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Panel members holding a Zoom planning meeting prior to production — (top L-R) John Micheal Poulin, Anthony Crocker and Greg Cook, (bottom L-R) Sean Pasley and Eric Johnson.

Lifeword and Local Church Produce Virtual World Missions Day Program

For the past few years, Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier has hosted a World Missions Day program to benefit churches in their local association. The service consisted of a program element, generally a panel discussion and a plenary speaker from the panel. Churches in the local association would then take up an offering

that was divided equally and given to the ministries of the speakers.

This year, due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19, Immanuel could not consider an in-person service for their local association. Rather than seeing present circumstances as an excuse to go smaller, the church saw that the Lord had presented the opportunity to go bigger.

Pastor Tony Crocker, a former BMAA missionary, contacted Donny Parrish at Lifeword and explained that Immanuel's production team was certainly capable, but their media platform and production quality was limited. He asked if Lifeword would help them produce a quality program and make it available to churches that may not be able to host a missionary or missions program themselves.

Bro. Donny saw the opportunity and responded immediately. Lifeword would produce the program in their studio and make it available to everyone via BMAA social media platforms. While the weather complicated the process, and required rescheduling the shoot twice, on Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Lifeword production team hosted Bro. Crocker and a panel of pastors and missionaries to produce a program called "Local Churches on Global Mission."

The panel is made up of Greg Cook, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at Horn Lake, Miss., and two missionaries from that church — Sean

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.

Bryson Hayden, of Foxworth, Miss., is available for service as the Lord leads. He has been in ministry since 2003 and has served as pastor, music minister and youth minister. He and his wife, Jessica have three teenage children. Contact him at (662) 251-0443.

Ryan Burchett has resigned as pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Garland, Texas to become pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Texas.

Mike Fisher is the new pastor at Enon Baptist Church in Gilmer, Texas.

Charlie Woodard has retired as pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Payne Springs, Texas.

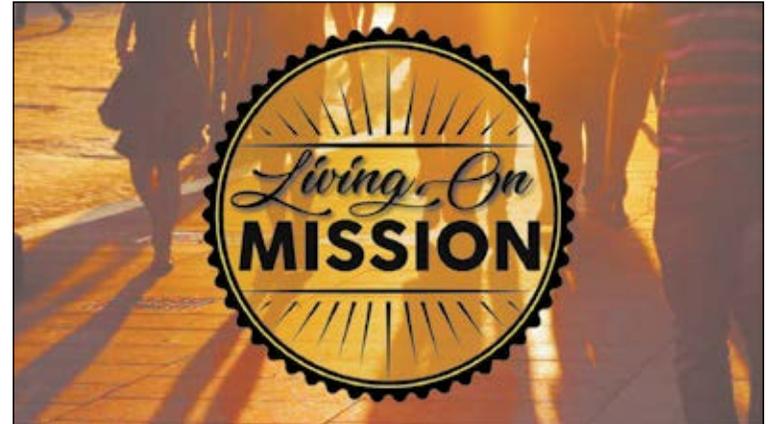
Lighthouse Baptist Church in Payne Springs, Texas is seeking a bivocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 142, Eustace, Texas 75124 or shirleyrawlinson46@gmail.com.

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, Texas 75633 or sedyer57@gmail.com. For more information, call (903) 690-4819.

Pasley (missionary-elect to France) and BMAA Latin American Coordinator John Micheal Poulin. Also on the panel is BMA of America Director of International Missions Eric Johnson.

This program is about an hour long and free to anyone who is interested through the BMA social media platforms. Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier will also make it an event on their Facebook page, and it will be followed by a live service featuring John Micheal Poulin as their plenary speaker on the topic. Churches and individuals, literally anywhere in the world, can access these programs.

Immanuel Baptist Church, the panel speakers and Lifeword Media Ministries pray that this will inspire all pastors and churches to "Go, Disciple, Plant, Repeat."



Mission is Our What

By Larry Barker, Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

Your core values are why you do what you do. Mission is the "what" you are supposed to be doing by obeying the Great Co-Mission in Matt. 28:18-20. God has commanded every Christian and every church to cooperate by working with Him in His mission. It is much more than the fact that your church has a mission to carry out. God's mission has churches to carry it out. How well are you doing that? How often are you sharing the gospel one-on-one with people who are far from God? Are you intentionally making His mission your mission?

In *Rings of Fire* Leonard Sweet says, "If we loved the world as God so loved the world, we would love it well and love it to life." The mission is to constantly share the gospel of Jesus Christ by planting the seed, watering the seed and then watching Him give the increase. Being convicted to carry out this mission is not enough, because your efforts will always fall short. Mission is hard and requires the work and the power of the Holy Spirit. Do not confuse your mission with your purpose. Your mission is to make disciples, and your purpose is to glorify God.

In Acts 20, Paul is directed by the Holy Spirit to return to Jerusalem, but he journeys there with much uncertainty, not knowing how it would turn out. He obeys, and verse 24 says, "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus — the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."

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Will You Help Us Update Your Church Information?

By John Meriweather, Director of Operations • BMA America.

A key service we provide our association is a database of information on all of our churches and ministries. We publish this information in an annual directory and use it to ensure that your church and your pastor are included in any communications from our association and its various departments and ministries. Information is critical in helping us communicate and stay connected.

I am personally asking for your help to ensure that we have the most current and accurate information on your church. Here are a few easy ways to update your information:

• **On-line** — Fill out a survey online at bmaamerica.org/blank-church-survey-form.

• **Phone or Email** — Contact Heather Pantoja at (501) 508-2261 or heather@bmaamerica.org to have a survey sent to you.

• **Mail** — Use last year's survey that was sent in August to make any changes to what we currently have on file.

You may email completed surveys to heather@bmaamerica.org or mail to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Ark. 72033.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at (501) 499-6810 or john@bmaamerica.org.



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Terry Kimbrow
President

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Men's Basketball

• **Columbia, Mo., Feb. 20** — Playing on a court where they had never won before, CBC took on the Cougars of Columbia College at the Southwell Complex, looking to move closer to clinching their second consecutive American Midwest Conference (AMC) regular season title. CBC (16-5, 11-2 AMC) avenged an earlier defeat by the Cougars (15-6, 9-4 AMC), trailing only twice and winning 86-68.

• **Batesville, Feb. 21** — Looking to secure their second straight AMC regular season title, CBC took on the Scots of Lyon College at Becknell Gymnasium. CBC (16-6, 11-3 AMC) got off to a slow start, trailed by five at halftime and lost 91-78 to the Scots (10-4, 8-2 AMC).

Women's Basketball

• **Columbia, Mo., Feb. 20** — Looking to carry momentum from a home victory, CBC took on the Cougars of Columbia College at the Southwell Complex. CBC (9-6, 4-6 AMC) led by five at one point in the third quarter, but couldn't stop a charge from CC (12-4, 10-2 AMC), falling in the regular season finale 72-62.

Indoor Track

• **Elsah, Ill., Feb. 20** — Competing for the final time before nationals, CBC athletes **Ally Swaim** and **Dylan Burnham** both won races at the AMC Last Chance Meet, hosted by Principia College. Swaim won a pair of events, the 60-meter hurdles and the 200-meter dash and Burnham came out victory in the 600-meter race.

readily available to handle any issues that arise with our on-campus student population.

Another department that continues to function on campus is Dining Services. In fact, Dining Services Director, Chef Jill McCollum, moved on campus into an empty room in Dickson Hall and remained there all week. This ensured that Chef Jill could safely get to the kitchen in the Mabee Student Services Complex. With the help of student workers who lived on campus and staff who lived close enough to get to campus safely, all meals were served.

Finally, I can't say enough about how hard our Physical Plant Department, led by Director Byron Baker, worked the past two weeks responding to these winter weather events. They worked long, hard hours in bitterly cold temperatures to ensure students could travel from their residence to the dining hall on a clear walkway. They also cleared parking lots, attended to and/or repaired frozen water pipes, lowered temperatures in the buildings

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Student Ministry Matters

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www.StudentMinistryMatters.com



Dan Carson
Director BMA of Arkansas Youth Department
1410 North Porter Rd. • Fayetteville, AR 72703



(L-R) Jason Bowman, Dan Carson, Pat Ellison (in costume), John Vanhook at Springdale High School Band Halloween Party 1989.

The Importance of Friends During the High School Years

On Monday, Feb. 22, I attended the funeral of my dear friend, Jason Bowman. I met Jason in my seventh grade Beginning Low Brass class at Southwest Junior High in Springdale. Jason was a quiet guy, especially during those junior high years, but it was an easy friendship because we both loved band.

It wasn't long until we had developed our own little band of brothers (and sisters) during those years in junior high school. We were a group of smart, achievement-minded, young musicians who simply wanted to do our best in life. The friendships carried on into high school, and I watched as that beginning trombone player became first chair in the state two years in a row.

When Jason went off to college, he set aside his trombone and excelled in pre-med to later become a nuclear pharmacist. We stayed in touch over the years, but not as much as I would have liked.

My daughter and his older son were in preschool together and they later trained at the same Taekwondo school where I trained. Then our two kids were in band and choir at Har-Ber High together. In a way, it had come full circle. It was so good to reconnect in those moments. This was a smart, kind man who I am proud to have called my friend.

Friends are extremely important during those junior high and high school years. They help us determine who we are going to be and how we are going to interact with others. In His wisdom, God led me to a group that wanted to do the right things, even if they weren't always motivated by God's Word at that time. Since those days, four of us are in vocational ministry and two are teachers; and Jason, while not in pastoral or an educational role, served faithfully in his church.

So, how do we encourage good, positive friendships within and outside of our student ministries? Here are few ways:

• **Teach on friendship.** It is important that our students understand that Jesus used relationship to impact the world. They can do the same. I'm not talking about being an influencer on social media, I'm talking about real friendships where hearts and feelings are shared. It is risky, but totally worth it.

• **Make relationship a priority over activity in your student ministry.** This will help you as you work with your students, but it will also let students know what is really important. Small groups with great discussion questions are a way to get the ball rolling, but there are other ideas as well. Have your students pray for one another by name. Take students to support one another at their performances and games. Get creative as you help them build real relationships.

• **Encourage students to make friends with those outside of their normal circles.** Too often, we can get into a protective mindset with our students. "Don't be friends with those people!" I would ask, "Are we being like the Pharisees in those moments?" "Those people" are the ones that need friends and need Jesus the most. Make sure your students understand who they are in their relationship with Christ, then send them out. We will never win a lost world if we don't spend time with lost people.

Michael W. and Deborah D. Smith released a song in 1983 called, "Friends." I remember hearing it from our choir at Springdale High when Jason and I graduated in 1990. The chorus simply shares "And friends are friends forever, if the Lord's the Lord of them, and a friend will not say never, 'cause the welcome will not end. Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands we know, that a lifetime's not too long, to live as friends."

My time with Jason here on this planet is over, but with Christ as our anchor, our friendship will endure forever. Help your students find friends that can last forever.



—photo by President Terry Kimbrow

David T. Watkins Academic Building

CBC Responds to Three Rounds of Winter Weather

As you are reading this article, CBC has resumed normal campus operations after being either closed or operating virtually since Thursday, Feb. 11. Three winter weather systems hit back-to-back, dumping over a foot of snow on the campus and bringing sustained temperatures in the single digits. This caused campus operations to be adjusted for over a week. During this time, many students remained in campus housing, essential campus operations continued and except for three days, classes met as scheduled. I wanted to share with you a bit about how this was accomplished.

For all of the negative things the COVID-19 global health pandemic has brought us, one positive is that all classes are now able to be offered in an online, or virtual, manner. Since our faculty has been teaching in this format and students learning this way since March 2020, faculty and students are much more comfortable

switching back and forth between in-class instruction and online learning as needed. Also, almost all employees now have the ability to work remotely from home, no longer necessitating them being in their workspace on campus to perform their job duties.

Classes were canceled on Thursday, Feb. 11 as we assessed the situation, formulated our plan, developed messaging and all the other things that needed to take place to respond to the impending winter weather. From Friday, Feb. 12 until Friday, Feb. 19, all classes met online and employees worked remotely, with the exception of Wednesday, Feb. 17 and Thursday, Feb. 18.

The campus completely closed on Feb. 17 and 18 to do our part to voluntarily conserve electricity, as was being called for by Governor Hutchinson and our local utility company, Conway Corp, as the state and our region of the United States was dealing with electrical supply issues. According to the Conway Corporation Facebook page, "This week's historic event is causing high peak demand that has never been seen before." To continue to do our part to conserve energy, thermostats in all buildings on campus have now been lowered to 65 degrees, and students living in on-campus housing have been asked to voluntarily lower the temperatures in their personal living spaces to 68 degrees.

While most campus operations can now be accomplished remotely, there are some things that require personnel to be physically present on the campus. The campus Housing Staff must be on-site because students continue to live on campus, both in Dickson Hall and in college-owned upper-class housing. Therefore, the Housing Staff has to be



—photo by Autumn Herring

Current students (and sisters) Autumn and Abigail Herring have fun in the snow in front of the Ratliff Bell Tower



Leave it to Cleaver

By Dr. Tony Cleaver
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jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

Below is a piece I wrote in June 2001. Nevertheless, at this point in time it might be a good reminder for all of us that loyalty to what has brought us to this point is worth remembering, adhering to and making a point of allegiance. In this time of plague, when churches are shut down, people are scattered for faith, our BMAA denomination has something to offer our communities and our world. There are great political needs, educational needs, financial needs and public health needs. However, the greatest need is the spiritual need. Let us, as a denomination, respond to humankind's greatest need to preach and live the gospel.

I'm Glad I'm a BMA Baptist

The last words my father-in-law spoke to me were these, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist." Of all the words he could have used, of all the words that might have crossed his mind, of all the words he might have considered necessary, those are the words that he was able to speak in that private moment. I believe they are significant. They were significant to him because it took great effort to speak the words. The words are significant to me, as a hearer, because of the great exhortation to pay heed to them. They are significant to our denomination because of the great expectancy that challenges us to continue the journey.

Any good leader is concerned for the organization. My father-in-law was always concerned for his denomination. He wanted the best that human beings could give through the grace of God. He raised himself in his wheelchair, and in his old normal preaching voice, told me those great words, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist." The look in his eyes and the grip of his hand let me know that these were his life-held, soul-felt, Christ-blessed convictions. The words were of great significance because of the great effort of the life that produced them.

It seemed to me at the time I heard these words that they were significant because he wanted me to live by them in my own life. The tradition of carrying on and passing the torch seemed to have taken place at that time. On his deathbed (in 2001), I asked God to send me a double portion of the spirit that had been upon my father-in-law. I intently said aloud the request to place on me the spirit that God had so greatly used over his 60 plus years of ministry. I could not help but ask for that blessing to be mine because of the significant exhortation, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist."

The men who were a part of my father-in-law's celebratory funeral service repeatedly spoke of his contribution to our denomination. Certainly, men of his caliber and conviction had given the BMA a good birth. Certainly, men of his stature and standard had nurtured it through infancy. Now the task for all of us is to continue a journey with great joy and expectancy for the glad and bright future of our denomination.

The principles of being a BMA Baptist are unique. The heritage of being a BMA Baptist is magnificent. The blessings of God on the denomination are staggering as we count what we have accomplished through His grace. Each denominational leader, from pastor to local association to national department, can speak right now to recount the magnificence of God's blessings on our work. The challenge for us who inherit great traditions is to continue with them, embrace them and uphold the life-principles that are proven.

O Lord God, thank you for the words of Gerald Kellar, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist." May I whisper it as my prayer. May I make it my mindset. May I follow it as my guide. I ask you to use these words — "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist" — to bring honor to Your kingdom. I ask you to use these words to remind all of us to earnestly contend for the faith that You have given to the saints. Through the sufferings of the wounded Healer, through the death of the One who lives forever, through the watch of the empowering Ruler of the universe, through the Spirit of Jesus, through Him who holds the Baptist Missionary Association in His hands. Amen. (Originally printed in June 27, 2001 issue)



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

World Missions Day, Feb. 28, 11:00 a.m. Sean Pasley, speaker; 5:00 p.m., panel discussion; 6:00 p.m., John Michael Poulin, speaker; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

Rescheduled — World Missions Day, Mar. 7, 10:45 a.m.; Fil Kakilala, speaker; Kingsland, Kingsland.

Ministry Connections Workshops, Mar. 23, 10 a.m.; Sponsored by Baptist Progress; CrossRoads, Rowlett, Tex.

CBC Scholarship Gala, June 5, 6 p.m., Conway Expo Center. Contact Amy Reed for more info at areed@cbc.edu.

National Galilean Camp, June 25-28; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville, Arkansas.

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 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Just the Crumbs Ministry Update

By Lavon Haden, president

Just the Crumbs personally responded to seven disasters during 2020, and supplied funds to Belle Fontaine Baptist Church on Dauphin Island Parkway in Alabama after Hurricane Sally damaged the roofs on the church building, education building and the parsonage.

During the winter we carried boxes of food supplies to those in our area who can use a helping hand, as well as doing necessary equipment upkeep. After a tornado tore through Fultondale, Ala. on Jan. 25, Just the Crumbs set up in an old Shoney's building and began feeding volunteers and families in a trailer park on Feb. 6. When the volunteers returned to their regular schedules and a church took up the feeding in the trailer park, we were free to carry our whole team to Foley, Ala. on Thursday, Feb. 18 to fulfill a scheduled week of feeding Team Acts 20:35, who will be making house repairs that are needed due to Hurricane Sally.

We are aware of needs caused by the ice storms across Texas and will be checking to see if our assistance could be helpful in some area. Please pray for our efforts.

Every gesture of good will in the form of words, prayers, hands-on help or financial help is noted, and we thank God for it. Please continue praying for God to greatly use this ministry.

If you have questions about this ministry, call Beth Burkes at (662) 582-6667, me at (601) 522-6055 or Mike Angus at (228) 669-1108.

We always welcome and need your donations. These may be: made by PayPal to justthecrumbs21@gmail.com; mailed to Just the Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Miss. 39482; or mailed to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033, designated for Just the Crumbs.



Bluff Springs, Rosston welcomed one by letter and one by statement; Donnie Dillard, pastor; Marlena Capps, reporter.

New Liberty, Emmet gained one by baptism; James Cox pastor; Deborah Marcum, reporter.

Providence, Hope added one by baptism; Casey Curtis, Pastor.

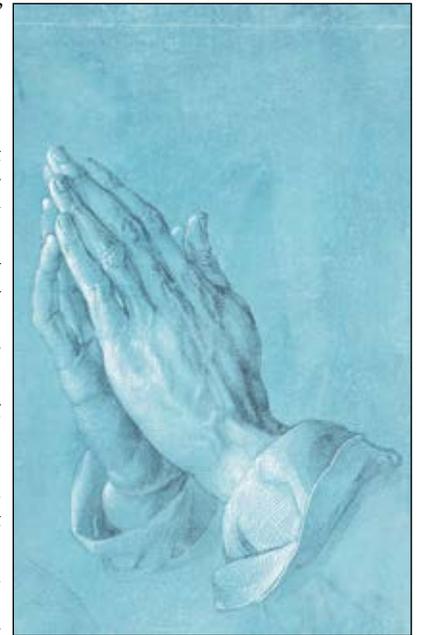


From the President... Think Globally—Act Locally

Jeff Swart, BMAA President
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Love One Another

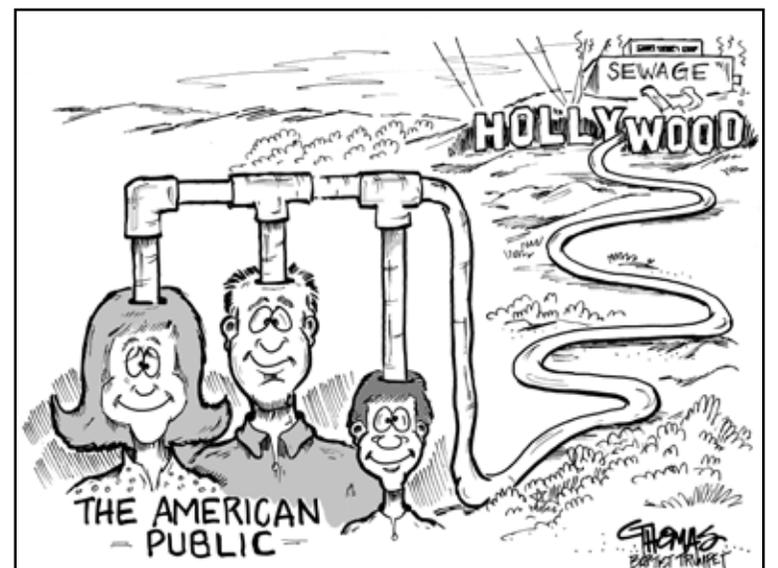
The famous "Praying Hands" picture that we have all seen was created by Albrecht (Albert) Durer (1471–1528), who was born in Germany, the son of a Hungarian goldsmith. The story is told that Albert and a friend roomed together during their years of study at an art school. They both worked part-time jobs around their classes, but they did not earn enough money to pay their living expenses. Albert had an idea and suggested to his friend that he go to work full-time to earn the necessary income to pay their living expenses while his friend pursued his art studies full-time. Then, when his friend finished his studies, he would work full-time while Albert went back to school to finish his education. The friend was pleased with the suggestion, but insisted that he be allowed to work first while Albert finished his studies.



In a few years, Albert finished his studies and became a skilled artist and engraver, and it was now time for his friend to quit his job and study art full-time. However, his friend had worked so hard that his hands were swollen so that he could no longer hold a paint brush and his career as an artist was over.

Albert was heartbroken over his friend's condition and one day, when he returned to their apartment, he saw his friend praying with his hands together. At that moment, Albert was inspired to create a pen and ink drawing of the wonderful "praying hands" of his friend (1508 AD). The skill of his friend could never be restored, but Albert felt that he could express his love, for his friend's personal sacrifice that he might complete his studies, through his art. Albert also hoped to inspire others to make sacrifices on behalf of a fellow human being. Albert had no idea how many people would be inspired down through the centuries by his drawing of the "Praying Hands."

The New Testament teaches that we are living in the last days (Heb. 1:2), a time described by the Apostle Paul as when people would be "lovers of themselves" (II Tim. 3:2). In these days in which we live, it is imperative that those of us who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ follow the admonition of our Lord: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). This is a certainly a great challenge but one worthy of our best effort. Remember, one of the defining marks of a Christian is their love one for another!





By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

Journey
with
Jeff

Customer Portal

Last week we announced that the customer portal is now available at baptisttrumpet.com to manage your subscription. I receive a notification when people are logging in and making changes and there have been many individuals and churches that are taking advantage of the new way to manage your subscription.

Churches can manage their list and make payment arrangements through the portal and individual subscribers can update their profile, manage their subscription and manage payment options. We have 55 churches that have given us an email to add to their account, so these churches have access to the church portal. If your church would like to use the customer portal to manage your church plan, please contact us so we can register your email with your plan and set up access for you.

Payment Options

We are glad to be able to provide options to make it easier for you to pay for your church plan and individual subscriptions, as well as make donations. Let me start here by saying that our system is secure and no personal information is ever shared by the *Baptist Trumpet*.

Through our new system you are able to pay in three ways:

- You can continue to mail a check if that is what you prefer.
- You can set up a debit/credit card. We charge a \$2 processing fee to cover the cost for this option.
- You can set up an ACH payment from your bank account. We charge a \$1 processing fee to cover the cost for this option. Please carefully verify your routing and account numbers to avoid any errors.

PayPal Subscribers

We have provided PayPal as a method of paying for your subscription and also sending your donations. We will be transitioning all of those that use PayPal to our new system. Allan will be contacting all of those that use PayPal to help move you to the new system.

One thing that most people don't realize is that when you pay through PayPal, a portion of the payment is removed to cover the processing fee. This means that when someone pays for the \$23.50 personal subscription via PayPal, we only receive \$22.52 because \$0.98 is deducted by PayPal. When we are already stretching every dollar as much as possible, these fees add up. That is why we made the decision to charge the processing fee with the new system. We are glad to give you options that make it more convenient for you, but we hope you understand that we also need your help to cover the cost of that service.

Thank you again for your faithfulness to this ministry. Please continue to be in prayer for our time of Special Emphasis that begins next week. It is crucial that we meet our goal in order to keep this ministry moving forward.



— photo by President Terry Kimbrow

Physical Plant Director Byron Baker works to clear a parking lot on campus

CBC (Continued From Page 2)

and provided many more essential services. Because of their work, parking lots and walkways are clear, and employees and students will return to campus on Monday, Feb. 22.

It has truly been a team effort from all of our employees and students these past two weeks. I pray that during this time, despite all the canceled and changed plans, the unplanned time at home, issues with utilities and record low temperatures, everyone took time to appreciate the beauty in God's



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Arkansas AG Introduces Transgender Bill

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced on Feb. 22 proposed legislation that would ban transgender athletes from playing on women's school sports teams in Arkansas. The announcement came after President Joe Biden issued an executive order on Jan. 20 aimed at combating discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Rutledge said at a news conference Feb. 22 that the order hurts female athletes. The drafted legislation, known as the Gender Integrity Reinforcement Legislation For Sports Act, or GIRLS Act, would make it illegal for student-athletes who are identified as male on their birth certificate to play on women's teams.

A draft of the proposed bill cites chromosomal, hormonal and physiological differences between male and female sexes. If passed, the bill would apply to K-12 schools in Arkansas. It would allow the attorney general to sue any school that violates the bill and ban them from receiving funds from a public source for one year. (katv.com)

South Carolina Abortion Bill

On Feb. 18, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster (R) signed into law the South Carolina Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act that bans abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable just weeks after conception. With his signature, South Carolina becomes the 12th state to ban abortions when an unborn children's heart starts beating — and it joins Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee, Ohio, Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi and North Dakota in doing so.

The pro-life bill prohibits abortions after an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable, typically about six weeks of pregnancy. Exceptions would be allowed in cases of rape, incest or risks to the mother's life. Abortionists who violate the law could face a \$10,000 fine or imprisonment for up to two years. (lifenews.com)

handiwork. It is not often that we see snow like this in Arkansas.

There are times in life when you just have to hit the "pause button." I think this was one of those times. 2020 was a rough year for everybody, and our lives have been forever changed. This year has certainly not started out the way many had hoped. We rarely stop to consider the mental and emotional health of each other. I think the verse, "*Be still, and know that I am God*" (Psa. 46:10), is very fitting, and it is my prayer that everyone took time to "*be still*" and reflect on our Savior during this most unusual time.

However, the new law was suspended by a federal judge on Feb. 19, its second day in effect. Judge Mary Geiger Lewis put a 14-day temporary restraining order on the law and will renew it until she can hold a more substantial hearing March 9 on Planned Parenthood's request that it not be enforced until the group's lawsuit against South Carolina is resolved. In court documents, Planned Parenthood and The Center for Reproductive Rights said the temporary restraining order was requested in part because more than 75 women were scheduled to have abortions in the state over the following three days, and most of them would be banned under the new law. (baptistpress.com)

Christians in Congo Face Growing Violence from Islamic Extremists

Spiraling Islamic terrorism that has killed more than 100 people in a two-week span (Dec. 31-Jan. 14) in the Democratic Republic of Congo is calling renewed attention to Christian persecution there. The terrorist group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is blamed for the deaths in at least three attacks in late December and early January in efforts to establish a Muslim caliphate in the mostly Christian country, Open Doors reported.

ADF has been active in Congo for decades, but its expansion led Open Doors to include Congo for the first time this year on its World Watch List

of the 50 most dangerous countries for Christians. Congo, which is 95% Christian, debuted at number 40, mainly ranked for violence, persecution against churches and social persecution against Muslims to convert to Christianity.

ADF attacks have reportedly increased since authorities launched an offensive against the group in October 2019. In the latest attacks in Congo, the ADF is blamed for killing 46 members of the Pygmy ethnic group in Ituri province on Jan. 14, 22 civilians in an overnight raid on the village of Mwenda on Jan. 4, 17 residents of a nearby village the previous week, and 25 people in the village of Tingwe on Dec. 31, Open Doors said. ADF used guns and machetes.

The U.N. has said the ADF is connected to a network of jihadists across Africa. Unlike Boko Haram, the ADF has not linked itself to the Islamic State group (ISIS), but ISIS has begun to claim responsibility for ADF attacks. (baptistpress.com)

Carman Dies at 65

Carman Dominic Licciardello, a Christian music legend known simply by his first name, died on Feb. 16 at the age of 65. He had been hospitalized in Las Vegas for complications after surgery to repair a hiatal hernia, according to a press release posted on the musician's Facebook page.

Carman was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2018. He had been planning to start on a 60-city tour later this year, according to his Facebook page. He credited his fans with helping spark his musical revival and his recovery from cancer. (baptistpress.com)

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Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Don Brown, Editor - editor@mbsbaptist.org - 601-426-3293 - www.msbaptist.org

More Than We Want to Hear

By Don Brown, Editor

In the past few weeks (and in the past year), we have heard more news that is disturbing, frightening and heartbreaking. In our last three issues (including this one), we have listed 10 obituaries of friends, coworkers and children of friends. Some of these are the result of individuals who were stricken with the COVID-19 virus. How heartbreaking it is for a life to be lost to this virus that otherwise would have continued for years to come.

Both of my children and their husbands have recovered from the virus, and I have a grandson who is recovering as I write these words. I have other relatives and too many friends and coworkers who also have had to deal with this illness. We pray that this will soon be past, and life can return to a pre-2020 status.

As many of you know our Trustee and Assistant Editor Corbey Jones has been hospitalized for a number of weeks with COVID-19. We have news that he is making progress and seems to be on the road to recovery. We ask that you pray for him, his wife Cindy and their family. They also recently lost one of their children. Information on Andrew Jones' passing can be found in the Jan. 20 issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

I feel certain that the events of the last two months have taken a toll on the Jones family both emotionally and financially. If you would like to make a love offering to the Jones family, I would encourage you to send it to the *Mississippi Baptist*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, Miss. 39441, and designate it to "Jones Family Love Offering." I know you will be blessed, and the Jones family will be appreciative. If you have any questions, please call me at (601) 426-3293.

News Not Well Received

Regardless of your political leanings and desires, I am sure you are as disturbed as I am by recent events in our nation. The new administration is making decisions and going in directions that are direct opposition to good biblical positions. This new administration has given permission for transsexuals (men who claim to be women and women who claim to be men) to serve openly in our armed forces. History tells us this makes no sense and is a disruption of cohesiveness and purpose. It is also against the will of God for mankind.

Another direction is allowing boys who claim to be girls access to girls' sports and dressing and restroom facilities. What could possibly go wrong with that?

This administration has even appointed a man who claims to be a woman (transsexual) to a cabinet post. How far our nation has fallen and how fearful we should be about God's coming judgment.

May the Lord touch hearts, save souls and purge our nation of evil ways. May we return to the values upon which our nation was founded, and may we please God in all that we do. Pray!

President's Perspective

By Dr. Scott Carson, President • Southeastern Baptist College

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

I delivered the first chapel message of the spring semester, and five students responded to the invitation to accept Jesus as their Savior! In the last four years, we have had 25 students publicly respond to the gospel in our chapel services. Many others have come to know the Lord in one-on-one witnessing opportunities between students and professors or with staff members.

In addition, students are growing in their understanding of God's Word and in their commitment to Him. It is not uncommon for one of our coaches or deans to be contacted by a student in the middle of the night with a personal crisis. Although an inconvenience, our workforce always make time to personally counsel individual students with biblical principles.

Southeastern Baptist College is a mission field. Students come from all backgrounds and cultures, and they are at varying levels in their Christian walk with

See SBC, Page 8



Dealing with Teens Who Use Self-Harm

By Anders Lee, Pastor
Central • Southaven, Miss.

It is no secret that youth ministry has moments where it is very difficult. Most of the time, we see the youth pastor or the youth director's job as the easiest in the church, but that is not true! Yes, they get to be with all the fun-loving teens at church and have all the activities that are lighthearted and stress free. But then there are those moments when a teen comes to them with the worst problems of life or a parent comes through the door, crying over what they have found out is true.

Years ago, after a youth service, a parent walked in needing to talk. Once we sat down, the tears began to flow. She said, "I have no idea what to do or why this is happening!" I had never in my ministry, at that point, dealt with the problem she shared with me — she had discovered, by the providence of God, that her daughter had been cutting herself.

The girl was from a good home, they were faithful to church and she was normally a bubbly young lady, involved in everything at school and youth group. Suddenly, she was quiet, withdrawn and had a total 180° in her disposition. I had noticed it, but, at age 15, I dismissed it as girl hormones and the changes of life.

I didn't have a clue what to tell the Mom. I felt inadequate to help her, so I had to seek help to help her. We

See SELF-HARM, Page 8

Children's Home Ministry

By Dwight Lindsey, Director
Miss. Baptist Children's Home

This ministry is a calling much more than just a career. A career is a profession or occupation chosen as one's life's work; a calling is listed as a strong urge to minister to the needs of others in a vocation. While a secular dictionary gets part of this right, it ignores the most important part. Christians recognize that callings do not come strictly from our own suitabilities, rather they come from the Lord.

Paul pens these gloriously soothing words in Acts 17:25-27, "...He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord..."

God has given every creature life, the things they claim to be their own and the times and places they will live those lives. As God has appointed those things, it is only natural to deduce that He has appointed our callings as well.

Scripture is rife with illustrations of God's calling to His people. He called Adam and Eve to forgiveness. He called Noah to build an ark. He called to Abram to faith. He called Jacob instead of Esau.

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Louisiana Baptist Builder



New officers for spring quarter

An Encouraging Month

By Danny Eddy, ABS Director • Louisiana Tech University

It's been an encouraging month for us at ABS, even with all the safety precautions still in place. We've only had one more student to contract a light case of the virus, so all is well here. Attendance at our weekly IMPACT worship has been on the increase, with a high of 21 this past week. We are still only allowed to have 25% capacity, and we were pretty close to that this week, but hopefully that limitation will change soon.

We said goodbye to two students this week. Makayla will graduate this month, and has a job awaiting her in the ICU of a nearby hospital. Avery will be leaving us next month to do Marine bootcamp and other training. He will be back in the fall as a reservist. These two leaders will certainly be missed. We have added three new officers and look forward to working with them.

We've had a Prayer Breakfast and a Friday Fun Night this month, as well as a fun time giving away packaged snacks on campus as we invited students to ABS. But the best times of all were when they stood and shared their favorite verses and why they mean so much to them. Some read from their phone, some from their Bible, while others quoted. It has been a real joy this quarter to see them bringing their friends, leading Bible study, standing to give their testimony and growing in their walk.

Thank you so much to all who support this ministry and allow us this awesome privilege of working with these young men and women!



Friday Fun Night



Students sharing Bible verses

Louisiana Baptist Builder

Deryl Jones, Editor

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A Word from Your Missions Office

By Heith Mitchell, Director

God still can, and He still is! He has saved 24 souls through the efforts of your missionaries this month. He is still about His mission. Remember how He ended His instructions to His church in The Great Commission, “*I am with you always till the end of the age.*” Brothers and sisters, that promise is alive today. Christ is with us and empowers us to carry out His mission.

Your missionaries are about that mission. They are faithfully persevering through trials, just like each of you. That perseverance is being, and will be, rewarded. We must persevere until we know how to adjust or reach the other side of this pandemic.

BMAT family, we love you. It is a joy to serve you and serve beside you. Thank you for your faithful support in prayers and giving. If we can assist you, we want to. We have training you can come to or we can bring your way. We can partner with you or share with you. Let’s partner for the Kingdom.

I’m Just Sayin’

By Jason Curry, President • Texas Baptist Home for Children

Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC) was established in 1910 by the BMA of Texas and has been loved on by those churches ever since. The citizens of Waxahachie wanted the orphanage in their town, so they offered to help get the orphanage started. The mayor, J. Alderdice, promised a great relationship between the city’s people and the orphanage and shared his thoughts at an assembly celebrating the grand opening of the first of many of TBHC’s builds.

“As the years come and go and the institution extends its accommodations and widens its influence for good, it will confer a great favor on us by giving us a chance to answer one of the highest calls for benevolence. We thank you for lending your assistance in the development of our people in the highest order.”

Even in days gone by, there was a commitment to care for the fatherless that permeated Ellis County. Alderdice also spoke to the needs that our organization would face and said that “our county will see that such calls are heeded.”

Our agency has survived world wars, a Great Depression and many challenges that could have seen us shut our doors many times over, if not for the people of the BMA of Texas churches and the people in the communities around us.

We are honored by that heritage of care and commitment from so many to see TBHC continue to honor our purpose — Glorifying God by Caring for Children.

Colossians 3:23 says, “*and whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*” TBHC seeks to do our best because our best is not just for the kids, it is all in service to God Almighty!

I’m just sayin’.

Hispanic Missions — a Ripe Field

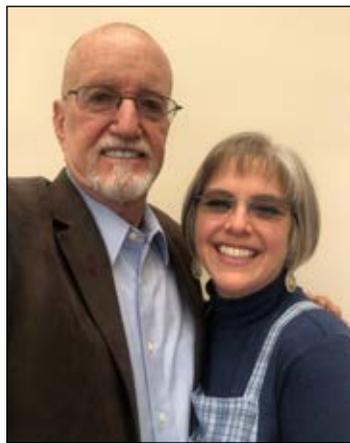
By Paul Gauntt, Baptist Progress Correspondent

For several years, the BMA Texas Missions has launched into an aggressive, intentional Hispanic missions outreach. Arnulfo Maldonado, the Texas Hispanic coordinator, who works at the offices at the BMA of Texas Building in Waxahachie told *Baptist Progress* of his vision for evangelizing Texas’ ever-growing Hispanic population and planting churches. “My goal is to plant 100 Hispanic churches in 10 years,” Maldonado said. “I only have 87 more to go.”

Arnulfo did not just begin church planting upon entering into the work of the BMA of Texas in 2003. He was already doing it, having planted a New Testament church in Mexico and one in Florida.

Raised in Matamoros, Mexico, Maldonado came from a large family and was the 9th of 10 children. He surrendered his life to the gospel ministry in 1993, and

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A Labor of Love and Sacrifice

By Paul Gauntt,

Baptist Progress Correspondent

In late summer of 2020, Buddy and Taffy Johnson sold their home in Waxahachie, their truck and other personal effects in order to travel to Ecuador for a task with which they are very familiar — mission work.

Ecuador is a small country with a population of 18 million, located north of Peru and south of Columbia in South America.

“Not far from where we live, you can stand with one foot on the northern hemisphere and one foot on the southern hemisphere,” Johnson said. He noted that although the Equator is known as the hot spot of the world, their home, which is

in the mountains at an altitude of 10,000 feet has a constant, mild temperature year-round. “There are no seasons here — and where we live, the temperature ranges from 50 to 75 degrees all year long,” he said.

The mission work in Ecuador was the vision of Trevor Morris, who had been pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas. He spent two years making contacts and gathering a group to begin a work in the city of Cuenca in the mountains of Ecuador with a population of 400,000. After returning from Ecuador, Morris worked for Burton Oil Service Operations. On the morning of July 13, 2017, he lost his life in a plane crash. He had just departed Tyler for Midland when the crash happened. It was just a couple of months before he was to turn 40 years of age.

Morris had been working with Buddy and Eric Johnson in getting the mission started in Ecuador.

“We had been in and out of Ecuador since that time working with the group,” Johnson said. “We knew that if somebody didn’t volunteer to go work in the mission, we were going to lose it.”

Johnson said a lot of people in Cuenca were disillusioned with their churches and gravitated to the new BMA mission.

“We had a two or three-night workshop of doctrinal studies with the group,” said Johnson. “We were studying the doctrine of the security of the believer one night when some

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The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Science Fiction

By the late Jesse Spurlock

I made a lot of VHS tapes over the years. Most of them were made when I didn’t have time to watch the show, so I recorded it for later viewing. That’s a foolish premise — if I didn’t have time to view it initially, why did I think I’d have time to view it later?

However, I was, on occasion, able to watch one, and was shocked to discover there is apparently a shelf life for VHS tapes. The picture of the one I chose to watch began flickering, jumping and hanging up. It then straightened out and continued on for a short time, only to begin messing up again. I recalled someone had told me VHS tapes could deteriorate after a time, so I arbitrarily chose a few others, only to discover that several of them had the same problem.

Deciding I needed to transfer them over to DVDs, I bought a DVD recorder. That worked fine except for the tapes that were already having a problem. Then the DVD recorder simply transferred the flickering and jumping to the DVD disc. Now I had a permanent record of the flickering. Still, I plunged ahead with the project.

In transferring the tapes, I suddenly became aware of the number of science fiction tapes I had. Most of those clearly promoted the theory of evolution, life on other planets and destruction of the earth by aliens. I believe the Bible — which flatly contradicts those ideas — so I found myself wondering why I enjoyed watching those types of movies. I reached a conclusion about it, but I’m not sure it was the right one.

I don’t like boring movies and most science fiction movies aren’t boring. I like to see heroism in action and there’s usually plenty of that, with the hero battling against overwhelming odds and coming out victorious.

But I think what I enjoy most about them is how outlandish their aliens are. It makes me glad God designed us and not some Hollywood writer. Judging from their creatures, we would probably have green skin, four arms, breath through our forehead and have a large, pointed head.

The important thing to remember about these movies is they are just that — movies! They aren’t to be accepted as reality. However, I went to see a movie with a friend a long time ago. It was a science fiction movie about creatures from outer space taking over the human body. Afterward my friend said, “That was the dumbest movie I’ve ever seen.”

I thought he was talking about the idea of aliens taking over the human body. But he continued, “The police were driving Nash’s for police cars. Police departments always use Fords or Chevys’ The Nash ain’t no police car.”

God put some laws in place that cannot be violated — except in science fiction movies. The science fiction style of time and space travel is not possible under such laws.

However, there was a time when such laws were violated, and that was by Jesus Christ Himself, when He walked on water. Upon His being taken into the ship, it was immediately at the other shore (John 6:15-21).

We are told, “when He appears, we shall be like Him.” In our glorified bodies, time travel and many of those other things I find fascinating in the science fiction movies will be a possibility. However, no ray guns will be allowed.

To Bee or Not to Bee

By Narita Roady

The sweetest holiday of the year is celebrated this month — Valentine’s Day. All my life I’ve wanted to be sweet; but no matter how hard I try, it just never seems to be an adjective used to describe me.

I remember once when Jerry and I were first married, I met a young woman in the apartments where we lived. Everyone liked her, and “sweet” was the word most often used to describe her. I decided this was my chance! I would study her, imitate her and, if I did it long enough, I would eventually be sweet!

A close observation revealed the following:

- She smiled a lot. (No problem, I did that.)

- She never stated any opinions or ideas regarding what was being discussed. (This could be hard.)

- Most of all, in a conversation, she rarely spoke. (This might be impossible!)

With all my concentrated effort and the best of intentions, I began to pattern myself after her. Hercules’ strength was no match for the Titanic effort I put into being sweet — for a week! During that time, people asked if I was sick,

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The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Editor - James Hoffmann - 176 Bear Creek Dr. - Wentzville, MO 63385 - www.bmamissouri.org - \$10/year-12 issues

A Page From My Heart

By Ben Kingston, Missions Director

As you know, we have passed motions in both the Meramec Association and the BMA of Missouri to support Juan Fernandez as a North American missionary in the St. Louis region. We are not the lead in this effort, but God has used the fact that we are in a healthy financial situation to get this ministry started. Bro. Juan is excited to get started, and so are we!

The Meramec Advisory Committee and James Hoffmann met with Bro. Juan on Jan. 28 for prayer during his "Forty Days of Prayer Campaign." It was a joy to hear what was going on and to pray for him and his family.

He has joined Bethany Baptist Church, and they have voted to allow him to use their building as home base. The hope is to build small Bible study groups in the area and to eventually start holding services in the basement of the church. Bethany has wonderful facilities, and we appreciate them assisting Bro. Juan in this effort. I know they are excited, too.

Bro. Juan received His citizenship last week and we congratulate Him for that tremendous achievement!

He has expressed a desire for anyone in our work that has contact with Hispanics to please get their contact information to him so he can begin building bridges with them for the gospel's sake. Bro. Juan is currently looking for people to reach in the St. Louis region, but I know He is open to any contacts. You can call or text those to him at (618) 581-8056 or to me at (636) 629-2526.

Please pray for Juan and his family as they dive into this wonderful ministry.



Camp — One of Missouri's Greatest Mission Outreaches!

By Chris Polk

The short version as I write this report is that it's cold and lonely at Camp Garwood, but that will change soon enough (and probably already has by the time you read this.)

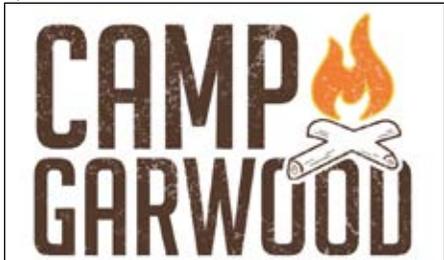
We are in the process of planning some spring and summer activities leading up to Summer Camp 2021. We don't know what to expect going forward, but we are still planning to have camp July 26-30. There will certainly be some changes, and we will likely have fewer campers from normal, but we still feel like we should be preparing for camp.

We ask that you pray for us, the committee, the sponsors, speaker, teachers, band and the campers. Last year was disappointing for all of us, but we pray that this year will be better than ever.

We will have online registration this year, and everyone 18 and older will need to complete the adult screening process. We'll be posting more information as the year progresses.

We have several projects in the works and will be posting that information as they develop. Thank you for your prayers and support.

— Camp Garwood, PO Box 271, Matthews Mo. 63867; (573) 380-1975



BEE

(Continued From Page 6)

what was wrong with me and if I was depressed! By the end of the week, I couldn't stand it anymore! I'm sure I blew everyone away for a few days as all those bottled-up thoughts burst forth!

Being sweet, I learned, took a lot of work! Many facts about one of God's creatures, the bee, offers us spiritual lessons on being sweet. Here are some things we must be to be sweet:

- **Be diligent.** "Busy as a bee" is a well-known adage. The bee is always working at making honey. We must never stop working at being sweet. The flesh is naturally sour grapes; therefore, we should forever be on guard to not give it control.

- **Be dead to self.** A bee is totally unselfish. Her first concern is the hive. A bee will give her life to protect the colony. Once she stings something, she dies. We, too, must die to self to be sweet. A selfish heart only breeds hatefulness. For self to be first, there must always be a battle with anyone or anything that tries to usurp its position. The competition must always lose, no matter what the cost.

- **Be strong.** A bee is able to carry heavy burdens. Freight planes carry 25% of their weight, while a bee can carry 100%. If we are to be sweet, we must also carry heavy burdens. This requires us to be quick to overlook the slights and unkindness of others. By forgiving offenses toward us and maintaining a sweet spirit, we shoulder the pain they bring without reviling.

- **Be flexible.** Did you know that a bee's stubby little wings fold in a split second when she plunges into a flower or the compact cells of the hive? If God had made her wings rigid, she wouldn't be able to accomplish those feats. To maintain a sweet attitude, one must be very flexible. People are often moody, and situations can change from nice to nasty in a heartbeat. A rigid person must always be treated or spoken to a certain way or their disposition rapidly sours! A sweet spirit does not depend on the choices and actions of others. It is steadfast, no matter how difficult the conditions.

- **Be in the Word.** After a long night in the hive, the tiny bee starts out empty. She takes only a speck of honey for fuel to reach the first flower of the day, where she can refuel. We must be in the Word daily and with the Lord to refuel our spirits. Without His influence, we can't maintain a sweet spirit. The more we spend time with Christ, the more we will become like Him, and He was the sweetest man ever to walk the earth.



The Johnsons hosting a meal in their home

JOHNSON

(Continued From Page 6)

of the people became angered at the discussion and 27 of them walked out."

One of the issues at hand was the fact that the pastor of the church, who had come from a Pentecostal background, had never been scripturally baptized. One night during a meeting of 12 men in the church to study Bible doctrine, the pastor began to weep and told the group that he was taught all his life that a person was first saved and then the Spirit came later.

"We got permission from the

- **Be assured.** A fleck of honey the size of a pin head will transport a bee a quarter of a mile! A little sweetness goes a long way in dealing with people, too. No matter how disagreeable an individual or predicament may appear, be assured, a loving and gracious response will have a powerful effect on those around you.

- **Be resourceful.** Bees seem to have Betty Grable eyes. Each of their immense eyes are actually 6,300 smaller ones. This unusual equipment enables the bee to scan large areas and notice the slightest details. We must seek out ways to show forth a sweet spirit, to actively look for opportunities. Kind deeds and actions don't just happen, they spring from a heart that is seeking to show the love of Christ to others.

- **Be content.** Bees take the raw materials available to do their work. They don't ask for more or complain that they have less. Each bee is content with the job God has given it to do. The drone never wishes to be the queen, nor the worker to be a scout. Each is diligent and happy with its calling and gives its all to accomplish that task. Discontented people are not sweet people. In fact, they are the opposite. We must be satisfied with all God has seen fit to give us, where He has placed us and how He wants us to serve. It is then, and only then, that He has control over our hearts. Once He is first in our hearts, He can live through us, and the world will see Him and how truly sweet He is.

mother church to baptize the pastor and ordain him," Johnson said. Another issue in the church was the marital status of many couples. Some had not been properly married.

"It is a big problem, and so we determined that we wanted to do it right, and have couples to be scripturally married," he said.

The Johnsons invited a couple to their home for a meal each week, and during one of the visits, they were able to lead the wife to the Lord. Many others have accepted Christ as a result of the ministry of the church.

When asked what his long-range goals were, Bro. Johnson said that his top priority was to get the Cuenca church stabilized and equipped to plant many other churches. The church's name is It's for You Jesus Baptist Church.

The Johnsons began their missionary work in Mexico in 1973, and after 27 years, 53 churches and groups were planted, with the flagship church being Primera Iglesia

Bautista of Huejutla, Mexico. When they returned to the states in 2000, Buddy was invited back to the church he had left in 1973 to become missionary — Hillcrest Baptist Church in Texarkana.

For 10 years, Johnson has served as the Hispanic field coordinator for the BMA of America.

FIELD

(Continued From Page 6)

his entrance into the BMA happened when he joined up with Creeks End Church of Spring (formerly Spring Forest — a BMA of Texas missions plant) in the Houston area, where Dean Renfro was pastor.

Arnulfo is married to Elizabeth, and they have four sons — David, Abner, Eliezer and Gazer.

When asked about his vision, he said, "The most important thing now is to enlist

preachers, or just good church members who would be interested in planting churches."

He also desires to see local churches and local associations come forward and become involved in planting Hispanic churches. The mission of the work is clear —

"Equipping missionaries who follow Christ in building missional churches with the support and intimate involvement of local BMA churches." Maldonado envisions each new mission planning to begin three new churches in their first 10 years. "Missions is in our name — it's in our DNA," he said.

One very significant component in his missionary movement is to promote fellowship and promoting and serving one another. Arnulfo also believes that discipleship (one-on-one training of young believers) is an absolute must in the planting and nurturing of new churches.

He has a strong, unwavering belief
See FIELD, Page 9

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SELF-HARM (Continued From Page 5)

did get that young lady help and she got through her situational pain and emotions.

Who struggles with self-harm?

— Teens and college students (very few adults) really do this! Up front, let me say that, most of the time it is a teenage girl who will do this because boys tend to fight, cuss or lash out instead. They want to harm someone else because that testosterone pushes them to do it. Statistically, it's a girl that will cut herself. In fact, since 2005, the gurus tell us that out of 10 teens that cut themselves, 7 of them are girls. Cutting for girls was up 11% over the last 5 years, as of 2019.

What is self-harm? — They cut themselves on their arms or legs. Most of the time they hide it from everyone so it's a private act that is done late at night or closed up in their room or bathroom. It's their little secret until someone finds out or they get to a breaking point where they can't handle it any longer by themselves. It varies how each person cuts themselves. They may use a knife, sharp paper edges or the end of a paper clip. I even knew of one who used their cat's claws. And, yes, they may use the obvious razor blade. Newsflash — some people actually get a lot of tattoos or multiple piercings to achieve the same result as cutting. Don't let that one slip by you. It may not be the case, they may just like tattoos, but if your college student suddenly spends all their cash getting tats, you may need to look into it.

Why do they do it? — How they do it is really irrelevant; it is the **why** that you want to find out! Each teen's situation is unique, and I certainly can't give you an exhaustive list of whys in one article, but here are a few reasons:

• **It's a fad or peer pressure.** Who your teen hangs out with at school, in the neighborhood or yes, even church, is **so** important! Teens are so easily influenced. Just as a teen could hand your son or daughter a beer at a friend's party or a joint in the bathroom at school, that same kid could be a cutter. You know the ole saying, "Misery loves company?" It's true. A kid that is going through things expects that other kids are too, that it's normal for everyone. So, when they get close enough, they expose their own private habit and invite a friend to join in.

One time, a guy in my youth group had a girl drawing on his arm at school, when she suddenly took the pencil and pressed into and across his forearm. He yelled out; "That hurt! Why did you do that?" She replied, "I thought you might like it." Yep, his girlfriend was cutting herself, and she viewed it as normal, so she wanted the "love of her life" to join in.

• **It's from emotional pain.** Teens are not to the point in life where they know how to verbalize their emotional hurt. They may have seen their parents go through a bitter divorce and have been deeply hurt. They may have been

neglected or abused by a parent at home. They may have been sexually abused by someone in their life. They could have endured verbal abuse from a parent or someone close to them. They may have lost a parent in death early in life.

They don't know how to verbalize it to someone close to them and they need so badly to release all the hurt, pain and even anger — so they cut themselves. They don't understand their pain, so they do something to themselves that they do understand. They know how to heal a simple slash on the arm, so they cut themselves to feel released and then they watch as their body heals itself. It satisfies them to release the pain and also to see that something in life can actually heal, even though they can't seem to heal emotionally.

• **They feel they should suffer.** Whatever happened in their life, they have blamed themselves for it. This type of teen doesn't want to heal. They feel they should continually suffer. Kids blame themselves for their parents' divorce. They may be bullied or picked on at school and have developed an inferiority complex. They feel inadequate and like a "nobody." They are failing school, got dropped off the football team or bounced out of the band and now they feel worthless. So, they cut themselves and keep opening the wound, or they cut themselves multiple times.

• **They want attention.** I knew of a kid whose brother was a long-term patient in the hospital with leukemia. He started cutting himself so his parents would notice him. Girls who feel unattractive or overweight will turn to this and often reveal it to someone to get the love and attention they crave.

How Do I Handle This?

• **Don't blow up.** The last thing that teen needs is for you to blow up at them. This should be a non-judgment issue with pastors and parents. Parents are ashamed about what their child has done and just let them have it. It may be true that a parent doesn't want anyone to know or think that something is wrong at their house. That parent needs a wake up call!

We are all human! We all have mental, emotional, sexual or spiritual problems. To act like your kids can't have problems is being unrealistic! Parents get preachy and demand that "this stops immediately." Some parents don't want to discuss the why or try to help, they just put their foot down and say this is over now! Don't do that!

• **Talk in love and share biblical and personal truths.** This kid/teen needs to talk. Like I said, this is a result of not being able to communicate what is going on inside of them. If you will patiently discuss it with them, let them know that it's okay to share what's happening on the inside and let them know that we all have problems to deal with, eventually they will trust you enough to talk about it. Provide Scripture for them to see — post it on their mirror, their dresser or by their doorways. Once you know they are struggling — affirm, affirm, affirm!

SBC

(Continued From Page 5)

Christ. We recognize that the Lord has brought these students to us and that we have a spiritual responsibility to engage them with godly wisdom. The first lines of SBC's mission statement are: "Our mission as a biblical higher education provider is to glorify God by providing quality post-secondary

Tell them how much they are valued and how much they mean to you. Love them with words and actions. Spend time with them. Make it abundantly clear that you are in this to help!

• **Connect them.** If, over time, the teen isn't talking to a parent or to you as a youth pastor, then you have to connect them with a solid Christian counselor who can help them and is qualified to do so! Every pastor or youth pastor needs to have at their disposal Christian counselors who can help where you can't. If you haven't already, take time in your schedule to find such a group or person. Sometimes larger churches have them on their staff. If the parent can't afford one or their insurance doesn't cover it, get them financial help so they can be ministered to. Churches should look into budgeting this for their members in need.

• **Teach them alternatives.** They need to know there are other ways to express their feelings without hurting themselves. Some of these may not seem right to you, but if you think about it and admit it, you might have had a time in your life when you needed to do something like this. It might be that they need to get some anger out!

Have you ever wanted to punch a bed or a pillow (just not someone else)! Have you ever said, if this happens "I'm just going to scream!" I have. Does that make us crazy? No! It makes us human. So, go ahead and scream, get that anger out (Eph. 4:26-27)! They could do something physical — take a walk, exercise, punch a punching bag, etc. Doing something physical often subdues the emotions.

Tell them, if they can't talk about it, to write it out in a journal. Girls are good at that! Listen to music — it soothes the hurting soul! Some experts tell teens to write the phone number of a friend on their arm instead, then call and talk to that friend. Alternatives work for many once you discuss it with them.

• **Warning!** In extreme situations, this is a warning of suicide on the horizon. Teens or kids who dabble with this long term often admit to contemplating death. Don't let them be alone for extended periods of time. Don't let them be locked up in their rooms or bathrooms without accountability. Don't delay handling this situation!

Although I have had to deal with this many times since that first one, I didn't learn all of this on my own. My thanks to Kelly Ross, who helped me clarify my thoughts as I wrote this article. Kelly is Editor Don Brown's daughter, a licensed counselor and a member at my church. (anders.lee571@gmail.com)

education from a biblical world view in a Christian atmosphere."

As to quality education, I am very proud of our fall semester 2020 honor roll students! Dean Foster and I presented their certificates at this week's chapel program. We had 14 making the President's List and 10 achieving the Dean's List. In order to be on the President's List, a student must take a minimum of 12 hours and receive straight As, which reflects a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Ten students made the Dean's List. For students to be on this list, they must also take a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.9. Together, these 24 students represent 26% of the total student body who achieved academic excellence last semester!

In reference to SBC having a biblical world view, every SBC professor, whether a Bible teacher or an Algebra professor, strives to relate their subject matter with a biblical perspective with today's increasing secular society. In addition, I have set the message theme for this semester's chapel program as "A Biblical World View." Every guest speaker is assigned a contemporary, hard hitting issue to be addressed with biblically grounded doctrine. A sample of topics are: Jesus is Lord, Only Two Genders, Truth is Eternal, Fornication. Our chapel speakers received their topics enthusiastically and are already delivering solid biblical truth to the student body.

And, in regard to our campus being one with a Christian atmosphere, we are a Bible college. Every student must take a minimum of 16 hours of Bible courses, even if they are pursuing a major in business administration. Of course, our ministry students are fully immersed in biblical studies. We have fellowships established such as TNT (Tuesday Night Talks) where local churches, ministries and individuals can sponsor a meal accompanied with a devotional. Each semester, every student must perform a certain number of Christian service hours to our community, and we encourage Bible studies in the dormitories. As stated before, our professors, coaches and staff each day engage the spiritual lives of our students.

SBC truly is a mission field. Please continue to pray for the continued influence of SBC throughout our local community and far beyond!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16).

Peace in the Midst of Chaos

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Chaos! It seems that we are constantly reacting to rapidly changing conditions and expectations. I just read that we are approaching the date for the first two week lock down to

"flatten the curve" of the Coronavirus plague. I remember when government officials reassured us it was a temporary situation, but, after a year, we are still reacting to ever-changing requirements that continue to disrupt every aspect of our lives.

Here at SBC, we currently have in-person classes, as well as online options for our students. This has brought a sense of normalcy to this aspect of the school's operation. However, we have had several staff members and employees quarantined over the last 12 months, disrupting daily work requirements. Government agencies that SBC must report to seem to always lose our first and sometimes second attempts to meet their due dates. We do the work while shorthanded, and miraculously meet the required dates, only to be told the agency has no record of receiving the data!

Our basketball season has been a nightmare. Games were not confirmed until 24 hours beforehand and sometimes later! Numerous games were cancelled or rescheduled. Each of the other colleges and universities had differing requirements

for our team in regard to COVID 19 testing that we had to meet before they would confirm the games. And, of course, without paying spectators, our financial support for games increased substantially — and then there's the weather. Our very first home baseball game was rained out. In addition, I have received notice after notice of SBC supporters being ill with a spectrum of causes, and the sad news of deaths.

It seems like we have had challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment; but I learned many years ago, that God knows what is happening, He is, and will always be, on His throne and in total control. We can rest in His eternal promises and encourage ourselves of His living presence in our lives.

I Corinthians 14:33 says, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."* Confusion and chaos come from another source. That source is Satan, the god of this world, that attempts to distract us from our resource of peace and comfort.

As we face these perplexing days, may we focus on our living Savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible and history testify that we are not the first believers to live in challenging times. We can endure and overcome chaos by the power of the Holy Spirit living in us! We are on a life-course that God has set for us. May we determine to push forward as He leads us toward our heavenly reward.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

Let us pray as Paul recorded in Phil. 4:7 — that *"the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*



Comfort in a Season Of Grief and Tragedy

By John Chapman

Have you ever meticulously planned and worked toward a great vacation, only to have something happen that shatters your dream trip? If so, you know the discouragement that can bring.

Have you ever had a shattered vacation that was saved by a Bible verse? I have, and it put me on the path toward a wise principle that continues to impact my life in many positive ways.

The Trip

After my wife went through a season of cancer treatment several years ago, we stepped out and planned what was for us the trip of a lifetime. We had never taken a really huge trip. All of our prior trips had been pretty much your standard family style vacations.

But this time, we dipped into our bucket list and planned a cruise to Alaska. It was truly a dream come true for both of us. It is hard to describe our anticipation.

All went extremely well in the planning phase and the outgoing travel. Neither of us had ever been on a cruise ship before, and the first night on board was a grand adventure.

Then on Monday morning, we awakened at our first port and embarked on our first excursion. The sights we saw that morning were breathtaking to say the least. I do not believe that we will ever experience more beautiful scenery in this lifetime.

The Tragedy

But as we were returning to the ship after that excursion, we heard the awful sounds of a caravan of sirens blaring through that small Alaska town. We had no idea what was going on. A couple hours later, we would learn the tragic news:

Eight fellow cruisers from our ship had been killed in a sightseeing plane

excursion in the same area we had just visited.

Eight people enjoying the beauty that we had just enjoyed never made it back to the ship. Their vacation of a lifetime tragically ended their lives.

That was probably the most heart-breaking moment we had ever experienced that did not involve a loved one or someone we knew. Our heart ached for those lost and their families. In an instant, the joy of our dream vacation was gone.

The Temptation

Even now I feel guilty talking about my grief, discouragement and disappointment in that moment when those families had suffered such tragedy. I mean, it seems self-centered. Surely I was a horrible person to be thinking about what had happened to my vacation when those precious people had lost their lives. How selfish could I possibly be?

But honesty requires me to admit those feelings. I must confess that I even felt a little angry at God for allowing this to happen on our first day. Everything had now gone wrong. Even though we couldn't just leave the ship and go home, there seemed to be no way we could enjoy the rest of the trip.

It just seemed terribly wrong to go about having a good time when others were experiencing such loss and pain. Compassion seemed to leave no room for our enjoyment. It would simply be wrong to enjoy the remainder of the trip given the circumstances.

At least, that was the temptation.

The Tip

That next morning, I shared on Facebook that the cruise line had determined the cruise would continue, and since there was nothing we could

do to change the circumstances, we would move forward as best we could.

Shortly, a very good friend of ours that God has often used to speak truth into our lives replied to my post: "Enjoy yourselves. This is your appointed time to celebrate life and all that God has done for you. The whole third chapter of Ecclesiastes might be of encouragement to you if you are having trouble giving yourselves permission to enjoy in the midst of someone else's tragedy,"

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Eccl. 3:1).

She also included a link to that particular chapter, so I began to read and ask God to emphasize what He wanted me to know in that moment. These are the lines I highlighted:

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." (v. 1)

"A time to be born and a time to die" (v. 3)

"A time to cry and a time to laugh, a time to grieve and a time to dance." (v. 4)

In that moment, God clearly showed me that this was our **appointed** time to enjoy our trip and that we should embrace that appointment. There was nothing we could do to change what had happened. Though we still prayed fervently for the families of those lost and never forgot the lost lives, we gave ourselves permission to enjoy our "appointed and anointed" time of joy.

That experience had a lasting and profound impact on me. For the first time, I began to really understand that, indeed, we go through many seasons in this life, and it is our job to embrace even the painful ones as being a part of God's plan.

Just as importantly, we should not miss out on the joyful moments by lingering too long in those seasons of loss and sorrow. It is entirely possible for us to miss the seasons of joy that God intended for us by staying mired in the season of sorrow that He intended for us to move through.

"For everything there is a season..."

The Truths

Since that day when those verses first came to life for me, I have returned to them often. I have found encouragement and direction in all of the seasons that life has thrown at me.

Out of Ecclesiastes 3, I have personally embraced eight of the truths found there and eight corresponding reactions. I now try to live a lifestyle of acceptance of all the seasons of life — the good, the bad and the ugly. It is my hope that one of these might be of help to you:

- There is a time to be born, a time to live, and a time to die — **accept each.**
- There is a time to plant and a time to harvest — **enjoy each.**
- There is a time to cry and a time to laugh — **expect both.**
- There is a time to grieve and a

time to dance — **don't let one rob you of the other.**

• There is a time to embrace and a time to turn away — **wisdom is knowing which to do and when.**

• There is a time to strive and a time to rest — **embrace both.**

• There is a time to speak up and a time not to speak — **know which time is which.**

• There is a time to fight and a time to let things go — **do both graciously.**

Whatever season of life we find ourselves in, God is available for us that very moment. He wants to join in the seasons of joy and share in the seasons of sorrow.

But God does not force His way in. The choice is up to us. I hope you will invite God into your season, whatever it may be!

MBHC

(Continued From Page 5)

He called Moses from a burning bush. He called Joshua to follow the only leader Israel had known. He called Samuel to service. The list goes on and on through God's Word. In all these callings, the people were not what made the calling special, it was the calling that gave the people a special task.

I can attest to the fact that I am not special in my calling to serve at the Children's Home. God's calling to this ministry is the only thing that gives me courage and stamina to continue in what He has placed before me. I bring attention to this special task in hopes that I am a part of God calling other laborers to this harvest. While I desire qualified and competent help in this ministry, I know it will be short lived without the calling of God on this help. Parenting should not be taken lightly, and the parenting of children with very unique needs definitely should not be taken lightly.

If these words begin to stir your heart toward the ministry of the Children's Home, please do two things for me:

• First, pray for us in our wisdom of hiring another couple to help with the duties of this ministry.

• Second, pray asking the Lord if He may be stirring "your" heart to the calling of this ministry.

If it is you or you know of someone that might be fitting for the call please direct resumes to info@msbch.org. We appreciate all your prayer and support.

Mississippi Baptist

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FIELD

(Continued From Page 7)

that, as local churches, a spirit of sharing is essential if church planting is to be successful.

"For example, I'm beginning a new church — your church has two excellent pianists — so give me one," he said. He emphasized the truth that church planting is not a network of many "lone wolves" isolating themselves and doing their own individual work, but rather a partnership — a collaboration between and among churches and church planters.

"We have many activities that promote this partnership — like our 'Hombre/Hombre' ministry where we meet annually for retreats, fellowship and training at Daniel Springs, and have quarterly meetings for pastor and church fellowship."

The collaboration even includes members from different mission churches boarding a bus and attending the Texas state association or even the national association together.

"We have gained the use of some equipment with the help of Lifeword, which enables us to have the sessions of the BMA meetings to be translated in real time to non-English-speaking Hispanic people," Maldonado explained.

Texas BMA director of Missions Heith Mitchell extols the work of Maldonado. "Arnulfo works hand-in-hand with us, focusing on the Hispanic work, he exclusively engages with first generation church people — meaning non-English-speaking people, as opposed to second generation — children who have learned the language," said Mitchell. "He has proven himself to be a church multiplier and planter — having personally planted several churches. He lovingly works to bring everyone to the table."

The following is a list of church start-ups sponsored by the ministry of the Texas Hispanic Coordinator: Jaime Henriquez, Fuente de Vida Eterna in Houston; Martin Juarez, First Baptist, New Caney; Santos Lopez, New Hispanic Plant in Port Arthur; Gamalier Luna, Celebration Church, El Paso; Roberto Marcelletti, Hispanic Plant in Ennis; Neptaly Molina, Iglesia Bautista Mission, Nacogdoches; and Isaías Rojas Osechas, Victoria en Cristo in Spring.

For further information, if you wish to financially support BMA Texas Missions and the Hispanic work or if you have a burden to see such a work started up in your area, contact Heith Mitchell at hmitchell@bmatexas.org, (972) 923-0757, or Arnulfo Maldonado at arnulfo@bmatexas.org.

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Six Tips for Resolving Conflict in the Church

Many people prefer to avoid conflict, hoping that it will go away; but time only causes the wounds to get deeper, further damaging relationships. When conflict occurs in the church, it can threaten the unity of a congregation. Experts say the only way to heal conflict is to acknowledge and address it. But how? Ken Sande, a leader in the Christian peacemaking field, offers some time-tested biblical principles for resolving conflicts among people at church.

Sande is author of *The Peacemaker* and founder of two Christian conciliation ministries — Peacemaker Ministries and Relational Wisdom 360. He says these methods can be applied in a variety of settings, including work, school and home. Sande offers the following six tips to help pastors address disputes between members of the congregation:

• **Start by Modeling Christ.** The gospel offers the most powerful peacemaking strategy ever developed, Sande says. “Jesus gives us this powerful model of loving others, and the power of the Holy Spirit to live it out — of loving our enemies, of doing good to those who hate us, of blessing those who curse us and it is supernatural. It’s totally countercultural,” he said.

Trained as an engineer, lawyer and mediator, Sande has spent more than 38 years helping people reconcile their differences. Again and again, he has seen a gospel-based approach work in situations that seemed impossible to restore, including those with deeply divided church boards.

It all starts, Sande explains, when people take seriously Jesus’ teaching: “Get the log out of your own eye before you start pointing at the speck in the other guys’ eye” (Matt. 7:5).

• **Practice Relational Wisdom.** When we get into a conflict, Sande says most of us tend to go “two-dimensional.” We focus on the horizontal relationship — dwelling

on our righteousness and the other person’s wrongs. Relational wisdom — a gospel-driven form of emotional intelligence — brings God into the equation, he explains. It helps people to view their relationships “three-dimensionally” by seeking to not only be self-aware, but also other-aware and God-aware. “This helps us get our hearts in the right place, so we can help others more effectively,” he said. One might start by praying: “Lord, give me wisdom and patience with my people. Help me to understand their hearts.”

Before attempting to resolve an issue, Sande says it’s helpful to ask yourself the following types of questions:

• **Self-awareness** — What’s going on in my own heart? What am I feeling? Why? How am I inclined to respond? What will I do instead?

• **Other-awareness** — How am I affecting others? What do others seem to be feeling? What do they seem to need? How can I demonstrate genuine love and forgiveness?

• **God-awareness** — What is God up to? Why did He allow this situation? Am I acting in faith or unbelief? What would glorify Him?

• **Recognize the Three Faces of Fear.** When people fear something, they typically have one of three responses — control, anger or withdrawal. If a pastor reacts only to what he’s seeing, he’s missing the point. For effective resolution, he needs to get to the deeper question: “What is this person afraid of?”

Once you understand this underlying dynamic, you can resist the temptation to become defensive, Sande says. Instead, seek to discern and address the fear that is triggering the behavior of others. When you do so, you can prevent conflict, minister to others and move your relationships to a whole new level.

Sande says the more quickly you

address others’ fears with the gentleness, kindness and love of Christ, the more often you’ll see a positive result.

• **Practice the ‘Three Ps’ of Satisfaction.** Any time you’re trying to solve a problem, render a decision or give guidance, you want people to be satisfied with the process, with how they were treated and with the final outcome. Sande calls these the Three Ps:

• **Process satisfaction** — A fair, orderly, and even-handed process. Everyone feels that they’ve had enough time to present their side of the matter.

• **Personal satisfaction** — Treating everyone with respect, courtesy, and equality, just as we would want to be treated ourselves.

• **Product satisfaction** — A final solution that is as reasonable, just, and equitable as is humanly possible.

Even if someone doesn’t entirely like the final outcome, Sande says they will often accept the result if they are treated fairly and with respect. “If you give people process and personal satisfaction, they will usually walk away satisfied,” Sande said. “I’ve seen it again and again.” The converse is also true, he says. “If you don’t treat people with respect, or if you don’t give them a fair process, they will be bitter toward you, no matter what you decide.”

• **Remember the Golden Result.** One of the most effective communication rules Sande has seen in mediation involves the Golden Result: People will usually treat you the way you treat them. It’s very similar to the Golden Rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you. “Blame others, and they will usually blame you,” he said. “Admit where you’ve been wrong, and you’ll be surprised how often others do the same.”

If you listen carefully and with humility, plus take responsibility for your own actions, it generally brings the tension level down. Any time you’re in a conflict, Sande encourages you to ask yourself, “How do I want to be treated?” If you engage others by treating them exactly the same way, he says you’ll be amazed at how often this changes the course of your conflict.

• **Promote Biblical Peacemaking.** When people learn peacemaking skills, they’re able to resolve many conflicts on their own, Sande says. If the church encourages small group leaders and elders to develop more advanced skills, such as biblical reconciliation, it allows lay leaders to coach individuals and serve as mediators in conflicts. That way, only the really difficult cases among the congregation would be left for pastors to address.

In Sande’s experience, about 80% of the people who think they need a mediator are able to resolve the matter on their own. “With good coaching for one party — who goes back and just starts living out the biblical principles — that resolves it, most of the time,” Sande said. Peacemaking principles aren’t difficult, he says. They just involve skills people may not have developed yet.

MISSION (Continued From Page 1)

Being a missional church requires living on mission in the time and location that He has placed you. Are you finishing the work He has called you to? Is it the Great Co-Mission or the Great Omission? Mission is central to the identity of every church! It demands that a congregation adopts the posture of a missionary. It means you have an intentional pathway for developing disciples who are living on mission. Mission determines your direction and keeps your priorities on what God truly values.

Lesslie Newbigen said, “When the church... ceases to be missionary, it contradicts its own nature. Yet the church is not to be defined by what it is, but by the end to which it moves!” Your mission is making disciples, how is that going?

This requires a leader to see the mission, hear the mission and live the mission. A leader must know where they are going, what they will be doing and be able to clearly articulate that preferred future. These are challenging days we live in and they may become more challenging as Christians begin living in a potentially unfriendly environment. Will your church proceed forward with a fear-based approach or a faith-based message? This is not about keeping up with the times, but rather staying in step with the heart of God.

It begins by challenging your church to live on mission, with you setting the example. You must train your congregation to be good listeners as people around them share their concerns and their fears. The time is ripe for your church to work the fields where you live. Train your people to be prepared to share their story by writing out their personal testimony and practice sharing it with other believers to become comfortable in its delivery. You must also train them to share His story. There are many good plans for sharing the gospel, such as the Romans Road.

Now is not the time to run and hide or try to escape a culture that is spiraling downward further and further away from God. Now is the time to engage the culture with a biblical worldview. Remember, outrage is not a strategy, you must be ready to give an answer to anyone at any time. Leonard Sweet says this will call for “the most creative evangelism and shrewd apologetics the church has seen since the first century.” If you are ready, go



Tinnie Sue Flaherty, 84 of Tulsa, Okla., passed away Jan. 30. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Waldo, Ark.

Donnie Fred Dawkins, 71 of Warren, passed away Feb. 17. He was a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church.



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

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

for it. If you are not ready, get ready, because there are no excuses, only obedience and disobedience.

Study the soil where God has placed you and understand the nuances of the culture for such a time as this. The men of Issachar in I Chronicles understood the times and knew what needed to be done. Sharing the love of Christ at this moment in time, no matter how wicked the times may become, is why your church exists and it is what He has called you to — living on His mission.

Barry Whitworth has put together an excellent tool for studying the soil entitled, *How to Exegete Your Community!* Its purpose is to follow Paul’s example in I Cor. 9:19-23. Barry writes, “When exegeting a community you are observing and conversing with the people in their cultural context. Your goal is to form an opinion as to whether there is an evangelical presence that will foster spiritual transformation in that community. There are four areas to focus: social, economic, physical and spiritual climate.”

You observe with your eyes (what do you see?), you listen to their conversations (what do you hear?) and you begin to implement a plan (what should you do?). If you would like a copy of this tool, please let us know.

Let’s be obedient to His Great Co-Mission by living on mission!



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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Part 2 of 3 You Must Be Sure of Your Salvation

I believe God's wrath and judgment is soon to be poured out upon this present wicked world without measure.

But the people of Nineveh heard the word of God, believed and repented in sackcloth and ashes: *"For word came unto the King of Nineveh and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. . ."* They turned, *"everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands"* (Jonah 3:6, 8).

"Hear ye and your soul shall live" (Isa. 55:3). Suddenly my mind races to Ezekiel's vision of dry bones in Ezek. 37:1-14. The building of a vivid picture of a world dead in trespasses and sins begins to unfold. As I scan the panorama before me, the living dead of every creed, color and nationality move about in the dark places of this vast valley with their inhuman and ungodly tactics for personal gain and worldly pleasures. I move to a higher ground, a voice, *"can these bones live?"* I can answer as the prophet Ezekiel, *"O lord thou knoweth."* We understand well this vision to portray or announce the future restoration of the nation of Israel while symbolizing the method of her accomplishments of the same. The vision also pictures the true method of any individual that would, through the power and grace of God, pass from death unto life. I compare the prophet Ezekiel with the true minister of today as he walks and works among the spiritual dead in this vast graveyard of sinners, preaching the glorious gospel of the Lord!

As many as should live must hear the voice of the living God: for there is no power that can restore human bones to life, save God's. God alone has the power to restore either natural or spiritual life. Ask yourself the question, "Am I headed on my way to that far land where the soul of man never dies? Where there will be no sad farewells and no tear dimmed eyes." Yes, the soul of man will never die. **Now** is imperative because it embraces the present. *"Come and let us reason together, saith the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow. . ."* (Isa 1:18).

The Lord has spoken of no other time but **now** to turn from wickedness and turn to righteousness through the righteousness of His Son, our Saviour and our God.

"Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried saying thus saith the Lord of hosts, turn ye now from your evil ways and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor harken unto me, saith the Lord" (Zech. 1:4).

For he saith, *"I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation, have I succored thee; behold now is the day of salvation"* (II Cor. 6:2).

Tomorrow belongs to the Lord. The Lord's day is coming; our day is now. I would like to close this series of lessons with this solemn warning and instructive admonition:

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more shake I not the earth only, but also heaven, And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain" (Heb. 12:25-27).

After the creation, God the Son received the authority and power from the Father to become the one and only mediator between man, the creature and God, the Creator. Jesus became the means by which God speaks to man and man speaks to God today. This was God's plan and purpose from eternity to redeem lost mankind from the ruin of sin. From the foundation of the world, God purposed his **Word** (His Son) as man's advocate with Him.

May we all be found faithful in sharing this great and powerful message with the lost world around us. To do so, we must believe God's Word. The Word gives us light, enabling us to understand it and instruction in how to handle it. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psa. 119:105). *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."* (Psa. 119:130).

May God bless you is my prayer.

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "Once again, we had some major weather impact this week at Connection Point. Over the

week we received 8-10" of snow here in Brookland. We were unable to have our Wednesday night groups again this week. We did have a guy come out and clear the parking lot of snow on Friday

so we could have in-person services this week, and we are grateful for that.

"Sunday morning, we enjoyed a good service. We had a good crowd despite many still trying to navigate their snow-covered driveways and sideroads. In fact, it was our best in-person attendance for the year.

"Sunday evening, we held our first ever Valentine's Banquet. It was originally scheduled for last week, but had to be postponed due to weather. However, it was worth the wait. It was a wonderful evening. The tables were all decorated in gold and pink, complete with balloons and even heart-shaped plates. We had food catered by Longhorn and homemade cheesecake for dessert. We enjoyed some funny videos, passed out door prizes, took photos and even played some silly games. It was an amazing evening, and hopefully the beginning of a new tradition."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "It was great to be back in services Sunday. We have missed two Wednesday nights and one Sunday service due to the weather. We had people still out from sickness to busted water pipes. Our attendance was nowhere near what we were hoping it would be, but it was still a great day.

"I am sure the other mission points, as well as our churches, are having to regroup as we begin facing the aftermath of COVID-19 and the winter storm. Despite all this adversity we must remember we are going to experience ultimate victory. We are on the winning team.

"Let's pray together for the Lord's work to flourish in the days and months ahead. God bless you all."

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, "On Thursday, I asked my teenage boys to shovel the snow off our driveway. They complained about it, of course, and did part of the work on Thursday. Because of the slight thaw on Thursday and refreeze Thursday night, the job was much harder to complete on Friday.

"I didn't punish them much for not finishing their assignment on Thursday, but I made it clear that it had to be done on Friday. They learned that the job was much harder once the light snow turned to ice. Their decision to put things off made the task much more difficult.

"I have learned, in my 30 years as a Christian, that the jobs God gives us are much easier to do when they are assigned. We all have a tendency to put

things off, especially when we don't really want to do them anyway. Often, however, we still put things off and have to struggle through life because we don't listen to the Father and we don't understand that He knows what is best."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "This week we suspended our service in Chenal because the snow wasn't cleaned off in some areas and the streets where the majority of the people live were covered in ice and snow. I did the transmission online from the temple and much of the parking lot was full of snow. The brothers were all very happy and praise the name of our God. We were challenged by the Word of God to be thankful, no matter the circumstances around us.

"Last week, we were able to continue with our Berean Groups (cells) online. It is not the same, but at least we could be edified in the Word of God. The group meeting in Chenal always asks many questions and has a thirst for the Word. The two international groups that we have online continue to grow — the group in Colombia is already an average of 8 and in Chile it is 14. I direct the one in Chile and I see the thirst for spiritual things.

"I am thankful for what God is doing in Ebenezer, changing the lives of new believers and those who have spent time attending the congregation. Pray for those who have been unable to assist us since the pandemic. I thank God for each one of you who read these requests and prays for us Arkansas missions and missionaries. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "The week started out very sad for us. Karen's father passed away, and after three weather delays and one broken water main at the cemetery, we finally were able to have his service on Friday. Her mom is not doing well at all after her broken hip. Trauma and anesthesia are both very hard on dementia

patients, but they did allow us to start visiting her, and that means a lot to us just to be able to be with her.

"Then Sunday, my mom came to our worship service along with my sisters, a bunch of our nieces from both sides and some of their kids. After the service I performed a wedding ceremony for my niece and her fiancé.

"So, this week I preached my father-in-law's funeral, a gospel message for our brothers and sisters and our family, then performed a wedding for my niece. Then we ate, loved, fellowshiped and rejoiced! If we ever prayed more in a week I don't know when it was and that is what got us through it.

"Thank you for your prayers, they hold us up! And please remember Karen's mom in your prayers. And all those on our list too!"

Not Alone, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "I am excited to see how God has already worked through our first two months here on the mission field. We are happy to announce that we are starting our first small Bible study with another couple. They have decided to come into the core of this church plant. My meeting with the Boardgame store owner did not end up happening, but it was rescheduled for two weeks from now.

"We are meeting with another family in the area this Sunday — the husband has expressed interest in what we are doing, but we have yet to invite them in. The timing has not yet been right for this type of conversation, but we are still working on making our relationship with them stronger.

"We are also working on scheduling a time for our ex-Jehovah Witness neighbors to come over to our house. The weather has been terrible! We are now seeing the snow melt, but it has delayed some of the things we had hoped to already have accomplished. It is obviously all in God's timing. Continue to pray for us as God focuses our ministry."

Email Scams

Dear friends, please be on guard for strange messages and requests that appear to be from me. In the most recent case, they used my name and the letters "bma" to form a new email. My email at the office **was not hacked**. This has happened twice lately, and I fear some may think it is me. When in doubt please contact me before opening those types of requests. My correct email is in the heading above. Regrets for any confusion.

—Bro. Paul

Spotlight on Missions

is a column that highlights the ministries of our BMA missionaries. Send 300-400 words as a Word document to editor@baptisttrumpet.com. If you include a photo, please make sure it is full size & in jpeg format.

Help us get the word out about your ministry to our over 8000 subscribers!

Free Online Class!

Paul's Final Journeys: Acts 18-28

Registration Deadline: March 1



Seminary Offers Free Course

The BMA Seminary is offering a free online course in Spring 2021. The course will be eight weeks long and includes various assignments and opportunities to interact with fellow students. Students who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

Free courses are not for credit and do not apply to any degrees. These courses are offered strictly for the educational benefit of the general public. Students will only receive a certificate of completion. Individuals who wish to take courses for credit or pursue a degree should apply for regular semester courses at the seminary.

Paul's Final Journeys— This course is specifically designed for church workers who are Sunday School teachers, youth workers, deacons and all church members who want to improve their ability to study the Scriptures to better understand and put into practice the calling of God's people.

There is ample opportunity for student interaction on the course topics through the weekly forums. Students in one area of the world will be able to interact in class conversation with other students in another part of the world.

Students do not have to be "computer experts" to enroll in a free course. The process is quite intuitive for the Moodle course platform. There is a little technology required.

Students may discover through that this course they want to pursue a seminary degree. Several former free students have enrolled in BMA Seminary for degrees after completing the courses.

Course description — This eight-week course is a survey of Acts 19-28. The general background, content, and application of the journeys are covered. The professor for the course is Dr. Tony Cleaver. By the end of the course, you should:

- Improve knowledge and understanding of important biblical and theological truths.
- Improve the ability to communicate biblical truths in the context of a local church.
- Improve leadership skills as required in the ministry of a local church

There are two textbooks required for the course: The Holy Bible — Student selected English translation; and The Baptist Expositor — To The Uttermost: The Completion of Paul's Ministry in Acts 19-28 — Spring 2021 (Baptist Publishing House).

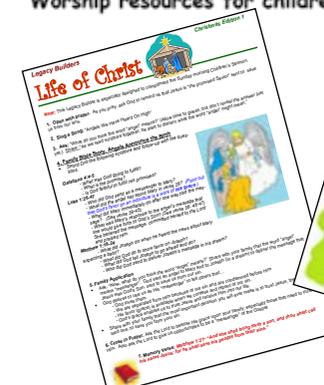
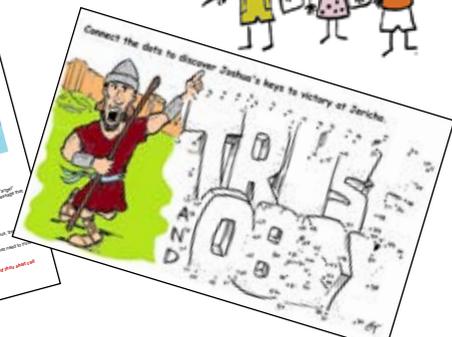
Baptist Expositor Leader books can be ordered from: baptistpublishinghouse.com or call (800) 333-1442.

The class begins on March 3 and ends April 28. The instructor suggests several from a church enroll together for group encouragement.

This is **not** a self-paced course. For more information and to register for this course, visit bmats.edu/free.

Wee Gather

Worship resources for children and families.

New downloads available at baptisttrumpet.com
Produced by Gary Thomas



By Mike McEuen, Pastor
New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7).

In the deepest heart of every one of us God has planted a longing for Himself, as He is a God of love. No matter how tough we try to act, no matter what we might try to say against it, our hearts cry out for God to care, to be involved with us, to love us! That is God's idea!

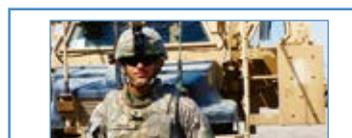
You see, love is the very being and nature of God. If we are united to God through personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ, then we share His nature. Since God's nature is love, love is the test that proves the reality of our spiritual lives.

Let me remind you that the sending of Jesus Christ into the world, and His death on the cross, were not prompted by man's love for God. They were prompted by God's love for man! And please understand we are not saved by loving Jesus Christ. We are saved by **believing in** Jesus Christ! *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

After we realize what Jesus did for us on the cross, our normal response ought to be to love Him and to love one another. The deeper we go into the meaning of the cross, the greater our love for God and the greater our active concern for one another will be. Jesus did not simply preach the love of God. He proved it by giving His life on the cross! He expects us, His followers, to follow His example!

Dwelling in God's love produces two wonderful spiritual benefits in our lives — we grow in knowledge and in faith. The more we love God, the more we understand the love of God; and the more we understand God's love, the easier it is for us to trust Him.

"God is love" is not simply a profound Biblical statement, it is the basis for our relationship with God and with our fellow man. If we love God, we will love one another; and if we love one another, we will grow in our love for God. Both statements are true because "God is love."



Free E-Trumpet

Any active BMA military personnel is eligible to receive the Trumpet free. Please send their name, address or email address to P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Ark. 72219; or editor@baptisttrumpet.com.



ATTORNEY GENERAL
LESLIE RUTLEDGE
ARKANSASAG.GOV



Beware of Winter Weather Scams, Price Gouging

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is urging Arkansans to be on guard against scam artists and price gouging following the recent severe winter weather that has impacted the entire State. The snow and ice can cause damage to homes, businesses, vehicles, trees and other property and clean-up efforts may require some Arkansans to seek assistance from contractors or repairmen.

"Arkansans have already been through a lot, having to deal with the effects of bitter cold and several inches of snow dropping on the Natural State," said AG Rutledge. "I urge all of you to use caution as the clean-up process begins, and if you suspect any type of fraud or price gouging, call my office immediately."

Governor Asa Hutchinson signed an Executive Order issuing a state of emergency following the freezing rain, sleet, snow and power outages in Arkansas.

Act 376 of 1997, which prohibits businesses from price gouging during a state of emergency, is now in effect. The law prohibits businesses from charging more than 10% above the pre-disaster price of goods or services, such as food, fuel, water, flashlights, batteries, blankets, medicine, bandages and construction materials. The price gouging law is triggered whenever a state of emergency is declared by federal, state or local governments. The ban on price gouging remains in effect for at least 30 days, and can be extended another 30 days by the local governing body if necessary, to protect the lives, property or welfare of the citizens. For home repairs, the law remains in effect for 180 days.

A violation of Act 376 is a violation of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Arkansans who believe they have encountered a disaster scam or price gouging should contact the attorney general's office at (800) 482-8982 or file a consumer complaint at ArkansasAG.gov.



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2183

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