

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

### A New Resource

By Steve Crawley, Executive Director

Ministers Resource Services (MRS) is always looking for ways to bring value to our pastors and churches. MRS Insurance Services is a new resource available to our churches and pastors to help them navigate the often-complex world of employee benefits insurance.

MRS Insurance Services brings expertise to the table to help educate you on your options and help answer your questions. Whether your church provides coverage for employees today,



is exploring options or has questions about individual coverage, we can help. Our goal is always to help you make the most informed decision possible.

#### What It Covers

The focus of MRS Insurance Services is employee benefits. This can include group insurance offered by the church or individual products purchased separately by employees. Coverages typically include Health (medical), Dental, Vision, Life and Disability. Voluntary or Supplemental products are also commonly seen and growing in popularity these days. They typically include Accident, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity and more.

Helping our churches and pastors manage their insurance risk is an important part of managing their overall financial risk. Simply said, insurance services are a natural expansion of the MRS portfolio. Knowing where to turn in the world of insurance can be confusing. As an already trusted partner, MRS makes it easy. Churches and pastors, just like other employers, have needs and questions about insurance

### MOVING with Ministers and Staff

To view previous listings  
from this column, visit  
our website at  
[www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com).



Jacksonville College is currently accepting applications for the office of president. Applicants must have an earned Doctorate degree, with Education or related disciplines preferred. Send a cover letter; a personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience, your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references to [dpage@hillcrestbc.com](mailto:dpage@hillcrestbc.com). For more information, see the boxed ad on page 8 of this issue.

coverage, yet they are often not seen by agents, often due to being "too small" and "non-profits." Common questions from churches include:

- What are our options for health insurance?
- Can we get group coverage with only two employees?
- How are churches different than other employers for insurance purposes?
- As an individual, what are my options for coverage?
- And many more...

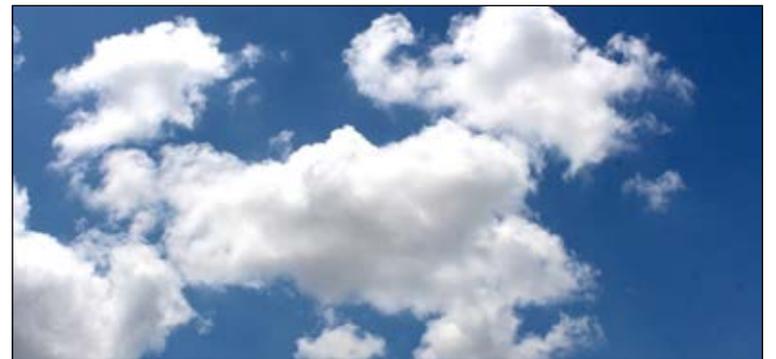
For churches who may be exploring group coverage or who just don't know where to start, MRS Insurance Services is ready to help.

This is a service offering, **not** a product offering, meaning we can assist with whatever your benefits needs are. Whatever your situation or questions, we can help get you answers. MRS Insurance Services makes it easy to help you get the information you need no matter where you are. The service is simple, easy to access and is free of charge. Don't know where to start? Give us a call today. We're here to help!

#### How to Get Started

Follow these three steps to get more information today: contact us, get a quote and sign up!

For questions, contact Mark Bradley, Director of MRS Insurance Services, at [mbradley@bmaamerica.org](mailto:mbradley@bmaamerica.org) or call him directly at (501) 499-4205.



## Different People See Different Things

By Tom Mitchell, President • BMA of Arkansas

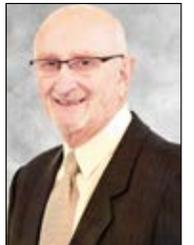
When I was a teenager, four of us friends camped out a lot. Invariably, on a sunny day we would lie on a hillside and gaze at the billowy clouds. One would see an eagle, another would see a duck and another would see a man's face. That's because different people see different things — even when looking at the same formation.

As Karen and I travel we find ourselves gazing into the clouds and we also find varying things in the clouds — faces, crosses, trees, etc. Now, here is a truth — no matter what we try to see in those puffy formations in the sky, they are actually just clouds, nothing more!

This is not an article about politics or political positions. It is not about Democrat, Republican or Independent parties. However, as a child of God, a follower of Christ and a minister of the gospel for 57 years, I feel I must bring some things to the attention of the readers of the *Baptist Trumpet* — our ship of State is in troubled waters. Our nation is departing from a history that has brought us to the place we are now. We have trudged the valleys and mountains and now find ourselves in the mire. O God, please help us!

The Cancel Culture movement is an example of what I alluded to in the opening paragraph. It looks at history and sees something awful, degrading, insulting and

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## ARKANSAS RIGHT TO LIFE

### 43<sup>rd</sup> March for Life

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual March for Life, sponsored by Arkansas Right to Life, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14, in Little Rock. The march marks the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. The observance is an event that attracts thousands of Arkansans from across the state, including churches and families to participate in a peaceful, prayerful and powerful remembrance of the millions of unborn children who have lost their lives to legal abortion.

"As we mark the rank as the No. 1 pro-life state in the country, we recognize that our work is not over as long as unborn babies are still killed from legal abortion in our state," said Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life, adding, "We still face tremendous opposition as we work to protect the lives of the unborn."

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Terry Kimbrow  
President

### Central Baptist College

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## CBC Named a Military Friendly School For the 12<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

I am pleased to announce that Central Baptist College has once again earned the Military Friendly School designation for 2021-2022. This is CBC's 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to earn this designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 earning the designation. The 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of *G.I. Jobs* magazine and can be found at [militaryfriendly.com](http://militaryfriendly.com).

Methodology, criteria and weightings were determined by Viqtorly with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

It is an honor to earn the Military Friendly School designation for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row. CBC has a long tradition of working with students who serve or have served in the military. We are devoted to helping veteran students, and their families, realize their goal of obtaining their college degree. We will continue to do whatever it takes to honor their service to our country.

CBC offers an Associate of Science degree in Military Technologies with locations in Conway and in North Little Rock at Camp Robinson. To admitted students, CBC also offers the following benefits to our service men and women: full time veteran advisers on staff, process enrollment certifications for VA GI Bill Education, Federal Tuition Assistance, tuition discounts of up to 25% for qualifying soldiers, free evaluations of AARTS/SMARTS military transcript and participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

In addition to the Military Technologies Associate's degree, CBC offers over 40 degree programs; 12 of these degree programs are offered in the (PACE) Professional Adult College Education program and 6 are offered online. The PACE program offers the working adult the opportunity to work full-time and obtain their college degree. CBC celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PACE program in 2020.

For more information about Central Baptist College's student veteran programs, visit CBC's website at [cbc.edu/military](http://cbc.edu/military) or contact [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or (501) 329-6873 to speak with a CBC Admissions staff member.



### Softball

• **Conway, Feb. 23** — Playing for the first time in 18 days and the first time at home this season, #16 CBC hosted the Royals of Ecclesia College at the Fieldhouse Training Center. #16 CBC (4-0) pounded out 28 hits and 25 runs in a doubleheader sweep, beating EC (0-6), 11-6 & 14-6.

• **Tahlequah, Okla., Feb. 26** — Playing on the first day of the Northeastern State University Cherokee Nation Festival, CBC took on the



The American Midwest Conference (AMC) announced their first softball players of the week for the 2021 season, and CBC shortstop **Allison Seats** was selected as the player of the week. This mark's the fourth time in her career that she has been chosen as AMC player of the week and the second consecutive season on the first week in March.

### Women's Basketball

• **Walnut Ridge, Feb. 24** — Playing in the AMC quarterfinals for the third straight season and with their highest seed ever, the #6 seeded CBC team took on the #3 seeded Eagles of Williams Baptist University at the Southerland-Mabee Center. CBC (10-6) shot 57% in the second half, outscoring the Eagles (15-6) 39-28 in the half to advance to the AMC Semifinals 71-59.

• **Columbia, Mo., Feb. 26** — Looking to make their first trip to the AMC finals, CBC traveled to take on the Columbia Cougars in the Southwell Complex. CBC (10-7) led by four in the second quarter, but got blitzed in the second half, seeing their season end in a 77-60 loss to CC (14-4).

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 1** — Three CBC Lady Mustangs were selected to the All-Conference teams by the AMC. **Holly Allen, Alexis Augustus** and **Izzy Arnold** all earned selections to all-conference teams, with Arnold's name appearing on three different teams.

### Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 25** — Hosting an AMC quarterfinal game for the second straight season, CBC took on the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy at Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (17-6) never trailed, leading by 43 at one point and cruising into the semifinals with an 89-55 win over UHSP (1-20).

• **Conway, Feb. 27** — Looking to advance to the AMC Tournament Championship game, the #2 seeded CBC took on the #3 seeded Spartans of Missouri Baptist. CBC (18-6) trailed at halftime and for most of the second half, but used a 10-5 run to close the game and defeat MBU (15-9) 66-61.

### Baseball

• **North Little Rock, Feb. 25** — Playing in Arkansas for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Tigers of Champion Christian at Burns Park. CBC (4-2) scored 22 runs and pounded out 23 hits in a doubleheader sweep of Champion Christian (0-8) by scores of 10-1 & 12-9.

### All-Academic Honors Awards

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 1** — The AMC announced the Academic All-Conference teams for winter sports. CBC had 10 athletes during the winter season that qualified for the Academic All-Conference honor. In order to earn academic recognition



## Student Ministry Matters

Phone: (479) 790-7808  
[bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com)  
[www.StudentMinistryMatters.com](http://www.StudentMinistryMatters.com)



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



## The Unsung Heroes of Ministry

Twenty-seven and a half years ago, a young lady from Bryant made the crazy decision to marry a Baptist preacher. She received encouragement from the sweet little old ladies at church when they told her, "I always knew you were going marry a preacher." However, it was still a big decision. Ooey-gooney feelings of love are of little encouragement when church members start coming after you. It can get rough very quickly.

My wife, Temple, and the host of other pastor's wives out there, are the real heroes of ministry. They provide love and support when life gets difficult. They utilize their gifts in big ways and provide help where it is needed. In my context, Temple has always jumped in. As I led choirs, I would find her there smiling back at me as we prepared Christmas and Easter musicals. As we worked to plant a church in Northwest Arkansas, she was there, even when it was just the two of us and our son. In student ministry, she would make a special effort to love on the young women in the group. The simple truth is, I couldn't do it without her and, I wouldn't want to!

Tension comes in our churches when unrealistic expectations are placed on these women. Too often, those in the church expect perfection or the youth pastor's wife to fit a certain mold. God has created each of these women with unique personalities and different giftedness. Some may be good at music, others may not want anything to do with the stage. The only real expectation that should be placed on them is that they support their husband and serve as any other church member might. However, because of the extra stress of the role, I would encourage you to honor the wives of your pastoral staff in big and small ways.

• **Send them notes and cards.** That is an easy way to share a simple word of encouragement and is a lost art in much of society today. Texts and emails are okay, but a hand written note speaks volumes.

• **Find out their favorite treat and get them a gift card.** My wife has an obsession with tea — not sweet tea, but hot tea. If you want to speak her love language, get her a gift card to Savoy Tea here in Northwest Arkansas. Whether it is food or an activity, get to know the wives of your pastoral staff and find out how you can bless them.

• **Offer free babysitting.** Many times, a pastor and his family are away from parents, aunts and uncles that would often babysit. I was blessed with a mom and dad that lived close enough to us that I could drop off the kids. Don't be afraid to have the crazy "PK's" over to your house.

• **Pray for your pastor's wife and youth pastor's wife.** Prayer is a powerful thing. Ask God to work in the lives of these incredible women and ask God to bless their families and homes. Bring them before the Father daily.

There is a Pastor Appreciation month, but there isn't really a specific time to honor the pastor's wife. Make the time and help honor these unsung heroes of ministry.

from the AMC, a student has to be in at least their second semester and have a GPA of 3.0 or above. The winter sports athletes to earn the honors are: Wrestling — **Brian Mas**; Men's Basketball — **Garret Finley** and **Blake Bradshaw**; Women's Basketball — **Macey Decker**, **Lydia York**, **Alexis McClaren**, **Alaina Ellis**, **Holly Allen**, **Bri Wells** and **Riley Bridges**.



### 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](mailto:editor@baptisttrumpet.com).



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

P.O. Box 878 • Conway, Ark. 72033-0878  
(501) 455-4977 • larry@bmaam.com

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

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org (coming soon)



## Vision: God's Preferred Future

Some churches seem to only focus on the past and tend to worship how things were. In *Rings of Fire*, Leonard Sweet states, "Never underestimate nostalgia and its power to idolize the past and demonize the future."

The Scriptures have a futuristic emphasis with the apostle Paul challenging us to "press on toward the goal" (Phil. 3:14 NASB), and Jesus who "for the joy set before Him endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). The temptation is to settle for what we have had and not pursue what could be. You cannot live in the past and move forward.

Romans 8:18-30 focuses on the future, telling us what is going to be revealed and the glory that is coming. Hebrews 11:1 challenges that faith is the reality of what is hoped for and the proof of what is not seen. II Corinthians 5:7 instructs us to walk by faith and not by sight. Abraham headed for a land He had never seen, not knowing where he was going because he was walking by faith. Then why is it that so many of us would rather reminisce about the past than dream and plan about God's preferred future?

Vision describes where we are headed and has been defined as a picture of the future that produces passion. It is a clear picture of God's preferred future for your church. Vision is where you are going and how the mission of God looks in your context. It is your ability to conceptualize a picture of a golden tomorrow that does not yet exist but can be accomplished as you faithfully follow the Lord's direction. In *No Silver Bullets*, Daniel Im defines vision as "painting the dreams that God has laid on your heart for all to see!"

Leonard Sweet continues, "A church that incarnates the timeless and the timely at the same time yields timefulness." It involves a faith that finds God in the future and bears fruit. Vision is your ability to see God's possibilities that are unlimited while also being fully aware of the difficulties and challenges along the journey. It is not about staying in step with the times, but rather staying in step with

Jesus. Vision never loses the focus of remaining biblically sound, but it is also willing to be culturally relevant.

Jesus' example demonstrated a forward focus that spoke a lot about the future kingdom where God will reign. Your vision of a preferred future should always be God-initiated, God-directed and under God's authority. Vision will not be free of challenges, trials or persecution. Vision produces faithfulness and fruitfulness, regardless of the circumstances. How will your church continue to carry out His Great Commission, at this time, right where He has placed you? What changes, being timely, should you prayerfully consider?

Have your leadership team complete a "dream" worksheet. Encourage them to write out 10 statements describing what your church could look like in 5 years. Only one statement can be about the size of your congregation or about building. Include statements like, "people will be baptized every Sunday" or "we will see disciple-making occurring to the fourth generation" or "families with their children will be all over our campus desiring to learn more about Christ." Take time to dream about God's vision for your ministry.

Also consider doing a vision audit as you examine your community history, community context, church people, church leadership and how they converge. What is your unique fingerprint and calling in the God's plan? The best way to do this is through observation and by asking good questions. What do you see that is unique to your context socially, economically, physically and spiritually? What do you see, and what do you hear the people saying or asking? Through this vision audit you will discover how your church can best represent Christ.

It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people, and you should resist the temptation to be a copycat church. Have a vision to function as Paul did when he was willing to become as a Jew, one under the law and even weak, in order to win them to Christ. "I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some" (I

## MARCH

(Continued From Page 1)

Staging of marchers will be along West Capitol between Battery and Wolfe Streets behind the State Capitol. At 2 p.m., the march will begin at Wolfe Street and continue West to East on West Capitol where marchers will split into two groups — one to the right and one to the left — then join together on the steps at the front of the State Capitol for a short program.

Andy Mayberry, president of Arkansas Right to Life, will serve as the master of ceremonies and encourages all participants to remember recommendations for masks and distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He said all Arkansas Department of Health COVID protocols would be followed during the march.

Participants in the program are keynote speakers, Michelle Oglesby of Sherwood and Charlisha Campbell of North Little Rock, as well as Emil Woerner, pastor of Friends in Christ Lutheran Church in Bryant, and Chad Meeks, senior pastor of Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock. Music selections will be performed by Rita and DeWalden Frazier and their daughter, Promise.

Also invited to attend are Gov. Asa Hutchinson, First Lady Susan Hutchinson, Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin, U.S. Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton, U.S. Representatives Rick Crawford, French Hill, Steve Womack and Bruce Westerman, state constitutional officers and members of the Arkansas General Assembly.

For more information, contact Mimms at (501) 663-4237 or email artl@artl.org.

Cor. 9:22 HCSB). Do you not see how "timely" he was in order to deliver the timeless message of the gospel? How will your vision contextualize the gospel in your community?

Vision requires faith, and it never allows you to settle for the status quo. It motivates your church to move out of its comfort zones. Vision is not safe and requires a willingness to take Holy Spirit led risk. What will your church and community look like if you follow through on what God has directed you to accomplish? Is your church where God wants it to be? Is your church fulfilling everything God wants it to accomplish? Are you able to clearly articulate a clear picture of His preferred future?

Every church is unique and distinct, while remaining faithful to timeless truths from the Scriptures. Be biblical, but be okay with being different. Hold closely to your functions, but loosely to the forms and resist the temptation to compare. As a leader you must know where God is taking you, how you will get there and be able to clearly articulate it to your leadership, your members and your community.

What kind of church is God leading your church to be five years from now? Vision motivates people and compels them to press forward!



*From the President...*

## Think Globally—Act Locally

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## The Life-Transforming Power of the Bible

Most of us are familiar with the story of the *Mutiny on the Bounty* but a lesser number probably know what Paul Harvey used to call, "The rest of the story." An English ship named Bounty sailed to the South Pacific in 1787 commanded by Lt. William Bligh. The purpose of the trip was to collect exotic plants especially the breadfruit tree.

Having no second-in-command, Captain Bligh appointed a young man by the name of Fletcher Christian to the post. The ship and her crew stayed in Tahiti for six months and when it was time to leave for England, some of the men were not willing to leave this island in paradise and its women. Three of the ship's crew tried to desert, were captured and flogged. Then, on April 28, 1789, Fletcher Christian led the most famous mutiny in history. Captain Bligh and his supporters were overpowered and then set adrift in an overcrowded lifeboat. Miraculously, Captain Bligh and his crew successfully navigated the lifeboat 3,700 miles to the island of Timor and their lives were spared.

Christian sailed the Bounty back to the island of Tahiti where he left some of the mutineers, kidnapped several women, captured some slaves and then travelled 1,000 miles to the uninhabited island of Pitcairn. On this island they learned how to distill whiskey from a native plant and, consequently, the men were drunk and fighting among themselves most of the time. It wasn't long until disease and death claimed the lives of all the men except one — Alexander Smith, who now found himself in charge of the women and children.

It was at this time that Smith found a Bible on the Bounty. As he read the Bible, it touched his heart and soon he was teaching the women and children how to live according to God's Word. The Word of God so transformed the lives of those living on that island that when the ship Topaz landed there in 1808, they found a happy society of Christians living a life of prosperity and peace, free from crime and disease.

Years later, the Bible fell into the hands of a whaler who brought it to America. The Bible was later returned to the island of Pitcairn where it is displayed in a church to this day as a monument to the transforming power of the Bible.

The exhortation of Joshua concerning the Word of God is still appropriate for us today: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Josh. 1:8).

D.L. Moody was absolutely correct when he made this observation: "The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives." Has the Bible changed your life?



## 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!*

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By Executive Editor  
Jeff Herring

Journey  
with  
Jeff

## Will You Help Us Build For the Future?

This week we kicked off our time of Special Emphasis that is set aside by the BMA of Arkansas. It was a welcome blessing when Allan opened the mail on Monday and we already had a Special Emphasis offering in the mail! Praise the Lord! Another great blessing this week was a church that was previously on the church plan called and asked about what it would take to get it going again — that is our goal for every BMA church in Arkansas (and beyond)! It was an exciting day in the office for sure!

I am also excited about the future ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*, and I hope you can join us as we are “Building for the Future.”

Since it began, the mission of the *Trumpet* has been “to inform our readers about the activities and needs of our association on the local, state, district, national and international levels, and in the Christian community at large; and to inspire them to live more fruitful and dedicated lives for our Lord Jesus Christ.” We are doing our best to continue this mission as it has been done since 1939, but we are also looking for new and innovative ways to expand the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet* as God provides opportunities to do so.

One thing we have been working on for well over a year is our transition to a **new circulation management system**. Our old system was causing some problems and also prevented us from taking advantage of new ministry opportunities, such as better utilization of our website for digital content. We can now connect our subscribers to our website through a customer portal and login that will allow access to “subscriber-only” content. This new system provides much more functionality and allows us to streamline our subscriber management and billing. While we are thrilled about what this new system offers, it also brings added expense.

We are also planning an **upgrade to our website** in the coming months that will not only give it a facelift but also allow better integration with our new circulation management system. There is also some **new technology** that may be needed in the coming year as things in the office are starting to show their age (and not just Allan!).

The largest area of need for our Special Emphasis goal this year is our **General Fund**. We are currently week-to-week, at best, and having some “reserve” would allow us to breathe a little easier. It is always a joy to find a timely check in the mail from one of our faithful supporters; but to be honest, we simply need more to meet all of our obligations.

Our subscriber fees do not cover the total cost to produce and send out the *Trumpet* each week. Without regular support from individuals and churches, we will have to make the difficult decision to raise our subscription rates (something we **do not** want to do) or cut back the number of issues (something we **really do not** want to do). If we are forced to raise our rates, it is likely that we will unfortunately also lose some individual and church subscribers due to the increase in cost, and we **do not** want to lose anyone! This is why **we need your help!**

I am asking you to join us as we are “Building for the Future,” and help us meet our goal of \$45,000 to continue the great ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. If you would like, I would love to come and share about how God is working through the *Baptist Trumpet* with your church or group. You can contact me by email at [editor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:editor@baptisttrumpet.com) or by calling the office at (501) 565-4601.

We have set up a special page at [baptisttrumpet.com/SE2021](http://baptisttrumpet.com/SE2021) where you can follow the progress and also see more resources so you can be our advocate in your church. Will you help us “Build for the Future?”



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

### “Poorly named” Equality Act Passes House

On Feb. 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed, for the second time, a far-reaching gay and transgender rights proposal that opponents warn would have calamitous effects on freedom of religion and conscience, as well as protections for women, girls and unborn children. The Democratic-controlled House voted 224-206 for the Equality Act, HR 5, which would add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the classifications protected in federal civil rights law. “Sexual orientation” includes homosexuality, bisexuality and pansexuality, while “gender identity” refers to the way a person perceives himself regardless of his biology at birth. Three Republicans voted with all the Democrats in support of the legislation. President Biden has endorsed the bill, but the measure will face difficulty in the Senate, where supporters will need 60 votes to overcome an expected filibuster.

The Equality Act would be the most pro-abortion bill ever passed by Congress. HR 5 would redefine the term “sex” to also include “pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition.” This language would roll back federal law that protects the consciences of pro-life nurses and physicians who object to participating in abortions because of their deeply held religious or moral beliefs. These conscience protections carry decades of bipartisan consensus — a consensus that no person should be compelled to participate in an act they believe to be gravely immoral. H.R. 5 would also jeopardize the longstanding Hyde Amendment that protects federal taxpayer dollars from funding abortion. There is nothing equalizing about forcing Americans to fund abortion through taxpayer dollars. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

### Bill Filed to Maintain Fairness in Women’s Sports

On Feb. 25, the Arkansas Republican Women’s Caucus launched their Dream BIG legislative package. Senator Missy Irvin (R/Mountain View) and Representative Sonia Barker (R/Smackover) filed SB354, the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act as part of the legislative package they presented. Family Council President Jerry Cox released a statement saying SB354 is necessary to preserve fairness in women’s sports and letting boys compete in girls’ sports puts girls at a distinct disadvantage. ([familycouncil.org](http://familycouncil.org))

### Third U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Cleared

The U.S. is getting a third vaccine to prevent COVID-19, as the Food and Drug Administration on Feb. 27 cleared a Johnson & Johnson (J&J) shot that works with just one dose instead of two. Health experts are anxiously

awaiting a one-and-done option to help speed vaccinations, as they race against a virus that already has killed more than 510,000 people in the U.S. and is mutating in increasingly worrisome ways. The FDA said J&J’s vaccine offers strong protection against what matters most — serious illness, hospitalizations and death. One dose was 85% protective against the most severe COVID-19 illness, in a massive study that spanned three continents — protection that remained strong even in countries such as South Africa, where the variants of most concern are spreading.

J&J initially is providing a few million doses and by the end of March expects to deliver 20 million doses to the U.S., and 100 million by summer. J&J also is seeking authorization for emergency use of its vaccine in Europe and from the World Health Organization. The company aims to produce about 1 billion doses globally by the end of the year. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

### New Movie “Roe v. Wade”

The long-awaited “Roe v. Wade” film, which tells the backstory behind the infamous U.S. Supreme Court abortion ruling, is coming out in April. On Feb. 26, the film premiered at Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Orlando, Florida with producer Nick Loeb and Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight, The Federalist reports. In April, it will

be available online through Amazon Prime and iTunes. The movie tells the true story of the lies and manipulations used to push abortion on America. It is a project of Loeb and Cathy Allyn.

The film follows key advocates in the abortion fight in the 1970s, including former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Betty Friedan on the pro-abortion side and Dr. Mildred Jefferson, the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, on the pro-life side. The film exposes the lies and manipulative tactics of abortion activists, people like McCorvey and Nathanson who later had a change of heart and dedicated pro-life advocates like Jefferson who fought valiantly to defend the right to life for babies in the womb.

To learn more or to get involved, visit [RoevWadeMovie.com](http://RoevWadeMovie.com). ([lifeneews.com](http://lifeneews.com))

### Bill Filed to Protect from Inappropriate Marijuana Certification

Recently Rep. Delia Haak (R/Gentry) and Sen. David Wallace (R/Leachville) filed H.B. 1566 at the Arkansas Legislature. This bill requires marijuana certifications written for mental illnesses like post-traumatic stress disorder and Alzheimer’s to be issued by a board-certified psychiatrist or neurologist. Arkansas’ medical marijuana amendment contains a long list of qualifying conditions for which a person can use marijuana, including post-traumatic stress disorder and Alzheimer’s. Under current law, any physician can certify a patient to use marijuana for PTSD or Alzheimer’s regardless of the physician’s training and experience with mental health.

See NOTES, Page 7

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**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; Cross-Roads, Rowlett, Tex.

**CBC Scholarship Gala**, June 5, 6 p.m.; Conway Expo Center. Contact Amy Reed for more info at [areed@cbc.edu](mailto: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.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Basics

As COVID-19 vaccines become more available across the country, you may be wondering what it means for your organization. This article provides a primer on the vaccine so you can make decisions on how best to protect your people.

### Keep Doing What You Are Doing

While the COVID-19 vaccines are expected to eventually make a big impact on the pandemic, medical experts say it is not the sole answer to eradicating it. They encourage that workplaces, places open to the public and individuals continue with social distancing, face coverings, cleaning and disinfecting and more frequent handwashing. This is especially relevant since the vaccines are not currently available for every age group and several variants of COVID-19 have been confirmed.

While the vaccines that have been approved in the United States are reported to be over 90% effective in preventing serious illness and death, a small percentage of people who receive the vaccine may still become ill with COVID-19. Medical experts are still studying if boosters will be needed to combat the new variants. They also are studying how long immunity from the currently available vaccines will last.

So, the things you have been doing to protect your staff, visitors, volunteers, students and participants will continue to play a key role.

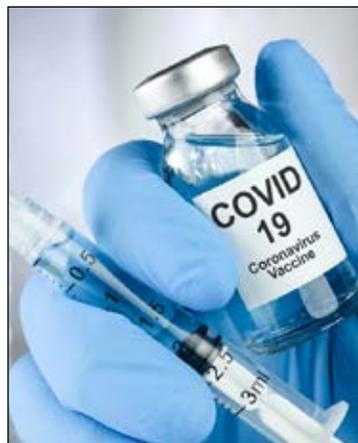
### Stay Informed About Vaccines

To stay up to date, check your local health department website and reports from your state officials. Many local and state health departments have a weekly email update you can subscribe to. Some may also have a page for members of your community to sign up for the vaccination. Additionally, the CDC is updating its website as medical experts continue to closely monitor vaccine production and rollout, as well as its impact on this novel coronavirus and the new variants of the disease. The CDC also has a running FAQ dedicated to questions about the vaccine.

The CDC explained that the vaccine works by teaching a person's immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this provides the protection from getting seriously ill. They also said that no live virus is used to make the vaccine.

### Review Your Policies

We encourage you to review and



update your infectious disease policies with your team. Now is a good time to review your policies as you consider how the availability of the vaccine in your community will affect your organization as both a workplace and one that serves people. Communicate any updates to your policies that will affect your employees and the people you serve, so they know what to expect upfront.

The COVID-19 vaccines recently became available in most states for ages 65+ and for some essential workers, such as those in healthcare, first responders and health department volunteers. Some states have begun making vaccines available to grocery store employees, education employees and others.

The vaccine has not been approved yet for children under the age of 16. If/when the vaccine is approved for children, it could likely be included by state departments of health on their mandatory school vaccine schedule issued annually. At this point, schools, colleges, camps and ministries may decide to begin requesting proof of vaccination before accepting children into their programs.

You may be wondering if the vaccine becomes widely available for adults of all ages, would you be able to make it a policy for volunteers and participants to show proof of vaccination before allowing them to be involved in activities?

Some ministries have policies requiring parents to show proof of mandatory childhood vaccinations before children can participate in programs. Similarly, you could draft policies for adults to show proof they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Note: some individuals may not be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons or due to sincerely held religious beliefs. Regardless of stance on vaccinations, some things to consider in drafting your policy include:

- What health risks could someone who is unvaccinated pose to staff members and other participants?
- What procedures can we use to help prevent the spread of illnesses?
- How will we respond if an outbreak occurs among activity participants and staff?
- What is your organization's potential liability for enrolling or refusing to enroll an unvaccinated adult in an activity?

Be sure to ask an attorney to review your policies and procedures on a regular basis to adjust to any changes in state or federal laws.

You may be wondering about employees. As an employer would you be able to encourage or even require they get vaccinated, if/when there is vaccine available for all adults in your community?

As an employer, you generally can encourage or even require employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine (once it is available to their age group) to protect the health and safety of your workplace.

As an employer, you can ask employees to show proof of vaccination. However, there may be Americans with Disabilities (ADA) implications if providing proof of vaccination exposes any protected health information. Likewise, if an employee does not receive the vaccine, eliciting information as to why the employee did not receive the vaccine could implicate the ADA.

Employers may be required to exempt some employees from vaccination requirements if they have a disability as outlined in the ADA. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has provided guidance regarding COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act and other Equal Employment Opportunity laws.

Additionally, an employee who requests a reasonable accommodation from receiving a vaccine may also be protected against retaliation by the ADA. If an employee requests an exemption because of a disability, the ADA requires employers to provide reasonable accommodation. If an employer determines it would be too difficult or costly to accommodate an unvaccinated employee, or it would pose a threat to the safety of others, employers may need to consider whether the employee can perform their work remotely.

Employees may also be exempt from receiving a vaccination if they have sincerely held religious beliefs, practices or observances that prevent them from being vaccinated. Employers can request additional supporting information if it has an objective reason for questioning the religious nature or genuineness of a particular belief, practice or observance. Employers may be required to accommodate a belief-based exemption, unless it would pose an undue hardship on the employer. State and local laws may vary, so ministry leaders are encouraged to consult with a locally licensed attorney.

## DIFFERENT (Continued From Page 1)

bullying. As a result, the movement doesn't just want to rewrite history, but to abolish it. Others look at history and see it as an educational tool — it has its good parts, its bad parts and its sad parts. History is a record of the past up to the moment and provides opportunity to learn from past mistakes. Removing monuments, changing street names and removing inclusions from the textbooks simply because they offend, is wrong — plain and simple. Different people see different things as they look at the past. Here's the truth — no matter what people think they see or don't see, history is unchangeable. The Revolutionary War happened. The Civil War happened — as did World War I, World War II and Vietnam. The assassination of President John F. Kennedy happened. The attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon happened. Those events cannot be changed — culturally or historically. No matter how offensive one might consider some of those events, they must not be eradicated from our history books.

People from almost every country in the world have come to our shores. The majority have been legal immigrants who became citizens in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. The United States is a melting pot — a diverse stirring of lives — but all become Americans. Yes, many have been offended by what happened to their ancestors, but may none forget that many have had the same liberties provided for all Americans because brave men and women battled for the cause of freedom. None of them were perfect. None had unblemished pasts. But they loved their country, and they provided an integral part of what we call history.

I am a patriot, and I love America, but I do not worship America. I love God, His Son and His Word. When I read the Bible, I see God's love for mankind and His desire that none should perish but that all should come to everlasting life through Jesus's shed blood. However, when some read the Bible, they see a mean God who punishes rather than rewards. While I see love in the Bible, they see hatred. While, years ago, I saw myself as an undone sinner needing a Savior, others see themselves as okay with no need for salvation. Some people are humbled as they read God's Word; others are indignant and offended. Different people see different things when they gaze into God's Word. Here's the truth — the Bible is the Word of God and it cannot be changed, and it cannot be canceled. The Bible is not a figment of our imagination, it is the history, the



## LaTance Hankins, Of Texas, Dies

LaTance Tate Hankins, 83 of Tyler, Texas and former resident of De Queen, Ark., passed away Feb. 18. She was the widow of Dale Hankins, who pastored several churches in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas (Richmond Road, Texarkana and Friendship, De Queen) before his death in 2015.

Mrs. Hankins had a love of music and was a piano instructor for many years, as well as the church organist and pianist. She was a member of the Red Springs Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

Survivors include: two daughters, LaFonda Nimmons and Robbie Simpson both of Tyler, Texas; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were held Feb. 25 at the Valley Cemetery in Gillham, Ark., with Collin Jones officiating and under the direction of Chandler Funeral Home in De Queen.



**Idell Fern Pigg**, 89 of Hampton, passed away Feb. 19. She was a member of Victory Baptist Church.

present and the future of every man — each of whom will one day stand before Him, the Righteous Judge.

Christians, now is the time for those who are believers to stand up for Jesus! I assure you that He is standing up for us — at the right hand of the Father. We must take a stand for righteousness as based on the Word of God, not on public opinion, situational ethics and political correctness. Satan has been walking this earth for centuries like a roaring lion seeking those whom he may devour. The Bible says we should resist the devil and he will flee from us. My friends, may God give us the grace to resist the devil and his emissaries. It is time for us to draw near to God — He will draw near to us!



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### Stan & Donna Scroggins • The Philippines

After almost 11 months, we are finally back in Manila. Just before our departure date God threw us a curve — the 150-year ice and snowstorm. It closed down the airport in Tyler, Texas, so we had to rent a car and drive to Dallas to meet our flight to San Francisco. After spending the night in Dallas, we boarded the first leg of our trip.

We were put through the wringer here. After three hours of haggling, and begging, all to no avail, we were denied. Devastating! I was missing one little slip of paper which was a receipt for my visa stamp. (Don't mention the fact that I had the visa stamped in my passport **with** the amount it cost written in.) Donna had hers, I couldn't find mine. Now it was almost 11 p.m. and the flight had departed and we were stuck in a hotel on Saturday night to wait for the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco to open on Monday so we can see if things can be worked out before the next flight to the Philippines on Saturday, Feb. 24 — four days away! If not, we would have to abort as our visas were to expire March 2.

Between Philippine Airlines and our Visa lawyer in Manila, by Wednesday things got worked out and we are **finally** on the plane. And yes, we had to wear face mask and shields during the entire 14-hour flight to Manila.

We arrived in Manila at 4:30 a.m. and it took two hours to go through all the regulations and procedures — orientation lecture, temperature taking, Traze verification (so they can know you don't break quarantine), pay for COVID-19 test, get hotel verification, get transportation to hotel verification, go through passport and immigration control (talk about being nervous), pick up luggage, go through customs, walk out of the airport and drive to our quarantine hotel.

We arrived at our home away from home for the next 10 days of quarantine. We can't leave our room for 10 days until we receive our health clearance card. None of the hotel amenities are available. Food is brought to our room for each meal. On March 3, nurses from Detoxicare came to administer the COVID-19 test, then we waited for two more days for the results to come back. We made it back by the "skin of our teeth."

There is a ministry here led by Catherine Torente called Christian Missionary Services. They have been coordinating missionary immigration issues all the way back to when the Moore's were missionaries here. So, they picked up our passports to begin the visa renewal process.

Now Donna and I had to spend a week hanging out in our room, teaching our Bible College classes online and watching a lot of YouTube videos. We will look forward to reporting next month from our house in Talisay City on our island — Negros Occidental.

### World Mission Day in the Philippines

This is the fourth year we have coordinated World Mission Day in the Philippines with the United States. Thanks to John Rey Vallejera (Pastor JoJo), this year's event was a great success. Donna and I helped encourage student participation virtually, and on World Mission Day there were over 250 in attendance with over 26,000 pesos raised for missions (that's over \$250, it just sounds more impressive in Philippine Peso).

Now that we are back in the Philippines our mobile numbers go back to our Filipino numbers. You can text and call at these numbers — Donna: +63 908-894-6724/Stan: +63 908-894-6723. You can also contact us through email and Facebook Messenger: Donna, gojvcrusaders@msn.com/Stan, stanmusical@icloud.com.



**Broadway Ave., Bay** witnessed one by letter, Rick Jenson, pastor.

**Calvary, Warren** rejoices over two by baptism, Rocky Goodwin, interim pastor; Aimee Morgan, reporter.

**Celebration, Haskell** added two by letter; Allan Eakin, pastor.

**County Line, Nashville** gained one by statement, Jerry Hill, pastor; Vivian Roberts, reporter.

**First, Buckner** welcomed one by baptism; Andy Hawkins, pastor.

**Liberty, Stamps** received two by letter; Adam Rogers, pastor.

**Victory, Hampton** reports two by letter; Robbie Duncan, pastor.



**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 bbcbroadfordar@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.



**Victory, Hampton, April 19-21, 7 p.m.,** Ruben Weaver, evangelist; Ronnie Duncan, pastor.

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## Don't Get Snowed By Utility Bill Scams

After Arkansas's historic snowfall has melted away and the temperatures return to more consistent weather, Arkansans are left to deal with pesky scam callers pretending to be utility providers. Scam artists will pose as utility companies and prey on unsuspecting Arkansans then ask for immediate payment over the phone. This scam causes far too many Arkansans to lose their hard-earned money.

"Arkansans should be skeptical of unsolicited calls where the person is demanding immediate payment by phone and claiming that a water, electric or gas bill is late," said AG Rutledge. "I urge Arkansans to hang up and reach out to the utility company directly, using the number on their last bill or the company's website to determine the status of their bill."

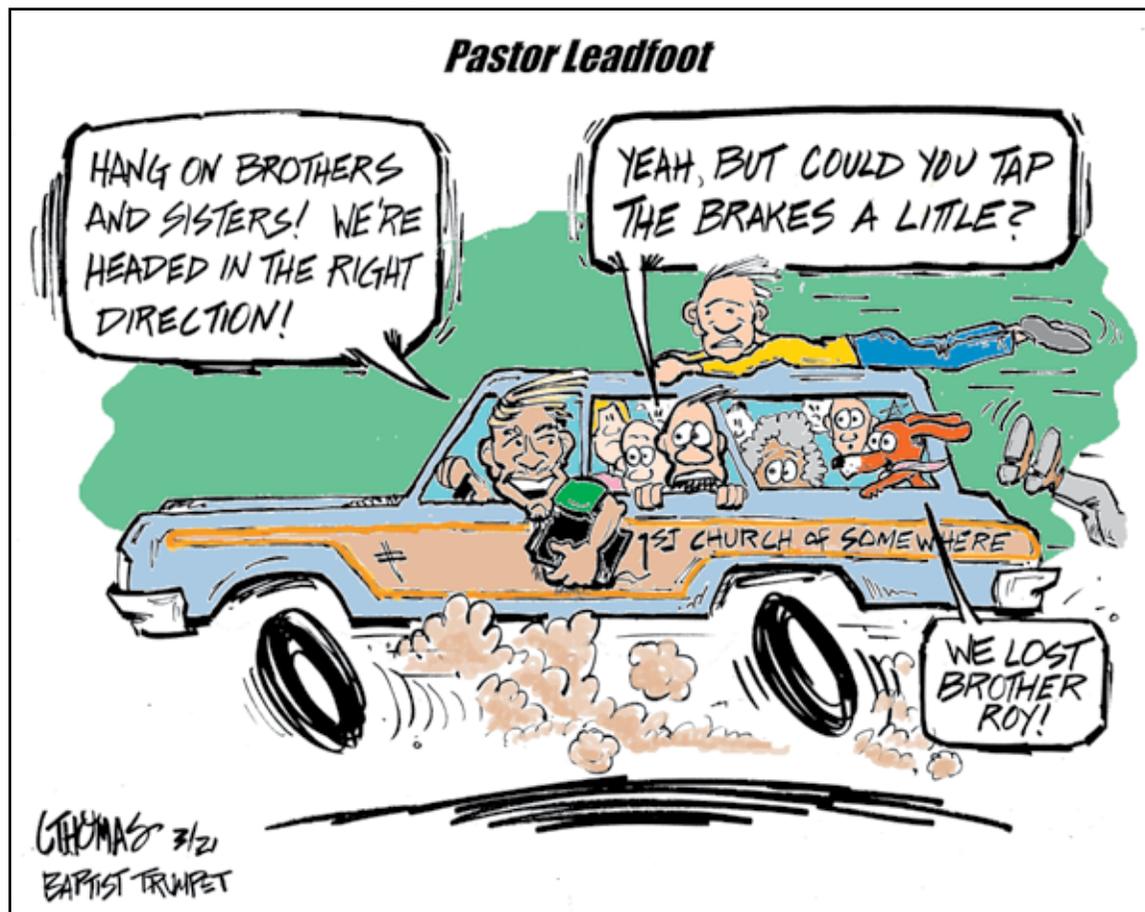
AG Rutledge released the following tips to ensure payment is sent to the utility company safely, securely and timely:

- Contact the utility company directly by calling the listed number and verifying the amount owed.
- Drop off the payment at the utility office or an authorized payment location.
- Pay online on the utility company's website with a credit card or call the company directly.
- Consider participating in an automated bank account draft system, if it is offered.
- Mail the payment to the company directly.

The scammer may also request that the recipient purchase gift cards or pre-paid debit cards to pay off the amount owed. The scammer will ask for the code on the purchased card, which gives them complete access to money on the card. In most cases, once the prepaid card money is depleted, it cannot be recovered. Remember, utilities will never require you to pay by gift card or prepaid debit card — only scammers do that.

Arkansans should notify the company if they have been contacted by one of these scammers. If Arkansans have paid money to the scammer, file a complaint with the Attorney General.

For more information and tips to avoid scams and other consumer-related issues, contact the Arkansas Attorney General's office at [consumer@arkansasag.gov](mailto:consumer@arkansasag.gov) or visit [ArkansasAG.gov](http://ArkansasAG.gov).





## Missionaries

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Carter Pearce, Grace, Green Forest; (870) 688-7412  
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Jim Tollison, Mustard Seed, Cain; (870) 370-3938  
Chad White, Connection Point, Brookland; (870) 243-4683  
Darrin Smith, Life Journey, Fort Smith; (479)-763-8909  
Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984  
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PAUL WHITE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Better Days Ahead

Over the past 15 months our lives have been somewhat put on hold. With the closings and fears that have affected everyone, I have attempted to stay away and wait for better times when we can once again feel safe to gather with our churches across the state to share the wonderful work of your State Mission's Department. To add a layer of safety, Vicki and I are in the process of receiving our COVID-19 vaccine shots.

Our annual Special Emphasis time will again be in May, June and July. My calendar is open, and I long to visit as many congregations as possible this year. I also would love to speak at your District Brotherhood and WMA meetings. Praise God, He is still in the saving business. Please take a minute and set a time for me to come. You may contact me at (501) 859-3329 or email me at arstamis@comcast.net. It is one of the ways we can thank you for all you do.

Also, our local association meetings will hopefully be back in full swing this year to give us another avenue to share the work. I hope to see you soon.

## From Our Missionaries

**Connection Point, Brookland:** Chad White writes, "It was a good week at Connection Point. This past week we enjoyed some warmer weather. We were able to have our Wednesday night groups and enjoyed good attendance in all of them."

"Sunday was a great day. We ended the month of February with a good attendance and some first-time guests in our service. We are looking forward to spring and, hopefully, some relaxed COVID-19 restrictions."

"We have been working to improve our online experience over the past weeks. We are pleased with our progress so far, especially considering how small our budget is. We have better video and audio for our livestream and can even share our video elements during the service. We would be glad for you to 'sneak a peek,' you can find links at MyConnectionPoint.org."

**The Mustard Seed, Cain:** Jim Tollison writes, "Sunday was a good day at the mission. Our attendance picked up for Sunday as well as Wednesday night. I am praying that this is the light at the end of a dark tunnel. God has always been there for us, and He will not fail us now."

"I have begun to see these last few months as a test of our faith. We have been given a unique opportunity to grow in the Lord. I told our folks that we are being observed by others to see how we are facing this. May we all let our lights so shine before men that they may see our good works and bring glory to our heavenly Father. God is good all the time."

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Last week, we distributed 290 food bags and 200 boxes with products. We

also shared 100 boxes with products and 100 food bags with Gran Comisión Mission to be distributed in its community (Alexander).

"After enjoying a beautiful week with snow that allowed us to play as a family and with the church, we were able to resume discipleship meetings and Bible study in the 'new normal' format—face-to-face and online. The ladies had their monthly meeting to talk about 'Love and Holiness.'

"On Sunday, like all of you, we had our commemorative meeting on World Missions Day, and it was nice to make known to the congregation the joint effort of all our local churches to fulfill the Great Commission. We enjoy the opportunity to give an offering for missions and praying for missionary work on the global level while personally committing ourselves to the great commission. Also, thanks to the efforts of Luis Ortega, we listened to the World Missions Day video in Spanish."

**Life Journey, Fort Smith:** Darrin Smith writes, "Before we moved into the building we have, I had a young man contact me about our mission. He was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at that time and was wondering if we had anything for the youth. Of course, I told him the truth, that we did. In reality, we did, but nothing specifically geared toward them. I simply told him to get a group of students together and we would begin meeting. The first night, he was dropped off by a friend and the friend was not going to attend. I stopped him in the parking lot and invited him to stay. He was hesitant at first, but decided to join us. This was a start of something bigger than just a group of teenagers coming together."

"Fast forward three years later, and I have had the opportunity to see them come to know Christ and spend

time watching them grow into young men and women. My wife and I have poured our lives into them, and they have done the same for us. In fact, they have really stretched us in a good way. We are teaching them about the Lord, and they are now teaching others.

"I was invited to attend their college group they organized apart from the church this past Saturday night. They wanted me to see them 'in action.' Wow! What a blessing to see them taking what they are learning and sharing it with others. That group has personally led at least two to the Lord and are talking with three others and two of them are professing atheists. These students continually amaze me!"

**Grace, Green Forest:** Carter Pearce writes, "Sunday our mission congregation joined BMA churches around the world in celebrating World Missions Sunday. Our motto at Grace is 'Reaching the Lost, Training the Saved.' That, to me, summarizes missions. We are required, as Christians, to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ and train the saved to observe everything Jesus commanded."

"Whether ministering in Carroll County or in a developing country, the core of missions is always the same. We must grow at home in order to support those around the world. Many people's only involvement in ministry happens when they put money in the offering plate. While funding is necessary, it is the most basic thing we can do for missions. We need to be involved."

"Please join me and others in becoming actively involved in missions. Give, pray, go, send — do exactly what God calls you to do to share the gospel of Christ with those next door and around the world!"

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "We thank God for the Berean Groups (cells) that are active — both those that are online and those that are face-to-face. Monday's group is in Chenal (face-to-face mode), Wednesday is the Vidal family (face-to-face mode) and the Colombian group (online), Thursday will be the Baseline group (face-to-face mode) that is not yet active and the Chile group (online)."

"The ministry we have not yet been able to activate due to the pandemic is the discipleship study of the 'First Principles' in the Word of God. My prayer every week to see in God's time how and when to activate them. The last four Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. we have had a training by

## Gentleness Provides Gospel Opportunities

By Mike McEuen, Pastor • New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

*"And the servant of the Lord must not strive: but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient"* (II Tim. 2:24).

Paul very strongly stated that the servant of the Lord must not be easily drawn into argument and debate. We must not argue or fight. We must be patient and gentle — teaching God's Word in meekness. It is not enough just to expose error and refute it, we must also teach positive truths and thus help to establish each other in the faith.

We must be "gentle unto all men" and easy to talk to. We need to remain cool-headed when others would be drawn into a heated debate. We must know when to listen and how to speak with tact and courtesy. The best way to disarm an opponent is by treating him with dignity and respect.

Our number one ministry is to be "apt to teach." We must carefully seek to instruct even those who oppose us. We are "workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

Our ever-guiding purpose is not to win arguments but to win souls! We want to see deceived people brought to "repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (II Tim. 2:25). Repentance is a change of mind. A person recognizes his error and accepts the truth. Understand that true repentance comes through the quiet conviction of the Holy Spirit. Repentance is always God's work! It will never be gained with hard hitting attacks and impassioned arguments, but when truth is shared in meekness and in love.

This kind of ministry requires patience. We never allow ourselves to become irritable or defensive in dealing with others. We must be thick-skinned and must never allow ourselves to become easily offended by their ridicule,

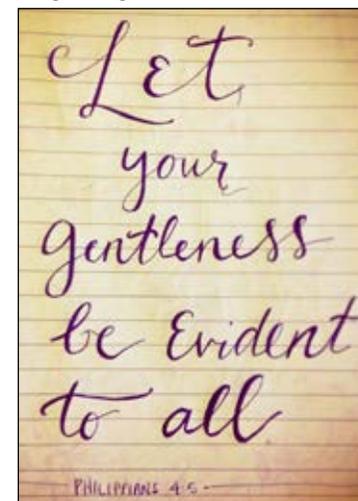
Novo (novo.org) online on the 'Biblical Discovery Study' and we have two classes left. In this stage we have trained the main leaders, now comes a second stage to open it to everyone at Ebenezer.

"Last Friday we had our first 'Night of Prayer' from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. We prayed for missions and missionaries worldwide, for the challenge of the 10/40 Window and for our personal challenges. Time was short and we will be doing it every two months."

"Last Sunday, our mother church, Chenal Valley Baptist Church, invited us to speak on missions and the emphasis on World Missions. What a blessing to be with our mother church and feel their love for us and hear that they are praying for us."

"Thanks also to you who support us with your prayers and offerings to State Missions. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had several out this



insults or their verbal abuse. We do not hold grudges or nurse resentment. We must be forgiving, "even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). Jesus Christ wants every one of us to share the truths of God's Word and to live Christ-like, obedient lives.

The more we allow Him to conform us to His ideal, the more He will be able to use us to win souls and encourage believers. When we are dedicated and faithful to our calling as the servants of the Lord our Lord's kingdom cause is advanced and our King is glorified!

## NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

H.B. 1566 would require the doctor to be a board-certified psychiatrist or neurologist in order to write a marijuana certification for these mental illnesses. It would not stop other physicians from writing marijuana certifications for other qualifying conditions. This bill will protect mental health patients from receiving an inappropriate certification to use marijuana. (familycouncil.org)

week for various ailments, nothing serious that we know about.

"One previous visitor returned, and we added her by letter this week. She plans to bring her family, too. Praise God! We have seen God work in so many ways this week — healing bodies, healing hearts and though He doesn't work through our hands, per se, like He did the Apostles in Acts 5:12, He does still work 'many signs and wonders' through our intercessory prayer in the name of Jesus. When we intercede for others, both the Holy Spirit and Jesus intercede for us. And through His miracles of healing, people believe and come to know Him as Lord and Savior and are added to His church."

"That is why we pray, and that is why your prayers mean so much to us — because we know that God hears them and answers them. Thank you all so much for your prayers for us and our efforts. Please continue as we lift you up as well!"



## The Day I Saw My Son Drowning

By Katy McCown

It happened in a matter of seconds. We stormed through the gate at the hotel pool with kids, towels, floaties and a stroller. Still wearing my street clothes, I stood next to the water, playing pool police, while Luke secured the little ones in life jackets. Our four-year old son, who knows how to swim, waded down the steps with confidence. But this marked our first time at the pool since the previous summer, and time took its toll on Micah's memory. He forgot how to swim, but didn't know until it was too late.

I spotted him first and shouted, "Luke! Micah!" Since Luke was only a few steps away and wearing his swimsuit, I figured he was the guy for the job. I assumed my tone would communicate the urgency of the situation and expected Luke to hop right in and rescue Micah. But he didn't.

Luke looked at me confused. He didn't see Micah. He didn't know what was happening, and every second I waited for Luke to save our son, Micah struggled to breathe. I stood steps away and I knew he needed help, but because I reasoned someone else was more prepared or better suited for the job, I did nothing.

*"...For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me"* (Matt. 25:42-43 ESV).

I share one of the worst moments of my motherhood with you because I see the same principle at work in our spiritual lives. We see someone drowning and, with good intentions, call in the "right" person for the job, but God put you in front of the one who needs air. You see them with your eyes and understand the need. No matter how prepared anyone else is, they don't see it — you do, and you're the one God chose for the job.

We turn to an expert for help and while we try to explain or point the way, someone is drowning. Jesus speaks these words and paints the picture of the day we stand before God. He says the people will ask, *"When did we see you hungry and not feed you? When did we see you naked and not give you clothes?"* Then he will answer them, saying, *"Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me"* (Matt. 25:45).

That day at the pool a stranger came to Micah's rescue. This bystander saw Micah drowning and took action. I wish it had been me, but I thank God for that man who chose not to hesitate.

I urge you today, if you see someone drowning, jump into the water. You may not know what to do, but you can't do anything until you get in the water. And something tells me that once you get there, you'll know what to do.

Forgive me, Lord, for the times I sit back and look for someone else to help. Give me the courage to jump into the water when I see someone in need.

## Jacksonville College is Seeking Applicants for President

Jacksonville College is a vibrant, faith-based, liberal arts institution. Founded in 1899, the college is located in Jacksonville, Texas and is affiliated with the BMA of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

The college is currently accepting applications for the office of president. Applicants must have an earned Doctorate degree, with Education or related disciplines preferred. This confident, well-spoken leader must be a conservative, growing Christian with deep experience in institutional development, fundraising and administration. Pastoral ministry-related experience is a plus.

For consideration, please send a cover letter; a personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience, your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references to [dpage@hillcrestbc.com](mailto:dpage@hillcrestbc.com).

**Apply by April 10, 2021 for full consideration.**



## Blessed to be a Blessing

By Gavin Roberts, BMAA Church Planter

What do we do with the blessings God gives us? I heard a pastor once say that only one of two things can happen to your money — you will either lose it or leave it. When God called Abram he said, *"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing"* (Gen. 12:2). God promised that He would bless Abram so that he could be a blessing to others.

The Psalmist echoes this thought: *"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that*

*your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations"* (Psa. 67:1-2). In other words, may God bless us to be a blessing. The people of God are to take the blessings of God and leverage them to make God known!

As we read through the big story of the Bible, we see that God's ultimate blessing to Abraham was the savior who came from his line — Jesus. As sinful men, we could never be good enough to get to God — so God came to us. Jesus, the God-man, lived the perfect life that we could not live and

died the death we deserve. He took our place on the cross and bore God's wrath on Himself. But Jesus didn't stay dead! He rose again in victory over sin and death. When we place our faith in Jesus by submitting our lives under His rule, we are made right with God. The ultimate blessing God gives us is right standing with Him by grace through faith!

God blesses us with the gift of salvation to bless others with the good news of Jesus. What has God blessed you with that you can leverage to bless others? How has God blessed you so that you can make Him known on the earth? We are blessed to be a blessing.

# Building for the Future

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## Special Emphasis 2021

### March & April

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