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SOAR 2021 Announcement

By Chris Vines, SOAR Visionary Leader

(Editor's Note: Watch for the above header in future issues for updates regarding SOAR21.)

We are excited to announce that SOAR 2021 will be a live, in-person conference on July 6-8 in Dallas, Texas! This year's conference will take place at the Hilton Anatole Hotel near downtown Dallas. Expect to see some familiar faces like Aaron Williams as one of our speakers and Soar Collective leading worship. SOAR21 will also have two concerts featuring Building 429 and Flame. We are anticipating a great response, so be sure to register your group now at soarconference.com.

We are aware of the potential

hesitancy some may have traveling with a group to Dallas. As we plan for a great event, safety for our churches and for all participants at SOAR is a top priority. We are working with the hotel to ensure not only a safe, but great experience for all those who come to SOAR21.



SOAR21 will be all about worship. Our theme is Pause because of the need we see in current culture to call teenagers to pause and consider the holiness of God, why He deserves to be worshiped in a biblical way and how our biblical worship of a Holy God should make a kingdom impact in our daily lives. We believe right worship must be biblical worship. After calling upon people to consider the mighty works of God, the Psalmist makes a significant statement in Psalm 46:10 (ESV), "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Our intention at SOAR21 is to be still and thoughtfully consider the greatness of God. Our hope is that teenagers will know that He alone is God and commit to making Him known to all nations.

Words cannot express how thankful we are for the support received from our BMA churches last summer with our online conference. The decision to move forward in that format was far from easy, but your participation proved to be an incredible source of encouragement for all those who



MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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

Tom Lewis has accepted the pastorate of Bradford Baptist Church at Bradford.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Wynne is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, call Britt Johnson at (870) 588-1667 or Scott McClintock at (870) 208-3243.



Keys to A Happy Home

- Give God the first hour of each day. (Mark 1:35)
- Pray in the morning.
- Give God the first day of the week. (I Cor. 16:2)
- Serve in your church to help your community.
- Give God the first portion of your income. (Prov. 3:9) Keep books on what you give to be sure you do not think you are giving more than you actually are.
- Give God the first consideration in every decision. (Matt. 6:33) This includes your choice of house, close friends, work, church, school, etc.
- Give God's Son first place in your heart always. (II Cor. 8:5)
- Live in His presence as though He were the unseen guest in your house. He is, you know! (*Ord L. Morrow, May 3, 2000 Baptist Trumpet*)

worked tirelessly to create an event that honored our Lord and served the teenagers of the BMA.

As we gather together in Dallas, we are confident SOAR21 will be one to remember! The vision that drives us year after year is to lead teenagers to learn the Word, love the church and live sold out, radical lives for King Jesus. Our commitment to you is to honor Jesus in all we do. "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28).



10 Things We Want Our Children to Know



By David Pierce

We can't control our children, and we don't decide the outcome of their lives, but we can be diligent and intentional in how we raise them. Having a clear direction will help move us forward in the process of guiding our daughters to become the women that God sees "precious in His sight." These are my thoughts. These are the goals I have for my daughter, and they could translate to our sons as well:

• **To know God in heart — a daily experience of the Lord in prayer.** God works powerfully in the steady, consistent rhythms of prayer. The more time we spend with God, the more our minds and hearts align with His. Our hearts must be in the grip of God's hands if we want renewal. God has made the process simple: come to Him. Of all the disciplines I desire for my daughter, none is more important than her daily experience of the Lord in prayer.

• **To know God in truth — a fierce reader of the Scriptures.** The Scriptures tell us the truth about the world we live in. They tell us the truth about God, why we are here, who we are and why it matters. They give us the keys to understanding life's genuine purpose. They expose lies and direct our decisions. Through the

See 10 THINGS, Page 8

A New Teenager in the House

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Kristin and I are now parents of a teenage boy! Austin turned 13 at the end of last month and we wanted to do something to challenge him as he begins his teenage years to help him become the man God would have him to be. When we began trying to figure out what to do to mark this milestone, we quickly realized it would not be feasible to have a gathering of some kind as we had originally intended.

In our family, we have always taught our children that there are three priorities in life: God, family and education (career/ministry in the future). We knew that whatever we were able to do as a challenge to Austin would include this as the basic structure as we challenged him to be intentional in his teenage years. Kristin and I used these priorities to breakdown some other important things that Austin would need as he navigated the teenage years on the way to becoming a godly man.

• **God** — We began here with the Word of God as the basis for all guidance and instruction in life as you make God the top priority in your life. For the second

See JOURNEY, Page 4





CENTRAL
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PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President

Board of Trustee Meeting Highlights

The CBC Board of Trustees met Friday and Saturday, March 5–6, with some meeting in person on the CBC campus, while adhering to social distancing guidelines, and with some joining virtually. The three standing committees of the Board (Academic, Advancement and Finance) met on Friday evening to conduct business and hear recommendations from the Executive Leadership Team.

The full board convened on Saturday at 8:30 a.m., again, with some members meeting in person on the CBC campus and some joining the meeting virtually. Board of Trustee member, Ali Chambers, opened the meeting with a scripture reading from Romans 5 and prayer.

Since a majority of the members were joining the meeting virtually, each Vice President and the Faculty Council Moderator prepared video reports that were distributed to the board in advance of the meeting.

During the committee meetings on Friday and/or in the full board meeting on Saturday, reports and updates were given that included:

- A Spring 2021 Housing Report
- A Public Relations Update
- A Property Acquisition Update
- An Annual Giving Update
- A 2021 Scholarship Gala Update
- An Enrollment Report

The following recommendations were approved by the full board:

• Approved adding the following emphases to the traditional BBA degree program: **Business Analytics, Business Information Systems and Management Information Systems.**

- Approved the revision to the Faculty Rank Policy.
- Approved the January 2021 Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures.

In my closing comments to the Board, I discussed pending legislation at the national level, the Equality Act, and how CBC is partnering with other faith-based institutions, such as the CCCU (Council for Christian Colleges & Universities), to advocate instead for the Fairness For All Act. I will be sharing more about this in the coming weeks.

CBC Day 2021 Announced

CBC Day for 2021 has been scheduled for **Sunday, Sept. 12**. We are encouraging churches to set aside this Sunday, or another day which best fits your church calendar, to pray for CBC. Churches are also encouraged to take a one-time offering for the annual fund program, “Gifts that Transform,” and/or make a pledge to give additional offerings over the 12 months to follow. The ultimate goal of the annual “CBC Day” is to fully underwrite the expenses associated with the Bible & Missions Departments and to fund the Ministry Tuition Grant Program — all distinctives of Central Baptist College.

It is my strong desire that the churches of the BMAA come together for one day of our three-month Special Emphasis and see what God can and will do through our people. For more information about hosting a CBC Day in your church or to schedule a CBC Day, please contact Director of Church Relations Duffy Guyton at d guyton@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8920.

Reports from the Churches

Charity, Ward welcomed one by baptism, Keith Lewis, pastor.

Fairview, Jonesboro added one by letter and one by baptism, Gary Henderson, pastor.

Victory, Hampton gained one by letter, Robbie Duncan, pastor.

Opportunities For Service

Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville is seeking a full-time worship pastor/media director. Resumes may be sent to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 212, Nashville, Ark. 71852 or brent.thompson@myimmanuel.com.

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



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Men's Basketball

• **Conway, March 2** — Looking to capture their second American Midwest Conference (AMC) Tournament championship in the last three years, CBC took on the Cougars of Columbia College in the AMC Tournament finals at Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (19-6) accomplished their goal, racing out to a 20-2 lead in the first 8:05 of the game and cruising to an 89-54 win over CC (17-7).

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 2** — The AMC announced their All-Conference teams in a release following the conclusion of the AMC Tournament championship game. Four CBC players — **Tedrick Wolfe, Kelvin Robinson, Zach Hudson and Brevin Brimble** — were selected by the AMC as all-conference participants.

• **Kansas City, Mo., March 4** — After winning the AMC Tournament championship in record fashion, CBC qualified for their fourth straight NAIA National Tournament appearance. The NAIA national selection committee revealed the Mustangs were given a #3 seed and will play the #2 seed Benedictine College from Kansas in Wichita Bracket A. The winner will face the #1 seed Saint Francis of Indiana for the right to go to Kansas City.

Softball

• **Gulf Shores, Ala., March 5** — Playing their final tournament of the regular season, #16 Central Baptist College softball opened play in the Gulf Shores Invitational against Arizona Christian and #12 William Carey. #16 CBC (7-2) split on the first day, run ruling ACU (3-8) 14-2 in game one before dropping game two to WCU (11-5), 7-0.

• **Gulf Shores, Ala., March 6** — Looking to come out of their final regular season tournament with three wins, #16 CBC played Faulkner University and #7 Mobile on the final day of the Gulf Shores Invitational. CBC (8-3) was part of run rules in both games, beating Faulkner 10-2 in the first game and losing 9-1 to Mobile in game two.

Wrestling

• **Park City, Kan., March 5** — Having placed two wrestlers at the NAIA National Wrestling Tournament for the first time in five years, **Ben Freeman** and **Alejandro Mas** both were on the mat for CBC on the opening day of the NAIA National Wrestling Championship. Freeman and Mas were both knocked out in two matches, finishing the wrestling season for the Mustangs.

Baseball

• **Hattiesburg, Miss., March 5** — Playing their first game in eight days, CBC opened a three-game series with the Crusaders of William Carey University at Wheeler Field. CBC

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The Good Old Days

If you are a member of Generation X like me, we are currently living high on the wave of nostalgia that has hit American television/streaming services. For the lover of sitcoms, Fuller House continues the adventures of Full House. Saved by the Bell on Peacock TV shares the adventures of Zack, Kelly, Jessie, Slater and their kids. Even little Punky Brewster is back for more adventures with her family, best friend Cherie and a foster daughter named Izzy.

For action fans, Cobra Kai continues the story of the original Karate Kid movies. The show has become one of the most popular on Netflix. First released in 2018 on the YouTube premium service, it has found a continued life on Netflix. It is the story of Daniel LaRusso and Johnny Lawrence years after their trouble in high school and the 1984 All Valley Karate Tournament. The series uses the same actors and while Pat Morita has passed, his character Mr. Miyagi still plays an important part in the story. In episode nine of season three Ali Mills, the girl that Johnny and Daniel fought over during the first Karate Kid movie, comes back for a visit. Toward the end of the evening, she has a great interaction with Johnny...

Ali: “Sometimes it’s good to visit the past to know where you are now, but you can’t live in the past.”

Johnny: “No. You have to live for today.”

Ali: “And the future, whatever that might bring.”

Too often, we find ourselves living in the past in ministry. We think about the “Good Old Days” and want to live there. Dr. Thom Rainer of Church Answers makes reference to this important concept in his book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. It is a short book and definitely worth the read as you evaluate your own ministry. The main issue is this — we can’t live in the past. God created us to live in the present and aim toward the future to which we are being called.

This tendency to get stuck in days gone by can affect all areas of ministry in the church, but it can be especially devastating in student ministry. Incoming generations are changing, and we must learn how to communicate the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ to them. It may require you to go to some conferences. It may mean reading more. You might even have to sign up for a social media platform that you have been avoiding. We want to continue to connect and communicate with students. For that to happen, we can’t live in the past. We need to meet students where they are and move toward the future together.

What are you doing to reach the next generation for Jesus? Join the conversation at Facebook.com/groups/studentministrymatterscommunity.

Golf

• **Bartlesville, Okla., March 8** — Playing in their first tournament of the spring, CBC was on the course at Hillcrest Country Club for the first 36 holes of the 54-hole Eagle Spring Classic. CBC sits in second place by one shot behind Iowa Western Community College after shooting a two-round score of 605 (+29).



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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.

Revivals

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

Holy Spirit continuing to emphasize? What do you go to bed dreaming about and what do you get up in the morning focused on? Write it down!

Through prayerful planning you can be confident that your vision will be God-initiated. Get the team together with a whiteboard and begin to share God-sized dreams of how your church can carry out His Great Commission. Does it tie to God's mission? Does it ring true with everyone on the team?

Does it require a big step of faith? Does it inspire and create passion? Does it move everyone to action? Consider doing a SWOT analysis where you have four quadrants that address what your **strengths** are, what your **weaknesses** are, what **opportunities** you have and what **threats** there are to the vision.

Make sure you consider who God has given you in your congregation and how they fit into the big picture. God gave you your people for a reason, and part of this journey is equipping them by helping them to better understand how God SHAPED them. What are their **Spiritual gifts** and have they recognized them? What are they passionate about and what has captivated their **Heart**? What distinct **Abilities** do they have that could be leveraged for the sake of the gospel? Do they understand their God-given **Personality** so they can relate to others better?

Lastly, do not forget about their **Experiences** because their background, upbringing, education, job and everyday life experiences, good and bad, can be great inroads to ministries such as Marriage Enrichment, Celebrate Recovery, foster care, and many others. II Corinthians 1:4 reminds us that, "He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

Next, we will tackle steps 5-7 in developing your church's vision!

From the President... Think Globally—Act Locally

Jeff Swart, BMAA President

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—Verna Higgins, Trumpet Photography Club

Seven Steps Toward Vision

God has a specific plan for a specific church, in a specific place, at a specific time. He has a preferred future for your church and a plan for you to follow. Jeremiah 29:11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." This passage is not speaking directly to a church, but it does describe our God, who is always focusing His people on the future. Someone has said, "Learn from the past, hope for the future and live in the present."

John Kotter speaks to having a process that is forward focused: "Leadership is about setting a direction. It's about creating a vision, empowering and inspiring people to want to achieve the vision, and enabling them to do so with energy and speed through an effective strategy. In its most basic sense, leadership is about mobilizing a group of people to jump into a better future." Jesus, the leader of all leaders, said, "I assure you: The one who believes in Me will do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these" (John 14:12).

Our hope is in Christ, and hope is always looking forward and moving forward. Mission is your compass which keeps you moving toward God's true north — go and make disciples! Vision is the travel brochure that describes a clear picture of God's preferred future for His church. That vision develops through a process as we seek Him and discover His heart for the church that He has placed us in for such a time as this. The vision should consume us as it moves from what we should be doing to where

it becomes what we must do. Vision produces action.

First, we must seek Him through a season of intentional personal prayer. A vision is born in the heart of one who desires what God wants more than any particular personal preferences. Consider setting aside a week, or even two, to spend extra time in prayer seeking to discern His direction. Spend some time fasting and plan a prayer retreat where you ask God for clarity of vision and the courage to follow through on what He says. Begin praying for Him to provide you a coalition of the willing to help you move His vision forward.

After you have personally spent an intentional time in prayer you should ask your leaders and team to join you in a season of prayer. If you prayed for a week, ask them to spend two weeks in prayer individually and also schedule times to pray together. Do not bypass this process! Refuse to move forward until this has been accomplished. Ask everyone for a minimum of an extra 15 minutes every day to pray specifically on what God is revealing to you about His preferred future for your church. Ask your team and leaders to pray for clarity and unity.

Now it is time to begin brainstorming. During this season of individual and group prayer, make sure you journal and take notes about where you believe God is leading your church. Pray for discernment on what is a passing thought and what might be something to hold on to because of the Holy Spirit's nudge. What is it that you cannot get off your mind? What is captivating your heart? What is the

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By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

**Journey
with
Jeff**

(continued from page 1)

part of this area, we wanted to focus on some practical tips to avoid common obstacles and trials that can keep God from being the priority in the teenage years.

• Family — The first thing we wanted to emphasize in family is the importance of representing your family name — both earthly and heavenly. We also wanted to begin to paint the picture of a future family that he would have some day, and when the time came (many years down the road) to begin looking for the right qualities that need to be present in a future wife.

• Education (career/ministry) — In this area, we focused on how the priorities begin with God and filter down to this area as a way to see that God is the center of it all. God and family should always come before career. We also focused on being a servant leader that looks for opportunities to serve the Lord no matter where the Lord takes you in regard to education and career or ministry.

Once we had these areas organized, we began to think of people that had or were investing in Austin's life. I sent out a letter to each of them, along with the organized structure, and asked them to speak on a specific area. Beyond the focus we had, I just asked them to be practical and include Scripture as the foundation. Since we were not able to meet in person, each person recorded a video that we could share with Austin. The benefit here is that he has the videos available to come back to and watch later from these people that care about him.

Instead of focusing on one event, we decided to make the whole weekend surrounding his birthday a focus of this challenge. The weekend started with a Friday night mother/son date night. Kristin introduced the idea of the weekend and a few things that he could expect as the weekend progressed. On Saturday night, his sisters, Abby and Autumn, took Austin out and used the opportunity to talk about having good relationships with the opposite sex. To close out the weekend, I took Austin out for dinner, and we talked about the things he had heard over the weekend from the videos and reinforced that making the right choices will not happen by accident, but rather with intentionality.

After each video, we gave Austin a gift to help him remember the point. For the guidance of God's Word, he received a compass. For the tools needed to navigate the teenage years, he got a toolkit. For the importance of representing your name, it was a framed Herring family crest with the background of the name. For the importance of choosing the right spouse one day, a ring to wear on his ring finger. For understanding God as the priority that leads to a future where you will be protector, provider and spiritual leader of your home, a cross keychain with a house key. For the importance of looking for opportunities to be a servant leader no matter where you are, he received a stainless-steel bracelet that said, "Let your light shine. Matt. 5:16." Finally, after talking about the importance of fighting to become who God wants you to be, I presented him with a sword that will hang on the wall in his room as a reminder to always stand for what is right.

This may not be something you want to do for your children, but let me challenge you as a parent, to be intentional about setting goals for your children. As the saying goes, "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." Then comes the hard part — we must live out these goals in our lives, so they see that it is more than just talk.

I am thankful to have an amazing helpmate in Kristin that God provided who helps remind all of us in our family of what our priorities are — God, family and then education/career/ministry.

Special Emphasis Update

Please continue to join with us as we seek to "Build for the Future" by raising the support that we must have in order to continue the work of the *Baptist Trumpet*. God is good, and we know He has a plan. If you have any questions about the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet* or would like for me to come and share with your church or group meeting, please let me know.

2021 Special Emphasis • Goal - \$45,000

Donor	Given
Pat & Diane Spriggs	\$500
Chapel Hill Baptist Church, New Edinburg	\$500
Nancy Stevens	\$250
Jim Tapley	\$30
Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier	\$1,000
Total	\$2,280

Trumpet Notes

By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Student's Free Speech Case Will Continue

In an 8-1 vote, the Supreme Court ruled March 8 that \$1 in damages is enough to revive the lawsuit of a Georgia college student who said his free speech rights were violated in 2016 as he attempted to share the gospel. Chike Uzuegbunam's case stemmed from his attempts to discuss his faith while he was a student at Georgia Perimeter College in Lawrenceville, a suburb northeast of Atlanta. After he filed suit, the college changed its free speech policy, leading to favorable rulings for the school by a federal judge and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. According to the lower courts, the policy revision plus the fact that Uzuegbunam has since graduated, made the case moot. However, the Supreme Court disagreed in what became a discussion over "nominal damages."

Alliance Defending Freedom filed the brief on behalf of Uzuegbunam and Joseph Bradford, a fellow Georgia Perimeter College student who said he decided not to speak out for his beliefs after witnessing the treatment Uzuegbunam received. In arguments presented Jan. 12 to the Court, ADF General Counsel Kristen Waggoner said Georgia Gwinnett authorities had caused "concrete injuries" in attempting to prevent the students from sharing their faith. (baptistpress.com)

19 States File Abortion Funding Motion

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and 18 other states are fighting back against President Joe Biden's plan to force taxpayers to fund abortions through the Title X program. On March 8, Yost's office said he filed a joint motion to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of 19 states in regard to the federal program. The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a case about President Donald Trump's rule prohibiting Title X funding to abortion groups. But Biden, who supports taxpayer funding for abortions, likely will refuse to defend the rule, Yost wrote in the motion. He asked that Ohio and the 18 other states be allowed to intervene in the case and defend the rule.

Most people oppose taxpayer funding for elective abortions, and Title X "reflects this consensus," the motion continues. Joining Ohio in the motion are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

The Title X program provides family planning services to low-income individuals, and Planned Parenthood, which does about 40% of all abortions

in the U.S., was a major participant in the program — until recently. Under Trump, Planned Parenthood dropped out of the program, prioritizing its abortion work over family planning services. As a result, the billion-dollar abortion chain was defunded of about \$60 million. Biden is expected to overturn the rule, but a Supreme Court decision in favor of the rule could set a helpful precedent for future pro-life presidents to re-establish it. A recent Marist poll found that, by a double-digit margin, a majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion (54% to 39%). (lifenews.com)

Radical Bill HR1 Would Suppress Free Speech

On March 4, voting 220-210, with no Republican support, the House of Representatives approved HR 1, the so-called "For the People Act of 2021." The purpose of HR 1 is to discourage, as much as possible, disfavored groups (such as the National Right to Life Committee) from communicating with supporters about officeholders. This bill would expose citizens who support such efforts to harassment and intimidation, and it would smother organizations in multiple, burdensome layers of record keeping and reporting requirements — all backed by the threat of civil and criminal sanctions.

Enactment of HR 1 would not be a curb on corruption, but is itself a type of corruption. The bill is an abuse of the

lawmaking power, where incumbent lawmakers will be able to employ the threat of criminal sanctions, among other deterrents, to reduce private speech regarding the actions of the lawmakers themselves. The bill would also codify a vague and expansive definition of "the functional equivalent of express advocacy," that applies to communications that "when taken as a whole, it can be interpreted by a reasonable person only as advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for election for Federal office."

The bill also would destroy the bipartisan composition of the Federal Election Commission by eliminating a commissioner — upsetting the current balance. The changes to the FEC would significantly increase the likelihood that the agency's decisions would be politically motivated. (lifenews.com)

United Methodist Conservatives Detail Plans for a Breakaway

Conservative leaders within the United Methodist Church unveiled plans March 1 to form a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church, with a doctrine that does not recognize same-sex marriage. The move could hasten the long-expected breakup of the UMC over differing approaches to LGBTQ inclusion. For now, the UMC is the largest mainline Protestant church in the U.S. and second only to the Southern Baptist Convention among all U.S. Protestant churches.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the UMC's General Conference — at which the schism would be debated — has been postponed for two con-

See NOTES, Page 5

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Just Thinking...

By Tom Mitchell
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—Nick Jacobson, Trumpet Photography Club

When Sadness Turns To Gladness

The Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 has been with us here in Arkansas for one year. It has wreaked havoc on thousands of lives, taking loved ones from families from across our state. Much sadness has been left in its trail.

Hundreds have lost their jobs, causing tremendous difficulty for so many families. As of this writing, 5,343 Arkansans have lost their lives because of this dread pandemic. Schools and institutions of higher learning have been affected. Many children have not been in a classroom with their friends in over a year, and many of those students have become greatly depressed as a result. College and university sports have been relegated to playing before cardboard cutouts and empty gymnasiums. Many schools canceled their athletic events altogether.

Fear, anger, frustration and indignation have been experienced by citizens from every walk of life. The medical professionals, first responders and government leaders have found themselves working tirelessly to improve conditions for our state, all the while being insulted and ridiculed because of the very things I just mentioned. It's been a time of sadness for one long year.

Far too many families have been prevented from being with their loved ones in nursing homes, hospitals and hospice facilities — never being able to say goodbye to those who died because of COVID-19. Such heartbreak sadness!

But adaptation has also been evident. Who would have ever thought one could walk into a grocery, a home improvement store or a medical clinic wearing a mask? What seemed foolish a year ago has now become the norm. School children sit apart from their classmates and, along with their teachers, wear their masks from the start of the school day until it's time to go home. Our educators need to be commended for making learning a good experience despite the difficulties that it takes to teach under the circumstances.

Yet, according to Governor Asa Hutchinson there is a light at the end of the tunnel! By the end of this month, if statistics continue the way they are going, we will be seeing sadness turn to gladness.

It has been a difficult year for us who worship the Lord. Churches shut down almost immediately in March of 2020 but thank the Lord for technology. Media forms like Zoom, GoToMeeting and Facebook Live have enabled believers to see and hear from their worship teams, Sunday School teachers and pastors week after week. Although attendance was limited, social distancing was practiced and masks were worn, having only Sunday morning services became the norm this past year. Churches that have always had Sunday evening services and midweek meals and Bible studies, found themselves again either having no services or watching via the media that I previously mentioned. While some of this was very good, it also produced feelings of sadness because believers could not interact with one another in the houses of worship.

Recently, our Governor stated that now the state is no longer under mandate, but guidelines (not quite as strict.) He said that if hospitalizations and new COVID-19 cases continued as they are now, the mask mandate will be taken away. While some might balk at such an idea, no one has to stop wearing the mask if they feel uncomfortable. Venues, including churches, will not be relegated to only a small percentage being able to attend. Singing, praying, giving and preaching will once again return to "the new normal" in Arkansas churches.

As I have conversed with believers this past week, excitement is beginning to mount. Even this past Sunday, I received reports from churches that attendance was the best it has been in many months. This is due to many senior saints having received the vaccine combating COVID-19. They feel good about returning to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ. Little by little, we are seeing sadness turn to gladness.

I have pondered this scripture often in recent days: "*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*" (Psa. 122:1).

I am looking forward to seeing more and more people return to worshiping together in their churches, to join their hearts and voices in praise and to fellowship with each other. That is when we know God is turning sadness into gladness.



BMA Pastor's Widow Dies

Ester Mae Farmer Laird, 93 of Dorsey, Miss. passed away March 3. She was a member of East Fulton Baptist Church and was a supportive minister's wife for 74 years alongside her late husband, Grover. She enjoyed cooking not only for her family, but for church functions as well.

Survivors include: her daughters, Fran Wolski (Tommy) Thomas of Counce, Tenn.; Evelyn Dyer of Crandall, Texas; Margaret Sheffield (John) Butler of Fulton, Miss.; and Nancy (Tommy) Edwards of Petal, Miss.; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held March 6 at East Fulton Baptist Church with Dewitt Bain, Roger Laird and Kevin Clayton officiating. Burial was at Keyes Cemetery under the direction of Senter Funeral Home.



BMA Pastor's Mother Dies

Naoma Ellen Way Heuermann Birkner, 95 of Conroe, Texas died Feb. 26. She was the last surviving charter member of Northside Baptist Church in Conroe, where she taught the Ladies Class in Sunday School for many years and held other positions in the church throughout her 75 years of her membership.

Survivors include: her siblings, Delwin Way and Neva (Billy) Steiner, both of Kerrville, Texas; four sons: Philip (Linda) of Conroe; BMA pastor and former missionary to Ghana, West Africa Paul (Kerri) of Teague, Texas; Tommy (Janie) of Conroe; and Dennis (Jennifer) of Conroe; 11 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held March 6 at McNutt Funeral Home in Conroe, Texas followed by graveside services at Waller Cemetery in Grimes County.

Jesus Modeled Compassion for Us

By Mike McEuen, Pastor
New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32)

Jesus was moved with compassion as He dealt with many kinds of people. When the mothers came with their children and the disciples tried to get them to leave, Jesus said, "Suffer them to come to me and forbid them not. For of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). He took them in His arms and blessed them.

When crowds were hungry and the disciples said, "Send them away," Jesus said, "No! We shall feed them." Then He fed 5,000 with a little boy's lunch of five loaves of bread and two small fish.

When the blind man cried out for mercy and his friends said, "Hush, He does not have time for you," Jesus stopped and said, "Bring him to Me."

The kind and tenderhearted Jesus was moved by compassion. He was that way in all of His life, and He was that way in His death. When those who crucified Jesus railed on Him and blasphemed Him, and when the thief by His side reviled Him, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He was kind, tenderhearted and forgiving.

Jesus is still the same in heaven today — kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

The Hebrew writer said so: *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"* (Heb. 4:14-15).

Jesus knows all about us — tried, tempted, suffering, burdened. No one goes through any experience, not even you and me, but what Jesus has already drunk that same bitter cup. He even tasted death for every man.

Deaths

Troy Waller, 74 of Emerson, passed away Mar. 5. He was a member of Brister Baptist Church.

Clark Stevenson, 78 of Guy, passed away Mar. 4. He was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Sharmon Lynnette Johnston, 63 of Greenbrier, passed away March 3. She was a member of LifeSong Baptist Church.

James Carthal Jones, 82 of North Little Rock, passed away Feb. 26. He was a member of Charity Baptist Church in Ward.

Lyman Lester Norment, 71 of Magnolia, passed away Jan. 30. He was a member of College View Baptist Church.

The kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, understanding and compassion of Jesus are offered to every one of us. These things are our example to follow and put into practice in our lives.

We are to be like Jesus. *"Be ye therefore followers of God"* (Eph. 5:1) — mimics, imitators of God. *"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"* (Eph. 4:32)

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

secutive years and is now scheduled to take place in Minneapolis starting in late August of 2022. Keith Boyette, a Methodist elder from Virginia who chairs the Global Methodist initiative, said he and his allies do not want to wait that long to formally leave the UMC. They have asked that the topic of schism be added to the tightly limited agenda of a special one-day General Conference to be conducted online May 8.

If the issue is not addressed on May 8, Boyette said he and his allies would be willing to delay until the 2022 General Conference, but only if UMC centrists and progressives remain committed to previous agreements about a breakup. Any lessening of those commitments might prompt the conservatives to bring the new church into existence, Boyette said.

On a new website launched March 1, the Global Methodist organizers said the denomination would adhere to "the traditional understanding of Christian marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman and as God's intended setting for human sexual expression." (baptistpress.com)

Kidnapped Nigerian Students Released; Others Vulnerable

A surge in school kidnappings in northwestern Nigeria is blamed loosely on bandits rather than clearly defined Islamic terrorist groups, according to news reports, but puts Christians at greater risk of harm than Muslims. At least one Christian student was killed in a recent spate of kidnappings blamed on bandits, *Morning Star News* reported. *Morning Star* identified Benjamin Habila, whom bandits shot dead as he tried to escape, as one of at least eight Christians among 43 people abducted Feb. 17 from the Government Science College in Rafi county, Niger state.

Bandits, some of whom falsely claimed in videos to be members of Boko Haram, are blamed for at least four kidnappings in Kamfara, Katsina and Niger states — predominantly Muslim areas — since late December 2020. About 600 students and others have been released in these kidnappings. Most recently, unidentified abductors released 279 schoolgirls Mar. 2, who were kidnapped Feb. 26 from their boarding school in Jangebe, Zamfara state, BBC News reported. (baptistpress.com)

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accounting and human resources costs. The act also simplifies the application and forgiveness process for loans under \$150,000.

Guidance and rules regarding the revived PPP loan program continue to evolve. Visit sba.gov or treasury.gov for the latest information.

• **Emergency Paid Sick Leave Benefits**—The Supplemental Relief Act removed for eligible employers the mandatory component of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) and the Emergency Family Medical Leave Act (EFMLA). Eligible employers in the original legislation were defined as those with under 500 employees.

Any employee who hasn't used up the 80 hours of EPSL or up to 12 weeks of EFMLA before Dec. 31, 2020, will forfeit that paid sick leave benefit.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, employers are not required to offer this benefit, but they may choose to offer the benefit.

Tax credit reimbursement on quarterly federal payroll tax payments is extended through March 31 for those employers who voluntarily opt-in and provide to their employees the EPSL and/or the EFMLA beginning on Jan. 1.

• **Economic Injury Disaster Loan**—The Supplemental Relief Act added additional funds for grants under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Under this program, eligible businesses, independent contractors and self-employed individuals are eligible for up to \$10,000 in grants which are not required to be repaid if recipients meet certain economic requirements.

• **Unemployment Benefits**—Many churches and related nonprofit ministries are exempt from paying into their state unemployment funds. Accordingly, their employees may not qualify for state unemployment benefits. The CARES Act (March 2020) addressed this issue by creating a new pandemic emergency unemployment assistance benefit which provided unemployment coverage to individuals, like many church employees, who did not qualify for state unemployment benefits.

• **Second Draw PPP Loans**—The Supplemental Relief Act creates a second PPP loan for employers with under 300 employees. To qualify, employers must have: spent all of their first PPP loan amount for the proper purposes and sustained at least a 25% loss of income in the first, second, third or fourth quarter of 2020.

Second Draw PPP Loans are capped at the lesser of \$2 million or 2.5 times the monthly average payroll costs incurred in a 12-month period (2019, 2020 or 12 months before seeking the loan). As noted above, camps may qualify for loans worth 3.5 times their monthly average payroll costs.

Under this retroactive legislation, employers have more flexibility on how they can spend PPP funds for non-payroll expenses. For example, covered expenses now include money spent on software, cloud computing expenses,

The Supplemental Relief Act extends by 11 weeks two of the pandemic unemployment programs. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (PUA) and Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (PEUC) were initially created by the CARES Act and were set to expire on December 31, 2020. The supplemental relief package also offers a \$300 weekly federal enhancement in unemployment benefits through March 14.

The Supplemental Relief Act increases the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim regular state unemployment benefits plus the PEUC or PUA to 50 weeks.

• **Tax Considerations**—Employers who elected to defer their workers' payroll taxes under an August 2020 executive action will have until the end

Spotlight On

Missions

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(L-R) Haley, William, Finley & Gavin Roberts

Gavin & Haley Roberts • Morgan County Utah

We are excited to see a BMA church plant headed to Utah! It is one of the few states in the U.S. that is considered unreached, meaning it has a population that is less than 2% evangelical Christian. The LDS church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) has had a stronghold in Utah for decades, and there is little gospel presence. This is especially true in the more rural areas.

According to an article recently published in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, over 83% of Morgan County's residents are members of the LDS Church. Until the last couple of years, there have not been any religious meetings of any kind in Morgan County that were not LDS. There is a small plant in the northern part of the county in the town of Mountain Green, however, our plant will be the only option in the town of Morgan. The county has a population of over 12,000 residents and is growing rapidly. As you can see, there is a great need for a church in Morgan! It is the smallest county in Utah, geographically speaking.

Our hope, by God's grace, is to see a church planted in Morgan. From that church plant, we hope to plant another church in the next town to the south, which is Coalville, that has a population of around 2,000 residents and is another town without any sort of evangelical work.

Planting churches in Utah is a slow process. There is a reason it is a state in great need of gospel-preaching churches. It is a difficult place to minister. It has been said that it takes the average LDS church member 7 years from the time they hear the gospel to the time they are saved. For an LDS church member to hear the gospel, be saved and become active, giving, serving church member takes an average of 10 years. As a result of this, we have to be committed to the work for the long haul. We need your prayers!

We appreciate the support of the BMA in taking the gospel where it is not! Please join us in praying for God to do a great work for his glory and the good of the people in Morgan County, Utah! (wgavin.roberts@gmail.com).

of 2021 to increase their employees' withholding to pay back the taxes that are owed.

The Supplemental Relief Act affects special charitable contributions initially put into place in 2020. The act extends the special charitable contribution provisions enacted for 2020 through 2021.

Additional tax benefits are now extended into 2021 and include: Above-the-line educator expense deduction for COVID-19-related expenses through 2021, credit for paid sick and family leave enacted as part of the CARES Act through March 31 and CARES Act employee retention credit through June 30, 2021.

• **Financial Relief for Schools, Colleges, and Universities** — The

Supplemental Relief Act also provides some emergency resources allocated to governors for educational institutions. The discretionary education funds will take the form of grants and apply to K-12 schools, colleges and universities.

A special reserve of funds is set aside for non-public schools. Emergency grants can be awarded to schools significantly impacted by COVID-19 for educational services, support and ongoing functionality. It is up to the governor of each state to set up an application process. Be on the lookout for details about the application process in your state.

Ministry leaders are encouraged to speak with local tax and legal professionals for guidance on how the new legislation impacts your organization.

CARES Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief

COVID-19 Relief Act, Round Two Highlights

A coronavirus aid package Congress passed in December 2020 continues to benefit Christian ministries. We are posting updates as additional details become available.

Overview

On Dec. 27, 2020, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 ("Supplemental Relief Act") was signed into law. The act provides for additional financial aid to small businesses, nonprofits, individuals, schools and other organizations. The Supplemental Relief Act includes some enhanced unemployment benefits, small business loans, support for vaccine distribution and other benefits.

Eligibility for Religious Organizations

In a 2020 publication, the Small Business Administration (SBA) clarified that faith-based organizations are eligible for its loans provided under the CARES Act (March 2020). The new Supplemental Relief Act affirms that the SBA properly clarified that churches and religious organizations, including Christian schools and camps, are eligible for loans made under the CARES Act.

Supplemental Relief Act Benefits

Some highlights of the Supplemental Relief Act that may apply to Christian ministries, non-profits, schools, camps, colleges and universities include:

• **Additional PPP loans** — The Supplemental Relief Act revives the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from the 2020 CARES Act. About \$284 billion has been earmarked for this round of PPP loans, which are available until March 31 or until all of the allocated funds have been disbursed. The SBA began accepting loan applications the week of Jan. 11.



Missionaries

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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Almost Back Where We Started

Well, it has been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives. All areas of life have been affected, and none more than mission work — not only here, but all over the world. As if planting churches in the current post-Christian era was not already tough enough, the closings and restrictions have been tremendous obstacles to the mission works in process.

I noticed Sunday morning at Connection Point there were only a couple of handouts left, and I commented to Chad, "That looks good." He came back with, "Yes, and it would be better if we were still printing as many as we did before the virus." The setbacks have been many and understandable, yet all of our mission points appear to be, if not growing, at least maintaining to a certain degree — pastors will know what I mean.

On Tuesday, March 9, we will be meeting with all the missionaries at our spring Advisory Committee and directors meeting. It is my prayer that we might be an encouragement to them.

It appears things may begin to return to normal, or at least something that looks somewhat like it. With some of the restrictions being lifted concerning social distancing (outreach is a mission's main tool), we should experience some positive benefits.

Remember, if you are traveling around one of our missionaries call ahead and make plans to drop by for a few minutes. I can think of nothing that would be more uplifting for them than to know someone is thinking about them. Sending cards and notes is another way to make contact, and you could always set up a time they could come and share their work with you.

For the Sake of Souls.

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "We had a pretty good week at Connection Point. Our Wednesday night groups were well attended, and Sunday was a good day with a good crowd in worship and some guests back with us.

"We have seen some growth in our discipleship and leadership development over the past few months. We are thankful to see God raising up men and women to mentor others. I believe the health and future of our church depends on it.

"Plans are progressing for our Egg Hunt. Last year, we were unable to have it; this year, our plan is to host the entire event outside. We are going to set up a stage and sound system and let families gather to hear the story of Jesus before the hunt begins. Pray that God will work everything out and give us some amazing weather."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "Another Sunday is under our belt here at the mission. We are believing God for a real turnaround here in Crawford County. We are optimistic about our future growth and are working with several new families that seem to be very good prospects.

"Our Sunday services are making a gradual return to pre-pandemic days, and our Wednesday night services are doing very well. God is going to do a great thing in the months to come

here at the mission.

"Please keep us in your prayers and we promise to remember you in our prayers. God bless the BMA."

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "We thank God for the opportunity to continue blessing the community. This week, we took two recliners to the fire department, who will soon be inaugurating a new building in our community. We have an excellent relationship with them, which makes us very happy.

"For those who come to collect food for the first time, we invite them to come inside and check among the donations we have received to find something they can use. It was interesting to receive the visit of Stephanie Hubbard. We invited her to choose something that she could use in her house. In view of her being pregnant, we got a chair for her to sit comfortably. We could see the satisfaction in her face and the care with which she searched, as she chose what she could best serve her. As she left the temple, she expressed her gratitude and told us that this is what she believes the church should be doing — serving the community and not just the members of her congregation. Stephanie also serves the community through a Facebook page where she connects people in need with other people and organizations that could help. It's amazing how God connects us.

"Gabriel may always struggle with certain things in his life due to his heart condition and autism, but he knows what God has done for him through Jesus Christ. We cannot thank you all enough for your prayers for Gabriel periodically throughout the past 17 years. As you read this, please pray that

"On Monday last week, we distributed 100 boxes with products; and on Friday we received a donation of baby food, wipes, disposable diapers, baby shampoo and milk powder on the same day we started to share with the community. We also shared with Gran Comisión Mission 50 boxes with products, and part of the baby stuff we received.

"On Saturday, Sayra had a Bible study meeting with a group of women. Among those present were 17-year-old Rossy, who is visiting the US; Kimberlyn, 8 (Karina's daughter); and Sofia, 8 (Karla's daughter) and all three received Christ as their Lord and Savior. Glory to God! Thank you for your prayers, and please keep praying for this work of God."

Life Journey, Fort Smith: Darrin Smith writes, "What a great week to be a missionary! We had one profession of faith and will be baptizing some soon. The young man who trusted Jesus has had a lot of questions over the last several months. It was amazing to see him come to understand that he was lost and needed a Savior. The Lord leads, convicts and saves.

"Sometimes, we as adults, get in a hurry to see our students and even our own children come to know Christ. We must be careful not to rush them into making a decision. God's timing is always perfect."

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, "This week is special for my family as we celebrate our oldest son's 17th birthday. Many of you reading this article prayed fervently for Gabriel when he was born with several heart defects. My wife and I are convinced that the prayers of God's people are what made every birthday possible.

"God has used many doctors and surgeons through four surgeries and several smaller procedures to 'fix' our son's heart. Much greater than that, about eight years ago, God alone healed Gabriel's spiritual heart. As he moves into manhood, he has physical scars to show what he has been through. He also has a tremendous desire to help others who struggle through some of the challenges he has faced.

"Gabriel may always struggle with certain things in his life due to his heart condition and autism, but he knows what God has done for him through Jesus Christ. We cannot thank you all enough for your prayers for Gabriel periodically throughout the past 17 years. As you read this, please pray that

God will continue to use him to reach others with the message of Christ."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "Thank God, little by little, the Berean Groups (cells) are being activated. The group that meets on Baseline, in Alexander and the group of the Vidal family have yet to be activated. I ask you to pray for everyone, but especially that of the Vidal family, all of them made their decision for Christ, but it has been difficult to continue with them. Pray that the enemy does not remove the seed that has been sown in them and of fruit in their time.

"Part of my ministry I develop with Novo (novo.org) is that every first Monday of the month we dedicate the whole morning to pray — we call it 'The First Fruits.' The idea is to offer our first time of the month to pray and have a retreat with God to hear His voice and direction for the month. This year, I renewed my affiliation with the ministry of the 'Baseball Chapel.' Last year, because of the pandemic, there was no season in the minor leagues.

"Every week, I try to be intentional in meeting people because each person I meet is a very good opportunity to build a bridge of friendship and to pray and seek the direction of the Holy Spirit. For three months, I have had a new barber, and we have talked about spiritual life many times. His name is David Romero, and he has a wife and three children. I see his interest in seeking God, but something prevents him. Also, Víctor Martínez is a Venezuelan that I met, and he works for the Little Rock School District. He is in search of God, and we have had opportunities to speak. As I often tell you, let's pray, pray and pray. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "It was another sad week for us as Karen's mother passed away, three weeks after her father. Her graveside service is today. Even in the grief and sadness of this loss, there are many positives — neither of them is suffering anymore, they are both with Jesus and His Glory is revealed in them. *'For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'* (Rom 8:18). I believe that many friends and family have drawn closer to God in this time, and we have all certainly drawn closer to each other. We know that we will see them again.

"Thank you for your prayers; they mean so much to us, and they hold us up."

Not Alone, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "This last week was amazing and hard. At the beginning of the week, I made a commitment to cast my anxiety upon God and have the grace to get through issues. Once I committed to that, God allowed me to be tested many times this week. I am so thankful that DeAnna and I saw the need to pray for the week and my response to my schedule being consistently changed or surprise items being added to my daily routines.

"Amazing amounts of work got

done. I made several new contacts that can help move the ministry forward. We have a clearer path to doing ministry at the University of Arkansas.

"We had an amazing time of fellowship with a couple who owns a local coffee shop and their kids. I was able to witness to two people in the coffeeshop on Thursday.

"The Wednesday Night Bible Study with the Board-gaming Christians was amazing. My in-house Bible study on Friday Night has jumped into an apologetics study of Genesis.

"Please continue to pray for us, as we work, we also have felt Darkness pushing back at us. God has been so good and continues to show Himself faithful throughout our time here.

"We have crossed the 90+ days of being on the field, and I am so excited to see what God is doing and what He has already done. We had an amazing time fellowshipping with the atheistic family that we have been praying over, and there are plans in place to meet with them again soon.

"We had a terrible plumbing problem spring up but, thankfully, it was not that serious as much as disgusting and inconvenient. My son prayed, 'God, Satan is in the toilet, and I need you (God) to go into the toilet and fix it.' God sent a plumber our way to do just that. I love hearing the fervent prayers of my children for the lost and for situations that we are going through.

"I had a great meeting with an agnostic who loves to play board games and is very curious about the ministry/church that we are beginning. We had an hour conversation about some of the ins and outs, and he reached out to me again this morning to tell me about some interesting opportunities to meet more people in the area. Pray for God's wisdom and protection over these meetings.

"Friday evening, we had another amazing Bible study. I did come down with some severe allergies. (I am not a fan of the spring or late fall.) My throat has a frog in it and I need some relief! The kids are excited to be able to go back outside again and are playing with our neighbors. We are still working on some inroads there, but there is a wall that seems to have been put up. Pray that God will tear it back down.

"DeAnna has been having some great fellowship opportunities and a contact that may want to start a homeschooling co-op with her. We are going back into another busy week, and we look forward to your prayers and support as we go forward."



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.

10 THINGS (Continued From Page 1)

Scriptures, we understand our sin and our need for grace. If there is one skill I will pass to my daughter, she will be a fierce reader of the Scriptures.

• **To know true beauty — a reflection of God's image.** Little girls love to dress up. I love it. But for my daughter to clothe herself with the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit is in God's sight, precious and beautiful. From God's perspective, beauty is clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. I want her to know that her life is a reflection of God's image, and to be beautiful is to reflect Him.

• **To know true grit — a partner as God's image.** When God created humanity in His image, He gave them a vocation to "rule" the earth and subdue it. This is work-language. Work is valued by God and expected of us. It is a good and godly aspect of our lives, and it matters deeply to God. Therefore, it matters that we train our children to labor as God's image-bearers and reflect His character, purpose and will through our work. We are partners with Him, bringing His will on earth through the work He gives us.

• **To know genuine joy — a servant of others.** There is great satisfaction and joy in serving others. Our purpose as God's image is manifested in real time when we give our time and energy to the poor. By "poor," I don't only

mean an exclusive term of economic deficiency, but I also have in mind also those who are pushed out into the margins of society. Some of us are rich in material assets while poor in spirit, but still our hearts become full in the moments we serve others. I can't wait for my daughter to experience the joy in being a servant of others.

• **To know healthy humility — a servant of God.** From infancy, we are treated like a god. All reality is centered on us. The idea that we are not God and that we are meant to serve God must take shape at some point. Making my daughter's life all about her would destroy her. Those with a sense of healthy humility don't think of themselves as a god. Instead, they think of themselves as servants of God. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

• **To know life's purpose — a passion for success.** Success is defined in many ways. The tragedy of so many is not that they are successful, but they are successful in life's wrong aspects. We want our children to focus and give their energy toward life elements with the most significant meaning and value, not things that will eventually fade. Ultimately, the only thing that lasts forever is Jesus and his church. If her passion for Christ steers her vision for success then she will obtain authentic, sustainable victory. True success is being a servant of Jesus.

• **To know her sin — a hopeless offender.** I want my daughter to un-

derstand that she is a sinful person who deserves God's judgment. Highlighting our sinfulness heightens the need for a Savior and illuminates God's goodness. To taste that the Savior is good, we must first taste the bitterness of our sin. Of course, I'll demonstrate my faults to her through my own sin, but I will ask forgiveness from her and use this as a model of how we ask God for His and show how we all need to be forgiven.

• **To know God's grace — a hopeful endeavor.** The journey of following Jesus is an exciting one. It ends well, and I want my daughter to know that. I want her to dance straight into the future in the safety of God's love and providence — to have joy all the way to the end, knowing that she is experiencing God's grace and that nothing can bring her down, not even death itself. There is hope in our journey of faith. It surely ends "happily ever after."

• **To watch me be who I want her to be.** Most importantly, I want my daughter to see me be an example of a godly man and a true follower of Jesus. I want to show her the character of Christ by how I live and treat her and how I treat others. I want her to see what I value. Parenting is more "caught than taught" and I intend to capitalize on this as much as I am able, because what she sees me do, she will do. She repeats my every move. Now, all of a sudden, my biggest goal for her is me! It's my prayer that she will follow me as I follow Jesus.

Maybe I'm naïve. I'm an idealist, sure. Will I be disappointed when things don't turn out the way I expect? No. Nothing turns out as expected. But that won't stop me from doing everything I can to ensure that my daughter grows up to be a godly, life-giving woman of faith and beauty, a woman passionately pursuing success according to God's will.

I will see my daughter again even after I am gone, Lord willing. Not even death can separate those who are in Christ. Words are inadequate to describe my eagerness for the day my daughter becomes my sister in the faith. Of all the goals I have for my daughter, none compares to welcoming her as my sister in Christ.

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