step #3** — Pick a word from the list of characteristics. You may be tempted to choose more than one, but one is all on which you should focus. Don't rush this step. Spend some time talking it over with God. Let Him bring that word to the forefront of your thinking.

How can I make my One Word journey successful?

- Tell someone what your word is and ask him/her to keep you accountable.
- Keep a journal of events throughout the year focusing on your One Word experiences.
- Periodically, take a few minutes to review and reflect on what God has taught you up to that point.

Remember, change is only **one** word away.



43rd Annual March for Life, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.; sponsored by Arkansas Right to Life; For more information contact Executive Director Rose Mimms at (501) 663-4237 or email artl@artl.org

CBC Homecoming, Jan. 29-30; Central Baptist College.

CBC Scholarship Gala, Feb. 20, 6:00 p.m.; Conway Expo Cen-

ter. Contact Amy Reed for more info at areed@cbc.edu.

World Missions Day, Feb. 28; Jerry Kidd Offering for BMA World Missions.

Ministry Connections Workshops, Mar. 23, 10 a.m.; Cross-Roads Church, Rowlett, Tx.; Sponsored by Baptist Progress.

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.

A Sip From The Saucer

By Valarie Fish

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



The Right Prescription

Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Stay at home. Exercise. Drink lots of water. Take zinc. Increase your vitamin C. Avoid fatty foods. Cut out the carbs.

Everyone has a piece of advice and a suggestion for staying healthy, especially in the times of the Coronavirus. You cannot turn around without some new (or old) piece of information hit-

CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

Baptist College to fulfill the institution's mission of transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. All students, no matter their degree program, complete three Bible courses (nine credit hours). All full-time students are required to attend weekly chapel services. Students have the opportunity to participate in Bible studies, discipleship groups, a local church, college ministries and much more during their time as a student. You can join us in praying that all of these activities will be tools to help students make a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because that is the most important thing that could happen at Central Baptist College!

Thank you!

I would be remiss if I did not take time to say "thank you" to you, CBC's BMA family. The continued support of each of you reading this article has been integral in getting CBC to this point, and it is so important to the future of Central Baptist College. Thank you for your continued support of Central Baptist College. It is my great honor to lead this institution, and your prayers mean so much! I anticipate another year filled with blessings. I am praying and trusting God for miracles that will allow CBC to do **big** things for Him, and I invite you to join me!



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

Canceled — 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.

ting you concerning how we should cope with a pandemic in our midst. Quarantine for 10 days if you test positive or 14 days if you encountered someone who was positive. No, wait, 7 days should be long enough or maybe 21 days just for good measure. Be sure you do not hug or shake hands or talk too loudly or sing. Some suggestions are valid while others are ridiculous — but who gets to decide? Who has the final authoritative word on dealing with the pandemic?

During my personal Bible study, I often look up words in their original Hebrew or Greek just to see what nuances there might be to the use of the word. I looked up the word "precepts" and the definitions were what I expected — commandments, statutes, appointed mandates of God.

Our human nature tends to push against rules. Rebellion is not a new concept — pushback against mandates have been since the beginning of mankind, or rather since the beginning of sin. Where rules exist, someone will be ready to break them.

When Adam broke the first mandate of God and sin entered the world, death came as well. Death, disease,

viruses, cancer, defects, pain, chaos and all those things we cannot control took up residence in our realm.

We tend to look at all commandments or precepts as a restrictive concept intended to curtail our bad behavior. Commandments seem to be synonymous with "thou shalt not" statements.

The Hebrew word for precepts comes from a root word that means "to visit with friendly or hostile intent, to oversee or have the oversight." In the plural, precepts are a collective of all the laws of God. These laws are given as an overseer to supervise the right behavior — like Paul says in Gal. 3:24-25, calling the Law a schoolmaster or teacher.

As I kept studying, I found the Greek word which calls a precept an authoritative prescription. Not a restriction on a behavior but a medicine for a disease!

The drug companies recently rolled out the much-awaited vaccine for the Coronavirus. If it were possible, you might have expected a ticker-tape parade. This is the solution the whole world has been anticipating for months. Will this be the answer for all the sickness, pain, death and chaos? No.

The only authoritative prescription for sin and death is the mandate of God. He provided a perfect sacrifice in Jesus to pay the penalty for sin and defeat all the consequences of death. Because we live in a fallen world, people will still die, cancer will still destroy and pain will still infect.

But God has provided the prescription in His beloved Son. Receive it and be healed.

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Harvison Marks 50 Years in the Ministry

Sonny Harvison, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morrilton, will celebrate 50 years in ministry on Jan. 10. He surrendered to preach on Jan. 10, 1971 in Springdale and soon transferred from the University of Arkansas to Central Baptist College and was called to serve Calvary Baptist Church in Morrilton as youth and music minister, serving under Pastor John W. Smith. When Bro. Smith passed away, Bro. Harvison was selected to fill the pulpit of Calvary until the church called Jerry Jolly as pastor. He continued to serve there until he accepted the pastorate of Wildwood Baptist Church in Otto, Mo.

He then became a missionary for the BMAA and helped establish a church in Fords, NJ, not far from Staten Island, NY. Other pastorates include Berean at Memphis, Tenn. and Mount Olive in Guy, where he served for over 19 years before accepting the position of executive pastor of Temple Baptist Church (now South City) in Little Rock, serving with Pastor Martin Jameson. In 2007, he returned to Calvary at Morrilton to serve as their pastor.

In 1995, Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges selected him for "Outstanding Achievement in Pastoral Leadership." He served on the Board of Trustees for Central Baptist College (1998-2001) and as president and vice president of the BMA of Arkansas (1997-2000).

He and his wife, the former Susie Anne Harris, have four children — Chad (Nancy) Harvison of Hensley, Shelly (Michael) Chandler of Conway, Kayla (Lance) White of Greenbrier and Alisha (Zach) Farris of Blowing Rock, NC — and eight grandchildren.

Bro. Harvison feels that he is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Claude Houston Harvison, who was a circuit riding pastor in the early 1900s, serving churches in Pottsville, Lincoln and Elm Springs Arkansas.

The Harvisons' address is 500 N. Division St., Morrilton, Ark. 72110.

REVIEW

(Continued From Page 1)

Olivia Farris, Mustang athletic events and the Battle of the Bands.

• **New Missions Broadcast** — On World Missions Day 2020 (Feb. 23) at 8 a.m., a new BMA Missions broadcast debuted. Hosted by Yalanda Merrell, the monthly show is called mission.world.tv and features BMA missionaries and what they are doing around the world.

• **Student Ministry Matters Podcast** — In the Feb. 26 issue, the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department announced the launching of their new Student Ministry Matters Podcast. Chris Vines, Micah Powell and Director Dan Carson will work together on this project.

• **COVID-19 Hits** — The coronavirus pandemic began in earnest in Arkansas in March, with the first case in Pine Bluff. The pandemic adversely affected our BMA churches and members, the departments of the BMA of Arkansas and America, as well as local districts, causing many cancellations. Churches faced situations they had never faced before and became innovative in meeting the needs of their people, their community and, most importantly, spreading the gospel. The subsequent issues of the *Trumpet* featured many articles offering encouragement and advice on ways to navigate the crisis.

• **National Meeting Canceled** — It was announced in the March 18 issue that the BMA of America meeting that had been scheduled for April 26-29 in Waxahachie, Texas. The churches were given the opportunity to cast their ballots on recommendations, etc., via internet or regular mail. (The ballot appeared in the March 25 issue of the *Trumpet*.) The same officers were asked to serve for the next year.

• **Healthy Church Podcast** — Larry Barker announced in the March 4 issue that the first episode of Healthy Church Podcast had been released. The podcasts are available at healthychurchpodcast.com or can be downloaded through iTunes or your favorite podcast provider.

• **CBC Students Compete** — The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Arkansas Student Auditions were held on Feb. 28-29. Seven of the nine students competing qualified for the semifinal round and Dylan Bradley won first place and AJ Woodraska won second place in their categories.

• **Carson Sworn In** — Dr. Scott Carson, president of Southeastern Baptist College and director of Chaplaincy for BMAA Missions, was sworn into the Mississippi State Guard as a chaplain in the rank of colonel.

• **New BMA of Arkansas Missionary** — Johnny Shew was recommended by the Advisory Committee as an Arkansas bi-vocational state church planter to Flippin. They began holding services on March 15 and, since the pandemic would not allow a called

meeting, the committee voted to begin paying him in April. (The Missionary Committee met June 16 and officially elected him.)

• **Jonesboro Hit by Tornado** — Saturday, March 28, a major storm system moving through the Central U.S. brought at least 17 reported tornadoes, including an EF3 tornado that ripped through Jonesboro. Homes of some BMA church members suffered damage, but churches were spared.

• **COVID-19 Opens New Mission Field** — COVID-19 presented a wonderful opportunity to get the gospel into the Randall Williams Correctional Facility in Pine Bluff. With the "no visitors" policy brought on by the pandemic, the prisoners are looking for something to read. Chaplain Rick Caracciolo was given back issues of the *Trumpet* and added to the mailing list to receive 20 free copies each week. The Missions Office contributed Bibles and other literature was donated by *Trumpet* readers.

• **SOAR Goes Virtual** — In the April 15 *Trumpet*, it was announced that, for the first time in over 30 years, the SOAR Student Conference would be completely online and totally free. The dates were also changed to June 26-27.

• **CBC Tower Media Awards** — Central Baptist College's Tower Media student journalism staff won a combined 36 awards from the Arkansas College Media Association at a spring contest, including *The Tower* being named first place for Newspaper of the Year.

• **BMA of Ark. Building Damaged** — A huge sweet gum tree fell on the west side of the BMA of Arkansas Building on April 29 during a thunderstorm. The good news is that the angle of tree kept it from damaging the air conditioner and electrical connections to the building. Although repairs were expensive, no one was injured.

• **Hebron Hills Dedicates Facilities** — On June 29, 45 supporters gathered to dedicate We Are FREE's new restorative care facility, Hebron Hills, which is located on 45 acres in Nevada County.

• **Another Event Canceled** — It was announced in the July 29 issue that the National Senior Adult Conference that was scheduled for November had been cancelled due to COVID-19.

• **CBC Holds Commencement** — After postponing the Spring 2020 Commencement exercises due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Central Baptist College honored graduates at a ceremony on Aug. 8. This year's class consisted of 118 graduates; 78 in the Traditional program and 40 in the PACE program. Of the 118 students slated for graduation, 86 participated.

• **New Staff Member** — Allan Eakin, bivocational pastor of Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell, joined the *Baptist Trumpet* staff on Oct. 5 as associate editor. He resigned his posi-

LIFEWORD (Continued From Page 1)

ahead with all of our ministry plans, God saw to it that people from around the world would discover Lifeword.org and look to this ministry for answers in an unstable time. In fact, 2020 may be remembered as the most fruitful year in the history of Lifeword.

We are praying that God will allow us to build on the ministry momentum of 2020 in the year to come! With the Lord as our guide and our strength, 2021 looks to be another year of expansion for Lifeword. The following are our four ministry objectives for 2021:

• **Increase the appeal and creativity of each Lifeword broadcast.** No form of media will ever be any better than its content. Lifeword is blessed to have a tremendous staff of writers and creatives who do a masterful job of producing content that is both biblically sound and esthetically pleasing. However, just having content is not enough. In a media-driven world, you must be able to attract people and hold the attention of the viewer/listener so that your content can be understood and accepted. To ensure that Lifeword media productions are as appealing to the general public as possible, Drew Cline will join the Lifeword team in a part-time role as our creative catalyst. Drew's years of experience in music and film uniquely qualify him to color each broadcast with his creative touch and make sure that those who watch or listen will be drawn to the message.

tion as special services coordinator at Arkansas Health Center in Benton and will continue to serve as pastor at Celebration.

• **Wee Gather Debuts** — It was announced in Oct. 14 issue that activity pages for children and Family Worship Guides by *Baptist Trumpet* Cartoonist Gary Thomas will now be available for download on the *Trumpet* website, with new pages added periodically.

• **Herring Nominated** — In the Oct. 21 issue, it was announced that the *Trumpet's* Publications Committee officially voted to recommend Jeff Herring to be the next editor of this publication. It was also recommended that his title be changed to Executive Editor. (These recommendations were later approved at the state meeting.)

• **BMA of Arkansas Meeting is Held** — It was announced by President Tom Mitchell in the Sept. 16 issue that the BMA of Arkansas meeting would be held as scheduled, with some modifications due to COVID-19. The 71st annual BMA of Arkansas meeting was held Nov. 5-6. One highlight of the meeting was that Arch Street Baptist Church was accepted into the association.

• **BMA Offering Renamed** — BMAA Missions Executive Director John David Smith announced on Oct. 28 that the annual World Missions Day offering will now be called the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering.

• **Increase our media outreach in the U.S. and around the world.** At present, Lifeword presents the message of Jesus in 90 different languages to 123 countries. Over 100 unique programs are produced each week to share the message of Jesus to the nations of the world. We have set as a goal a benchmark of 200 languages in the next 5-10 years, which we are well on our way to achieving. There are thousands of languages, millions of different cultures and billions of people who have no one presenting the truth of Christ in their heart language. We will continue to pursue new language opportunities in radio and through the internet to share the love of Christ.

• **Expansion of Lifeword's Video Studios.** When George Reddin was executive director of Lifeword, he had the foresight to lead our association to purchase the building we now know as the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision was to use much of the building as a media production center. Under Bro. George's direction, studios were built for production of audio and television. All of the sound reinforcement, a major expense in any media facility construction, was included in the original plans. The audio studios were completed and immediately put to good use while television studio plans waited for the ministry to grow. Dr. Steve Crawley took the lead as executive director and could see that the landscape of media was changing. The world was becoming more video centric. He directed that the audio studio be converted into a small video production center. Today there are six different productions, along with many other projects, being produced from that small studio. Meanwhile, the area built for video production has served as a warehouse of sorts for both BMA Missions and Lifeword.

Lifeword has several new media productions on the drawing board, and we are currently out of production room. In 2021 Lifeword is dreaming about reclaiming the area originally designed for a television sound stage and finishing out that studio. That will also necessitate providing some warehouse space in the rear of the facility. Would you pray with us that God would make His will known about this? We are trusting Jehovah Jireh to once again provide for our needs.

• **Reproduce Lifeword.org in multiple languages.** God is using the internet initiative of Lifeword to reach people around the world with the gospel. In just the last 30 days, Lifeword.org has had 110,000 new visitors to the site. Through social media, Lifeword is inviting people to meet Jesus. Through Lifeword.org people can find resources, teaching and help to develop a walk with Him.

It is now time for Lifeword to take the step of reproducing the English version of Lifeword.org into other languages. We will use our brothers and sisters outside the U.S. to help build,

See LIFEWORD, Page 8



Jay Bagwell, BMA Minister, Dies

Jess (Jay) Thomas Bagwell, Jr. of Fordyce passed away Dec. 24, on his 88th birthday. He was a U.S. Navy Korean War veteran and a graduate of Henderson College, with both a bachelor and master's degree.

Bro. Bagwell taught history in Warren for two years before starting the radio station KBJT in Fordyce. After serving for several years as a deacon at Temple Baptist Church in Fordyce, he surrendered to the ministry and pastored Cross Roads Baptist Church in Warren for over 34 years. He also pastored Gravel Ridge Baptist Church at Hermitage and Kingsland Baptist Church at Kingsland.

Survivors include: his wife of 64 years, Melrose Smith Bagwell; a son, Tracy (Bryn) Bagwell of Fayetteville; a daughter, Dr. Cindy (Bob) Bagwell Crum of Stuttgart; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 28 at Kingsland Baptist Church, with Rick Bolin and Stan Hobson officiating. Graveside services were held at Cross Roads Baptist Church, under the direction of Benton Funeral Home of Fordyce.

Memorials may be sent to Evangelistic International Ministries, P.O. Box 745, Warren, Ark. 71671 or made online at www.eimworldwide.org.

LOSS

(Continued From Page 1)

had been the wife of BMA Minister Jack Bloxom for 66 years and was the sister of the late Dr. C.O. Strong.

• **Mitzi Lanette Goodwin**, 52 of Warren, passed away April 21. She was the special daughter of Evangelist International Ministries Director Rocky Goodwin and his late wife, Jeanette.

• **Judy Elaine Harris**, 73, passed away April 22. Survivors include a son, Michael Battenfield, pastor of First Baptist Church at Cave Springs.

• **Martin Thomas Potter**, 86 of Edmond, Okla., passed away May 5. He spent most of his life as a pastor and served over three years as a missionary on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Montana.

• **Hosea Erin Harrington**, 92 of Sheridan, passed away May 11. He an ordained minister who pastored several BMA churches over the years.

• **Clyde Michael Ball**, 76 of Rosie, passed away May 15. He was a BMA



Peggy Russell, Of Bodcaw, Dies

Peggy Ann Russell, 75 of Bodcaw, passed away Dec. 16 at her home. She was the wife of Billy Russell, who pastored Corinth Baptist Church at Bodcaw for 38 years until he retired several years ago. They were still members of Corinth, where Mrs. Russell had attended for over 70 years and served for many years as the church's pianist.

She worked at Bodcaw Public Schools and Nevada County School as a paraprofessional for 33 years.

Other survivors include: a daughter, Carol (Kenny) Camp of Stamps; two sons, Jeff (Sandy) Russell of Bodcaw and Jonathan (Mandy) Russell of Milton, Fla.; two brothers, Bill Brown of Ashdown and Joe Brown of Bodcaw; 6 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18, 2020 at Corinth Baptist Church in Bodcaw, with her son, former BMA minister Jonathan Russell, officiating. Interment was at Falcon Cemetery in Falcon, under the direction of A.O. Smith Funeral Home in Stamps.

pastor for 48 years, serving churches in Arkansas, Illinois and Indiana.

• **James Richard Bickley**, 82 of Pollok, Texas, passed away May 17. He served as pastor of Piney Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Kennard, Texas from 2007 until he retired in 2014.

• **Juanita Russell Holmes**, 86 of Benton, passed away May 17 in Wayne, Mich. She was the widow of Terry Allen Holmes, who pastored several BMA of Ark. churches.

• **Bennie F. Lyband**, 82 of New Harmony, Texas, passed away May 25. He was a member of New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas where he served as music director for 27 years.

• **Jack Eatherton**, 94 of Gilmer, Texas, passed away June 12. He was a minister for over 60 years, serving churches in Texas.

• **Michael Jimerson**, 48 of Benton, passed away June 13. He served several BMA churches in the areas of music and youth.

• **Dr. Alton Gene Mathis**, 64 of Jacksonville, Texas, passed away June 23. He surrendered to preach when he was 16 and he and his wife, the former Maryjane Arrington, opened a group home, Mathis Rainbow Home for Children. He pastored several churches in the BMA of Texas



• **Thomas Allen Owen**, 75 of Magnolia passed away Jan. 2. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

• **Gary Eugene Williams**, 65 of Hampton, passed away Dec. 31. He was a member of Faustina Baptist Church.

• **Billy Byrd Whitaker**, 82 of Damascus, passed away Dec. 28. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

• **Roberta Mae Scarborough**, 77 of Jonesboro, passed away Dec. 29. She was a member of Prospect Baptist Church.

• **Sharon Selby** of North Little Rock passed away Dec. 29. She was a member of Berean Baptist Church.

• **Edwin Fay Lollis**, 84 of Morrilton, passed away Dec. 26. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

• **Edgar R. Tilley**, 91 of Greenbrier, during his 48 years of ministry.

• **Dr. Jesse Thomas**, 83 of Conway, passed away July 3. He had been a minister for 65 years, pastoring 12 churches in Arkansas and 1 in St. Louis, Mo. He joined the faculty of Central Baptist College in 1969 and served as professor of Science and Bible for 46 years, chair of the Bible department for 21 years and also served as an assessment officer and vice president for Academic Affairs.

• **Lloyd Cashion**, 83 of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away July 4. He was a BMA pastor for over 50 years, serving four churches.

• **Amos Walter Kirkland** of Perkinston, Miss. died July 5. He had been in the ministry for 71 years and pastored several churches in Mississippi.

• **Mildred Elizabeth Crawford**, 91 of Conway, passed away July 7. She and her late husband, Rufus Crawford, spent 15 years in Brazil and Portugal as missionaries and founded an orphanage there.

• **Maryjane Arrington Mathis**, 65 of Jacksonville, Texas, passed away July 13. She was the daughter of the late missionaries M.S. Arrington and Katherine Arrington and the wife of the late Dr. Alton Gene Mathis.

• **Betty Jane McDuffie Dunn**, 90 of Hampton, passed away July 15. She was the widow of BMA Minister Horace J. Dunn, who pastored several churches in South Arkansas during their 57-year marriage.

• **Thomas Edward Battenfield**, 73 of Clinton/Walnut Grove community, died July 27. Survivors include a son, Michael Battenfield, pastor of First Baptist Church at Cave Springs.

• **John E. Mangum**, 82 of Ruston, La., passed away Aug. 1. He was a BMA minister who pastored churches in Arkansas and Louisiana and also served with Master's Builders.

• **Raymond D. Cline**, 72 of Amory, Miss., passed away Aug. 6. He surrendered to the ministry in 1978 and pastored several churches in Mississippi.

• **Jerry Lynn Burnaman**, 78 of Waxahachie, Texas, passed away Aug. 13. He had been in the ministry for 60

years and served as the director of both Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association for the BMA of Texas.

• **Nola Faye Manis**, 81 of Long Branch, Texas, passed away Aug. 16. She had been the wife of BMA minister Jerry Manis for 44 years.

• **Bobby G. Kelley**, 87 of Bernice, La., passed away Aug. 17. He was a deacon and the editor/treasurer of the BMA of Louisiana newspaper, *The Louisiana Baptist Builder*.

• **Wexford Parmer**, 78 of Tupelo, Miss., passed away Aug. 24. He surrendered to the ministry in 1962 and pastored several churches in Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri.

• **Dr. Glen Edward Tropp**, 76 of Hope, passed away Aug. 28. He had been in the ministry for 60 years and was the pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Hope, where he had served since 2003.

• **Ruby Jean Armbrust Schalchlin**, 87 of Conway, passed away Aug. 26. She was the widow of BMA Minister Raymond Floyd Schalchlin, who pastored churches in Arkansas, Alabama and Kansas. She and her husband also served as BMA missionaries in the state of Queensland, Australia for 18 years.

• **Glenda Kay Hall**, 75 of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away Sept. 6. She was the wife of BMA minister Tommy Hall.

• **Louis James Hale**, 73 of Springhill, La., passed away Sept. 14. He was from Springhill, La., but had been living in Conway with his daughter, Angela Rice and her husband, Phillip, who both serve the BMA of America.

• **Leo Harris**, 98 of Maumelle, passed away Oct. 1. He was a deacon and was the father of the late David Harris, who pastored Oak Park Baptist Church, where Bro. Leo was a member for many years.

• **Don Carlos Rock**, 81 of Elizabeth, passed away Oct. 2. He was serving as pastor of Landmark Baptist Church and had been in the ministry for almost 30 years.

• **James Ray Raines**, 83 of North Little Rock, passed away Oct. 22. He faithfully served in ministry for over

67 years as a pastor, president of Central Baptist College and as BMAA Recording Clerk.

• **Alice Brashear**, 80 of Waxahachie, Texas, passed away Oct. 30. She was the wife of BMA minister Roy H. Brashear.

• **Judy Tidwell Herring**, 79 of Shorter, Ala., passed away Nov. 2. She attended Central Baptist College and was the sister of the late David Tidwell, who served as editor of the *Baptist Trumpet* from 1969-2002. Survivors include her husband, Burton, who pastored several churches in Arkansas and Alabama.

• **Luther Aaron Scroggs**, 88 of Springdale passed away Nov. 5. He was a pastor for almost 60 years, serving 12 churches in 3 states.

• **Dr. Joe Pendleton, Jr.**, 78, passed away Nov. 9 after over 50 years of ministry, teaching and service, including serving as a professor at BMA Seminary.

• **Robbie Lucille Carroll Williams**, 81 of Fordyce, died Nov. 12. She was the wife of Henry Franklin Williams, pastor of Pine Crest Baptist Church at Fordyce.

• **Elsie Imogene (Jean) Sewell Burgess**, 93 of Greenbrier, passed away Dec. 1. She was the widow of Wassell L. Burgess, who pastored many churches in central Arkansas and also served 27 years as an instructor, academic dean and president at Central Baptist College.

• **Margaret Ann (Maggie) Kinley Chandler**, 71 of Conway, passed away Dec. 1. She was the wife of Don Chandler, pastor of Central Baptist in Conway, where she served as a Life Group teacher for 40 years and worked with women's ministries. For almost 30 years, she wrote a weekly column in the *Baptist Trumpet* entitled, "I Wish I'd Said That."

• **Tressie Loy Reynolds Spears**, 98 of Greenbrier, passed away Dec. 3. She was the widow of W.S. Spears, who pastored several BMA of Arkansas churches and served as a missionary for the Mount Vernon Association at Greers Ferry.

• **Robert Michael Edmondson**, 67 of Canton, Texas passed away on Dec. 7. He pastored several churches during his 44 years in the ministry.

was a member of First Baptist Church, Damascus.

• **Dortha Mae Brown**, 90 of Searcy, passed away December 19. She was a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church.

• **Charles Wayne Coats**, 81 of Greenbrier, passed away December 19. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

• **Janie Sue (Watkins) Derrick**, 95 of Benton, passed away December 18. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Waldo.

• **Jimmy Doyle Smith**, 76 of Lake City, passed away Dec. 12. He was a member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church.

• **Billy "Bill" Lynn Hewitt**, 91, passed away Dec. 8, and his wife **Evelyn "Pat" Marle Hewitt**, 90, passed away Dec. 13, both of COVID-19. They lived in Bryant and were members of Park Place Baptist Church, where he served as deacon.

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BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Get Ready, Set, Go!

I, for one, greet 2021 with optimism; not because things might be better, but because of the One in whom I have placed my eternal trust.

Every new year to me is like taking a journey where I have never been. So, I say goodbye to 2020 and all the negatives it drenched us in. Still, while I feel it was a tough year, it was not in vain, nor were your efforts. In the midst of COVID-19, the election and its difficulties, sickness and loss of loved ones and failing businesses, the good and important news is that, across the world, names were added to the Lamb's Book of Life. While most will consider 2020 a bust, just imagine what a monumental time it was for those who received Jesus as their Savior!

Having the privilege of working alongside missionaries, I have experienced firsthand how they, along with pastors and churches, have suffered greatly from the lack of outreach opportunities. Yet during their struggles, a profession here and there of someone's salvation or a family unit being restored was like a cool drink to a thirsty soul as it broke through the shroud of darkness and despair to ultimately bring glory to our King and much needed refreshment to His people.

Pastors and friends heed the warning, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (I Peter 5:8).

So remember, church member, pastor, staff worker, Sunday School teachers and children's workers, Satan would like nothing better than for you to quit, throw in the towel and walk away. And yes, I will be the first to say it has been tough and yes, it may get worse, but our answer must be like that of Simon Peter, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life"* (John 6:68).

Come what may, I pray that we will be found with our hands on the plow, looking forward. *"And Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62). Now let us do everything in our power to win souls for Jesus. Happy New Year!

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "Here we are at the beginning of a new and exciting year!

"The past few weeks have been good at Connection Point. We enjoyed a great Children's Program and Christmas worship service on Dec. 20. On Dec. 27, Alex White delivered our message and challenged us to let our light shine in the upcoming year.

"This week, we started the new year with a great day. We started 2021 with a new series on hope and how we find our hope in Jesus. We had a good attendance, good offerings and a great worship service.

"We want you to know that we are praying for you and your church for the upcoming year. This year is sure to be filled with many challenges, but also many blessings.

"Thank you for supporting us and our work, and thank you for praying for us here at Connection Point."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "God blessed us with a new year — 2021 is now here. I am praying it will be less drama filled.

"We have had an unusual time during the last three weeks. Becky and I were exposed to COVID-19 and had to be quarantined for 10 days. We were tested and it came back negative for both of

us. We had to miss the Christmas program, but our folks at the mission came through and stood in the gap. Kenneth and Carolyn Colvert filled in for us. Allysa Bryant directed the Christmas play, and the kids did awesome.

Our walkway has been completed and looks great. I hope all who read this have a great, safe, happy and healthy new year! God bless you all!

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Updates from Dec. 20th and 27th:

(20th) "We had donations from the Foodbank and City Serve, and we have been very busy reaching out to people who might need the things we receive.

"Crystal Barker, Parent Involvement Coordinator of the North Little Rock School District (NLRSD) invited me to report at the public meeting of the Board of Directors on Jan. 17, on the donations of desks and beds for Hispanic students, donated by efforts made by NLRSD staff. At the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Barker introduced the topic of the creation of a new award, called 'Parent North STAR (Supporting Teachers Achieving Results) Award.' My surprise was that I was the first person to be awarded this recognition.

"Glory be to God, all that we have done has been to honor only Him. I must admit that the work has been done in

large part thanks to the work of my wife, Sayra, and the team of ladies she leads in the church. This group of women and their husbands who are integrated at the time of collecting, donations, loading and unloading trailers and trucks, and the enthusiastic group of young people who collaborate after their school time, are a fundamental part of community service. In other words, not just me, but the work that the church does with the community, honoring and glorifying the name of the Lord, has been recognized.

(27th) "Wednesday, Mrs. Maria and her three children came to collect the Christmas gifts they had not been able to collect the previous week, we had the opportunity to share the gospel with them, and all four received Christ as their Lord and Savior. I beg you to pray for them. Dona Maria's only day off is Monday so she mentioned that she wants to change jobs, so she can come to church on Sundays.

"We also had a family visit that has been a beneficiary of the programs with City Serve and the distribution of food.

"Our Christmas meeting was more crowded than expected, and the young people presented their Christmas Carols. They did an excellent job and saw the fruit of many rehearsals!

"In our Sunday meeting, we concluded I Timothy 4, with the theme 'The Good Servant of God.'

"We thank you for praying for this mission. May God bless you."

Life Journey, Fort Smith: Darrin Smith writes, "It's a new year! 2020 is history and what a year it was! Every year typically has a few defining moments, but the past 12 months has had so many life-altering and world-changing events. It is a year that won't soon be forgotten.

"As a mission, we have had to make our share of adjustments. I am thankful for the 'forward thinking' of our State Missions Director and Advisory Committee for allowing us to continue to do missions without having to just 'get by.'

"Brother Paul and I met by phone and in person several times, and he not only listened but took my needs to the committee and they were very aware and went above and beyond what I could have ever expected. Not only that, the churches of the BMA of Arkansas stepped up and supported us like no other year that I can remember!

"All of the members of Life Journey say, 'thank you,' for being there for us this year! We have felt your love and support. We have seen many come to know Christ as their Savior, and we

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 bbbradfordar@gmail.com. For more information, call (501) 344-2414.

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

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

will continue share His life-changing message."

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, "I have never been one for new year's resolutions. I have always thought that if changes need to be made, there is no need to wait for a special occasion to make those changes in our lives.

"However, the changing of the calendar from one year to the next is a great time to reflect on God's blessings from the previous year and look forward to what He has planned for us in the upcoming year.

"We took time Sunday morning to discuss the blessings of 2020. One of the couples in our congregation shared that while God's outright blessings were difficult to see, God's protection was more evident for them. While we appreciate God's obvious gifts, we tend to overlook His protection. 2020 was tough for almost everyone, but it could have been much worse without God's protection on His children."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "By the grace of God we had a good Christmas and New Year as a family. Every member at Ebenezer did the same.

"In recent sermons, we have been challenged not to be afraid, because fear paralyzes us. Although we must take all the necessary measures to take care of ourselves in this pandemic, we should not live in fear. The world walks without hope, full of fear and that is when we need to give a message of hope and that message is found in Jesus Christ. For the next two weeks, my wife and I will visit homes and pray for each man and their family. It is already the custom at Ebenezer to go to each home during the first weeks of January to dedicate the man to the task of God with his family.

"Pray for God's care during this pandemic. There are already many cases that I know of infected friends and family. My wish is that we continue to glorify God in 2021."

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a good week at Faith Chapel. Even though we had several out for various reasons, we had our average attendance. A young family, that has been coming since we started,

to Attn: Pastor Search, P.O. Box 3043, Lufkin, Tex., 75903. Visit keltys.org/pastorsearch for more information and a job description.

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

Walnut Street Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Texas is seeking a senior pastor. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 587, Winnsboro, Texas 75494, wsbc75494@gmail.com or via our website at www.walnutstreetbaptist-church.org.

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officially joined us Wednesday night, and we are so happy to have them. Others have told us that they are praying about it. We are growing, and soon we will have to start thinking about a bigger building to meet in, hopefully our own. This is such an exciting time for us. All of our members are witnessing and inviting people to worship with us. If everyone comes that we have invited we will have to go outside, but we are up for that, too.

"I met a cashier at Walmart this morning before church. After I told her about our church, she said 'Y'all say a prayer for me.' I said, 'Would you mind if we prayed right here, now?' She said no, so we prayed right there at her register. When we finished, she was in tears and said she only had a short while left to work for Walmart, and then she would come and visit us. Join us in prayer for Sharon please, and thank you for your prayers for us, God is answering them!"

Not Alone, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "The First 30 Days... We got to Springdale on Dec. 4 and felt that we were already in the thick of it. The house that we were buying was causing major issues, and the closing date was in serious threat of being pushed back a few days. The stress was high, but prayerfully and graciously, everything worked out and we closed a few hours past the original closing time.

"We are a flurry of activity! We are trying to make the house into a livable place for family and ministry life. The first objective is furniture. We ordered furniture, but we are having to wait till mid-January for most of it to arrive. In the meantime, we are making do with the little we have.

"I am meeting many people in the local area, specifically at a board game shop and a local coffee shop. Several people are interested in our future Bible study, including an atheist and several non-religious folks. God is preparing the way for many other opportunities soon, and we are sensitive to His leading.

"Thanks to Wade Allen with Temple of Rogers, Wes Hulvey with Springdale Baptist and Darrin Smith with Life Journey of Fort Smith for sharing your churches with my family."

No Rules, No Punishment Leads to Anarchy

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

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2).

It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as “a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority.” Synonymous words are revolution, disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land.

Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Gal. 6:7: “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

The Basis for Punishment

Historically, the basis for punishment in our society has been man’s belief in God — the God Who is Sovereign over the universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, “For the wages of sin is death.”

Today, the philosophy of unbelief, with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher power than himself, is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but our intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture. Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and that He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment, we must obey His commands. God rules according to His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

Manifestations of Punishment

• It is observed in creation. Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the “king of the jungle” would be to

receive a recompense of reward.

• It is observed in the societies of the world. As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have severe punishment for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders.

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

• It is observed in the Scriptures. Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that message, we shouldn’t be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

Punishment Inflicted By God

Consider the following as examples:

• **Cain** (Gen. 4:11-16) — When God made His pronouncement, Cain responded, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.”

• **The Flood** (Gen. 6:1-8:22) — Rejection of God’s warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

• **Sarai** (Gen. 12:17) — In protecting His “chosen,” God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh’s house although his offense was in ignorance!

• **Ananias and Sapphira** (Acts 5:1-11) — As a definite and shocking example of God’s righteous indignation toward lying to God these two met immediate physical death.

Punishment Administered by Man

Genesis 9:1-7 — Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man’s jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder. This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14).

Exodus-Deuteronomy — “If we knew, we would do,” sums up Israel’s appeal to Moses (Deut. 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

Responsibility in Punishment

Man’s responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church and the state. When each is diligent in the task, the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

• **The Family** — Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God’s plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don’t accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God’s rules (Gen. 24; Matt. 19:6).

• **Children need to be trained.** No child comes into this world programmed to do that which is right (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God’s plan of salvation. Life must be directed if it is to develop the kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4).

• **Children need to understand punishment.** Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Gen. 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Prov. 22:6).

• Parents must carry through in punishment. Consider Prov. 13:24; 23:13-14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents’ responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don’t learn this lesson at home, will they learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

The Church

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 3:1-16) — A church congregation is responsible to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

The State

The state, with its rule is ordained of God, has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to “carry the sword.” They are guardians of human life and are to use all means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

Growing Softness in Punishment

Today’s softness in punishment

reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that, all too frequently, the offender receives greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

Why Such Softness Against Crime?

God and His Word are excluded. At one time, God’s Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts and punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In his book, *The Preface to Morals* (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsibility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

Once again, according to the Scriptures we find that when “the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2). The designation “wicked” in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God’s Word and His authority!

Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!

Global Missions Conversation

BMA Family, everyone is invited to join a very special global missions’ conversation on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. as Executive Director Dr. John David Smith shares his heart during this virtual meeting. BMA Missions will celebrate the blessing of God-given growth and chart the course for how we believe God is leading in the coming months and years. To join the conversation, go to bمامissions.org and click on the meeting banner.



Church at Willow Beach, North Little Rock witnessed one profession of faith; Roy L. Tilley, pastor.

County Line, Nashville added one by baptism; Jerry Hill, pastor; Vivian Roberts, reporter.

Lemonwood, Pine Bluff reports one profession of faith; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

North View, North Little Rock received one by baptism; Mike Cantrell, pastor; Rebekah Head, reporter.

Unity, Hope gained four by letter; Nick Flowers, pastor; Penny Ehrhardt, reporter.

LIFEWORD (Continued From Page 5)

populate with content and maintain those sites. Expanding Lifeworld’s internet presence around the world will require expanding our team outside the U.S. and giving ownership to those producers and creatives. This decentralized concept of ministry is a huge step for the ministry of Lifeworld. Again, we ask you to pray for God’s guidance.

Lifeworld is governed by the churches of BMA America. It is owned by Jesus Christ. For 55 years, God has provided for Lifeworld’s needs just as He did for Abraham when He provided a sacrifice to spare the life of his son Isaac. God always provides for His people and for his work in this world. He has been faithful to do so for Lifeworld in this difficult year of 2020. We are asking for God’s gracious provision through Holy Spirit leadership and his heavenly blessings as we serve Him through the ministry of Lifeworld in 2021.

At Lifeworld, We Tell The Story.