

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

www.baptisttrumpet.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 81

April 28, 2021 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 31



## North Little Rock Church Closes Doors, Leaves a Legacy

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

The membership of Oak Grove Baptist Church in North Little Rock had dwindled down to only four active members, all over the age of 50. They knew it was time to do something different, but there was a passion in the heart of the church to leave a legacy in the community. For about a year and a half, they were searching and praying

for a way to continue the legacy and ministry of the church. Pastor Richard Ramsey began to have conversations with other pastors who were already invested in the community.

Through those conversations, and with the desire to leave a lasting legacy, the church made the difficult decision to close their doors after over 55 years. Oak Grove Baptist Church has a great legacy in the community and has been pastored over the years by some well-known men, including: former *Trumpet* Editor C.C. Bishop, who helped organize the church; the late Richard Walters, Jurl Mitchell, Jesse Thomas and Ron Mitchell; current Central Baptist College professors Dr. Joel Slayton and Dr. Virgil Porter; and other pastors, Burton Herring, Johnnie Hoffmann, Rodger Cole, Eugene Johnson, Lee Brown, Jimmy Brown, Richard Rodgers, Coyce Couch, Chris Maynard, Paul Boliou and Gene Craig.

Bro. Ramsey and the church have a great love for the community and as a result, they voted to “pay it forward” and continue their legacy in their community by donating the church property to the non-profit arm of a sister church. This will allow the ministry to be expanded and continue the legacy of Oak Grove Baptist Church in the community.

Graves Memorial Baptist Church (GMBC) is located less than two miles away from the Oak Grove property. A few years ago, GMBC started a non-profit organization that is focused on working to improve the overall quality

### MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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

**Jonathan Cofer** has accepted the position of high school pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

**Brandon Cox** has resigned as lead pastor at Grace Hills Church in Bentonville.

**Danny Kirk** has resigned as associate pastor at Grace Hills Church in Bentonville.

**Paul Heuermann** has resigned as pastor of Freestone Baptist Church in Freestone, Texas to become pastor of New Bethlehem, Cut and Shoot, Texas.

**Eddie Marsh** is the new pastor of Sardis Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas.

**Spencer Taylor** is available for preaching appointments and pastoral service as the Lord leads. He is a member of Bodcaw Baptist Church in Bodcaw and can be contacted at (870) 947-0556 or [taylorspencer747@gmail.com](mailto:taylorspencer747@gmail.com).

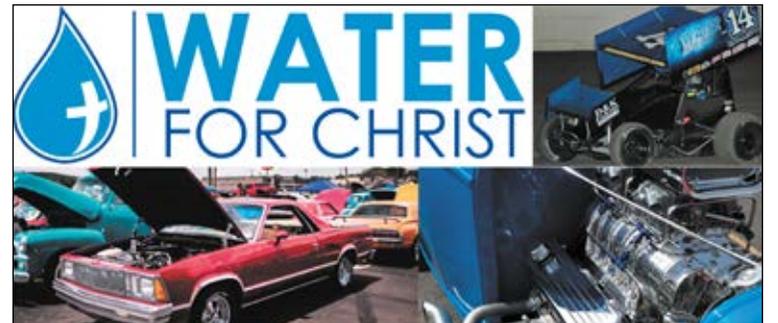
**First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Miss.**, is seeking a pastor. For more information, contact Chairman Paul Welborn at (601) 319-6353 or (601) 729-8397.

**Nat Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, Texas** is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 630884, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963.

**Enon Baptist Church at Gilmer, Texas** is seeking ministers for pulpit supply. Contact [steven.waller60@yahoo.com](mailto:steven.waller60@yahoo.com).

of life for people living and working along the State Highway 365 corridor from North Little Rock to the Faulkner County line. This stretch of highway connects Little Rock to Conway and points northward. More than connecting cities, this winding path of asphalt is the artery that ties together small communities from Crystal Hill all the way to Palarm. The people who use this highway as a path to work and home reflect a rich and diverse community. Community Thrive 365 (CT365) works to give this unincorporated part of Pulaski County a voice, common goals and

See GROVE, Page 4



## W4C Hot Dogs and Hot Rods Car Show

By Ellianna R. Temple, Events/Public Relations • Water for Christ

Water For Christ (W4C) is having its Sixth annual Car Show fundraiser, Hot Dogs and Hot Rods on May 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is hosted by and will take place at Life Song Baptist Church in Greenbrier in collaboration with W4C.

Car registration is from 8-10 a.m. and trophy presentation will be at 1:30 p.m. To register your vehicle and to learn more about W4C and the car show, you can visit [WaterForChrist.com/events](http://WaterForChrist.com/events).

The main attraction at the Hot Dogs and Hot Rods fundraiser is that it will feature the W4C Race car (when available) driven by Jordan Mallet and 80+ classic cars and hot rods. The cars make a circular perimeter around the Life Song Baptist Church parking lot. At the center of the parking lot is the W4C drilling rig and live demo of a pump used in the developing countries where W4C works.

Donation buckets are located at the food tent and check-in tent. Raffles and prizes are available, with all proceeds benefiting W4C. There will also be live musical performances during the show. W4C and Hot Dogs and Hot Rods merchandise is available for sale at the event, including t-shirts and tumblers.

A 40-pound trophy of two drill bits welded together is the grand prize for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Roughly 30 trophies will be given out throughout the day for different car classes and types. We are excited to offer motorcycles in this year's fundraiser.

W4C's goal for 2021 is to raise \$10,000 to provide two wells for villages near the Sahara Desert. However, they have had a request from Liberia to help raise money for hand pumps because many Liberians have to go to contaminated water as a drinking source. Life in Liberia can be hard, especially when you spend your whole day retrieving water. Unfortunately, this reality is not out of the norm for many countries in Africa, especially rural towns and villages. This leaves little time for anything else. The value of clean water in Africa and other developing countries is endless.

The mission of W4C is to give clean drinking water while also sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. While W4C provides clean drinking water to improve people's lives, their vision is to share the living water of Jesus Christ.

## What is a ChangeMaker?

By Dr. John David Smith, Exec. Dir. • BMAA Missions

BMA Global Missions values multiplication and considers what God is doing in the nations as its highest goal. The New Testament pattern of multiplication is encouraged and evidenced in the primary areas of disciples, leaders and churches. For those who have obeyed the command of Christ to practice Great Commission missions, there is no greater personal joy and no more accurate measure of ministry than when we pour our lives into others and they repeat the process! In missions lingo, this is called “indigenous missions.” The word indigenous simply means that something originates and belongs locally.

In BMA Global Missions we call these leaders ChangeMakers. A ChangeMaker is an indigenous believer who, most of the time, has been won and discipled by a BMA missionary or another ChangeMaker and now carries out the ministry of go, disciple, plant and repeat in their own country. We currently partner with over



Abraham Cheyee, ChangeMaker in Liberia

See CHANGEMAKER, Page 9

### In This Issue

From the States Insert (pgs. 5-8)  
Choosing the Right Summer Events (pg. 2)  
On a Mission from God (pg. 4)  
Missional Small Groups (pg. 3)  
We Need Each Other (pg. 3)



# CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

## PROFILE

Terry Kimbrow  
President

**Central Baptist College**  
1501 College Ave. • Conway, Arkansas 72034  
(501) 329-6872 • (800) 205-6872 • www.cbc.edu  
Twitter: @CentBaptCollege and @tkimbrow



### Golf

• **Olathe, Kan., April 20**—Playing for the final time before the American Midwest Conference (AMC) tournament, CBC was on the course at the Prairie Highlands Golf Club for the Baker Spring Invitational. CBC would finish the tournament in third place after shooting a first round 310 before seeing the second get canceled by snow.

### Baseball

• **North Little Rock, April 20**—Playing their final doubleheader at Burns Park this season, CBC hosted the Pioneers of Crowley's Ridge College. CBC (22-13) pounded out 28 hits and 29 runs in a sweep of CRC (19-23), winning game one 11-5 before crushing in game two 18-7.

• **St. Louis, Mo., April 22**—The second inning proved to be the deciding factor today in CBC's AMC doubleheader with the Spartans of Missouri Baptist. CBC (22-15, 8-10 AMC), allowed 15 runs in both games combined in the second, falling in game one 15-4 before losing game two 11-2 to MBU (23-12, 16-6 AMC).

• **St. Louis, Mo., April 23**—Trying to take some momentum out of a tough first two games, CBC looked for a pair of wins in the final two games against Missouri Baptist. CBC (23-16, 9-11 AMC) achieved a win in the final game against MBU (24-13, 17-7 AMC), 8-7 after dropping the first game 10-1.

### Softball

• **Kansas City, Mo., April 21**—The fourth NAIA Softball Coaches Poll was released by the NAIA National Office and CBC remained amongst the top-25. The Mustangs were ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in this week's poll, up two spots from the last poll and the second team in the American Midwest Conference (AMC) behind Columbia, who was ranked ninth.

• **Conway, April 23**—Opening their final four-game homestand of the season, #18 CBC hosted the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange University in an AMC doubleheader. CBC (25-9, 12-2 AMC) scored 20 runs and had 26 hits in the sweep, winning 10-7 and 10-2 over HLGU (10-21, 5-9 AMC).

• **Conway, April 24**—Playing their final doubleheader of the season at City of Colleges Park, #18 CBC took on the Spartans on Missouri Baptist University in an AMC DH this afternoon. CBC (27-9, 14-2 AMC) took care of MBU (14-12, 11-7 AMC) on a pair of walk-offs, winning game one 3-2 in nine innings before run ruling the Spartans 9-1 in game two.

• **St. Louis, Mo., April 26**—For the fourth time this season, CBC softball has had a player earn AMC Athlete of the Week honors. Katie Goike was selected after her performance this weekend.



## Student Ministry Matters

Phone: (479) 790-7808  
bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com  
www.StudentMinistryMatters.com



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



## Choosing the Right Summer Events

With so many conferences, camps and activities available for student ministry, it can be a little confusing as you try to select the right things for your summer student ministry. Recently as Chris Vines, Zac Lee and I recorded the Student Ministry Matters Podcast, Chris shared five great criteria for selecting the right events to have your students involved in. With a more open summer just around the corner, I wanted to share those things with you:

• **Doctrinal Fidelity**— Does the event and the team behind the event share in your beliefs? It is likely that we won't agree on every point, but it is important for the speakers to be teaching truth that is Biblical and aligns with the primary and secondary issues of the faith.

• **Fun**— Does the event provide an element of fun? We are dealing with teenagers. Most of our students are not ready for three days of lectures. We want there to be an element of fun in the event that we are taking our students to.

• **Value based**— Does the event line up with the values that our student ministry and church hold dear? Sometimes, the emphasis is simply put on things that we don't feel are important. For example, if your church holds missions in high regard, but the conference that you want to take your students to does not, you may want to rethink that event.

• **Affordability**— Can you and your students afford the trip or event? Now more than ever, that is something we have to consider. This past year has been difficult on our families and churches. There may simply not be the resources to take your students somewhere. If you find yourself in that crunch, look for specific sponsors and other creative solutions.

• **Tradition**— Is this something that my church expects? Tradition isn't bad. There was a culture of attending SOAR and Ozarks Baptist Encampment in place when I joined the staff of Temple Baptist Church of Rogers in 2007. Both were and are great events that check many of the boxes that we have talked about today. You may not like church camp, but if it doesn't conflict with the other things on our list, then you may need to give it a try.

Choosing summer events can be a bit confusing. Be sure to pray over your choices and talk them through with your lead pastor. Making the wrong choices can affect your student ministry for years. As the student ministry worker on the scene, it is important that you are thoughtful and intentional as you walk through your choices.



• **Antioch East, Magnolia** received one by baptism and five by letter since last report; Ron Owens, pastor.

• **Celebration, Haskell** gained three by letter; Allan Eakin, pastor.

• **Charity, Ward** rejoices over two by baptism; Keith Lewis, pastor.

• **Denver Street, Greenwood** reports two by letter; Derrick Bremer, pastor.

• **Dickinson, Harrell** added one by letter; Phillip Reddin, pastor.

• **Landmark, England** welcomed three new members; David Inzer, pastor.



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

• **Maysville Missionary Baptist Church** is seeking a part-time youth minister. For more information, contact Pastor Samuel Reddin at (501) 733-9650, sjreddin@gmail.com or 9 Cumbrian Dr., Bella Vista, Ark., 72714.

• **Providence, Spring Hill** witnessed three by baptism; Casey Curtis, pastor.

• **Unity, Hope** reports one salvation; Nick Flowers, pastor.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE Retirement Party IN HONOR OF Bobby Wilkey SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021 4:00PM-6:00 PM CHILDERS DINING HALL LIGHT H'ORDOURVES WILL BE SERVED FORMAL REMARKS AT 5:00PM RSVP to Jessica Faulkner 501.205.8800 or jfaulkner@cbc.edu

## Bobby Wilkey Retires From CBC

After 39 years of service to Central Baptist College, Bobby Wilkey officially retired on Aug. 14, 2020. Due to COVID restrictions in place at the time, a celebration could not be planned. A retirement reception honoring Bobby Wilkey has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 8. This come and go reception will take place in the Childers Dining Hall, located in the Mabee Student Services Complex on the CBC campus, from 4-6 p.m. Remarks will be made at 5 p.m.

Bobby came to CBC as a student in the fall of 1978. He was a full-time student through the spring semester of 1981 and was officially hired as a full-time employee on Aug. 1, 1981. Bobby continued to take classes on a part-time basis through the spring of 1983. He has faithfully served CBC as a Maintenance Assistant in the Physical Plant Department since he first began working for the institution in 1981.

Whenever I am at an event with CBC Alumni, I am most often asked if Bobby still works at CBC. Alums grew to love Bobby during their time at the college and always want to know how he is doing. That is a testament to how much Bobby loves the college and loves the people that have come to CBC during his time here. He has been one of the hardest working employees we have ever had, and he gave 100% of himself to this place for almost four decades. We are honored to be able to celebrate Bobby and all he has meant to CBC. I know he loves CBC, and I know that CBC loves Bobby Wilkey.

During his career at CBC, Bobby was named Alumnus of the Year by the CBC Alumni Association in 1998. He was named Central Baptist College Employee of the Year twice, first in 2002 and then again in 2005. He received the FRED Award from President Terry Kimbrow in 2020. The *FRED Award* is based on guiding principles found in the book, *The FRED Factor*, and is presented to the individual who embodies the four principles found in *The Fred Factor* which are making a difference each day, having a heart for people, changing ordinary moments into memorable ones and leading by example. He has also been a loyal donor to CBC, giving back to the institution sacrificially for decades.

Originally from Jonesboro, Bobby has made Conway his home since he came to CBC as a student in 1978. Since before, and now after, his retirement from the college, he has been very active with the CBC Mustangs. He runs the clock and scoreboard for the Mustangs and Lady Mustangs basketball teams, the Lady Mustangs volleyball team and the scoreboard for the Mustangs baseball team. Bobby is also an active member of Antioch Baptist Church.

If you will be able to attend the retirement reception on May 8, please RSVP to Jessica Faulkner at (501) 205-8800 or jfaulkner@cbc.edu. If you are not able to attend in person, but would like to send your congratulations to Bobby, you can email a message to Jessica using the contact information provided, or you can mail a card to Central Baptist College, Attn: Jessica Faulkner, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72034. A memory book will be compiled for Bobby with all of the messages received. Photos of you and your family, or photos you have with Bobby, can also be included.



## 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)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gospel Singing**, May 1, 5:00 p.m. meal; 6:00 p.m. singing; Dwayne Williams, singer; Faustina, Hampton.

**The Kinsmen Quartet**, May 2, 5:30 p.m.; Dickinson, Harrell.

**Hot Dogs and Hot Rods**, May 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; proceeds benefit Water for Christ; LifeSong, Greenbrier.

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

**BMA Camp**, June 21-24; Chris Vines, camp speaker, Doug Mickan, worship leader; Budd Creek Camp, Greers Ferry.

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

**SOAR 2021**, July 6-8; Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Texas; visit soarconference.com for more info.

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

**Ark. Ladies Retreat**, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Greenbrier BMA Called Meeting**, May 13, 7 p.m., Immanuel, Greenbrier.

**Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood**, Jun. 7, 6:30 p.m., Central, Hughes.

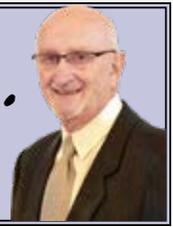
groups, but everyone needs more missional small groups. Here is how this transformation has been described. "A small group becomes missional as it develops a heart and mindset that is aware and deliberate about sharing the Good News through word and deed with those who have yet to know Christ as their Savior and Lord." You must be dedicated and committed to this definition and you will need leaders who will lead by example. If the leader is not actively and regularly sharing their faith, then it is very unlikely that anyone else will either. The leader must lead the group to remain focused on unbelievers.

You must let people know at the beginning of your missional groups that you will be committed to finding ways for everyone to share their faith. This element is non-negotiable, and you will train them to be efficient in listening to other's stories, sharing their own story and then sharing His story. It really is not complicated! According to Matthew 4:19, you are called to follow Jesus and fish for men. People are either lost or saved. If someone is lost, witness to them. If someone is saved, offer to train them to make disciples. This is why your church exists and you are called to help people to find and follow Jesus. Tell someone about Jesus!

## Just Thinking...

By Tom Mitchell

President, BMA of Arkansas  
(501) 804-6647 • temitchell1946@gmail.com



## We Need Each Other!

A few years ago, I asked a young man why the church where he is a member was no longer represented at our state associational meeting. His reply was, "Oh, we have grown so much that we don't need the association any longer." I immediately responded, "Your church may no longer need the association, but the association certainly still needs your church."

I understand that there are pastors and staff members who feel like too much politics exist in the association. They feel that because seemingly only certain ones are elected to committees, boards, and as officers there is a "clique" that runs the association. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

I was just thinking... many do not know how the association works and why it exists. So I briefly want to outline some pertinent facts about the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas:

• **First, the association exists to further the gospel of Jesus Christ with churches cooperating together to accomplish the task.** That is where ideology gets mixed up in some cases. When some churches came together in the early 1950s, most were not very large. In fact, there were only a few that were considered to be large. But the zeal was strong to evangelize our state and plant churches in towns and communities where no Baptist churches existed.

Since churches did not have the resources to send out missionaries, the coming together as an association of churches multiplied the provisions to elect missionaries to plant churches across the state. Today, some of those early church plants are strong, viable churches that are doing their part in the association to cooperate together in the mission of missions.

Sadly, some of the churches that were part of those early days of zeal to work together have now grown large and seemingly feel they no longer need the association. The truth is, large or small, city or rural, large staff or small, we need each other. Larger churches can be such a blessing to the ministry of the BMA of Arkansas. They have the resources to give. They have a history of growth that can be an encouragement to the smaller churches. And they have the truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

• **Second, as far as the process in the associational meetings, those who serve on committees are presented to the messengers (each church can have three) by the Nominating Committee that is from the floor at each annual session.** No church can have more than one member serving on any given committee or board.

Officers are elected annually and can only succeed themselves once. The officers are president, vice-president and two recording clerks. Clerks are elected on a staggering basis to ensure that one is always prepared to oversee the printing of minute books, etc. Officers are not nominated by the Nominating Committee but are elected from the floor each year. So, no "clique" can keep certain people in positions in the association.

• **Third, the four entities supported by the association need the assistance from as many churches as possible.** Those four entities are State Missions, Central Baptist College, the State Youth Department and the informational entity the *Baptist Trumpet*. These work together to serve the purpose of the association — church planting across the state; a Christ-centered educational institution preparing young men and women to serve as pastors, music leaders, missionaries and good church members; a vibrant ministry to the youth of the churches that instills faithfulness to Christ and discipleship; and a weekly publication that informs the churches and individuals who subscribe of the work of the ministry throughout the BMA of Arkansas and the BMA of America.

Lastly, I encourage the church members who read this to urge your churches to be active in the work of the BMA of Arkansas. Many of the ones who came into the association when I did 57 years ago are getting white-headed and are slowing down. We need young pastors to commit to leading their churches to support the state association. We need older pastors to lead the way as examples to the younger ones, and we need church members to give their prayer share to interceding for those who serve the associational ministries.

Large churches are needed, and small churches are needed. When we work together, it is just one association of churches. The large church and the small church get blessings because of the biblical truth — it is more blessed to give than to receive. But rest assured, State Missions, Central Baptist College, State Youth Department and the *Baptist Trumpet* receive blessings when they get the support of the association.

That's what I was just thinking.



## Missional Small Groups

What would it look like for you to begin small groups that are focused on reaching unbelievers? What would it take to start home bible studies structured to not only disciple but to make new disciples? Here's what we do know. Every believer is called to be a disciple, and every disciple is called to be a disciple maker. The normal small group is great for fellowship, biblical community and accountability, but how well are you reaching out to people who are far from God? It is possible to provide safe environments in our homes, workplaces, coffee shops and third space areas where people can ask questions and you can provide biblical answers.

Overall, true biblical discipling community has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried. The good news is that when it has been tried it almost always turns into a time of revival for the church. Are you a disciple that is interested in growing personally but not interested in being committed to God's mission? When you ask a disciple to describe spiritual maturity, they very rarely mention reproducing more disciples. Jesus commanded us to be fishers of men and that means you are to not only love people more, but you are to love more people. We are all called to be spiritual parents, making more disciples.

Here is something worthy of consideration. When small groups make mission a priority, amazing things start to happen. When you introduce someone to God's grace and they respond by receiving Him as their Lord and Savior, celebration takes place, and the journey begins. Every believer is called to be a disciple, and every disciple is called to be a disciple maker. Then the one you introduced to Christ begins to share his or her story and they introduce even more unbelievers to Christ. The movement has begun because of someone's commitment to obey Great Commission and practice the Great Commandment. You hear God's call and you answer.

The *Timothy Initiative* teaches

that there are four types of calls that encourage us to share the good news of the gospel:

• **There is the call from heaven** through the commandment of the Lord Jesus in Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation."

• **There is the call from hell** through a rich man's plea to share the gospel with his family. Luke 16:27-28 says, "...I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment." Salvation has been provided for all men and we need to present the gospel to all.

• **There is also the call from inside** because Paul said he was under compulsion to spread the gospel. He was motivated by the love for God for him and for those who still had not believed. Paul makes it clear in I Cor. 9:16 that inside of him there was a necessity to preach the gospel.

• **There is also a call from outside** which Paul heard from Macedonia where they cried in Acts 16:9, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." His passion for reaching the lost compelled him to go wherever the Spirit of God led him and he then shared his story of what Christ has done for him. Will you also answer this call?

In Acts 22 there is an excellent template for all of us to follow in how we share the gospel with unbelievers. Paul shared what it was like before he knew Christ, he shared what it was like when he met Christ and then he describes his life after meeting Christ.

Are you ready and prepared to share the testimony of your life before you met Christ, how you met Christ and now living for Christ? The ultimate message should always be how knowing Christ has changed your life. Have you ever written down your personal testimony and practiced delivering it? Removing the fear by knowing what you will say and how you will say it.

Maybe you do not need more small



*From the President...*  
**Think Globally—Act Locally**

Jeff Swart, BMAA President

jeffswart@jeffswart.com

1175 Country Club Rd., Conway, Arkansas 72034

# ON A MISSION FROM GOD



Actors John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd once starred in a movie called *The Blues Brothers*. In this movie, their characters were ex-convicts and wanna-be musicians who were trying to raise money for an orphanage. From time to time, they were asked about their work and they always replied, “We’re on a mission from God.” They always said this with great conviction as if they really believed it. The idea that two very inept men could be on a “mission from God” was the central joke of the movie.

Discovering the meaning of life is difficult for many people. They struggle with what they want to do or with what they are supposed to do. Some just never seem to find their place in life and spend their golden years dreaming about what could have been.

It seems to me that some cannot find the true meaning to life because they are looking in all the wrong places. The true meaning to life is actually found in the pages of the Bible. Why the Bible? Because in the Bible, we find the instruction manual for life written by the creator of life. The One who created it all tells us the meaning of it all!

Several months ago, I was interviewed and asked to answer one question, “What is the meaning of life?” I replied, “The real meaning of life is found in a personal and intimate relationship with God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. But life is actually more than that — it is living a life in fellowship with the God we love by spending time with Him in His Word, talking to Him in prayer, obeying His commands and investing our God given resources in the lives of other people. The consequences of living such a life are that we will please God, help people, live a life of no regrets and then spend eternity in the presence of the God who loves us.”

After I finished the interview, I began to wonder what other people thought the meaning of life was. So I googled “meaning of life” and found hundreds of people answering that question in selfish and sarcastic ways. I was not raised in a Christian home and so I can honestly say that I “have lived on both sides of the tracks.” I sincerely feel that my worst day as a Christian was more fulfilling than my best day when I lived without God.

At the end of his life, Solomon shared the meaning of life with these words: “*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*” (Eccl. 12:13). Solomon admonished us to give God the proper place in our lives and obey Him. If we heed Solomon’s admonition, then we could all say that we are on a “mission from God.”

## GROVE (Continued From Page 1)

organization to strategically work to bring positive change to this area. Their goal is simple — to make the communities of Crystal Hill, Oak Grove, Marche, Morgan, Palarm and the various other neighborhoods along the Highway 365 corridor a better place to work and live.

Bro. Ramsey said, “It was time to let the church have new wings and we were convinced that God was leading them to donate the land and property to GMBC. While the closing of the church was the Lord’s will and the church knew it, I am glad that Graves

was available and willing to continue the legacy of investing in the community. God blessed throughout the years of ministry and many people came to know the Lord. I thank Him for each changed life, and I pray that He will continue to use the facilities, along with the efforts of GMBC, to bring people to a saving faith in Jesus and that the legacy of Oak Grove Baptist Church will live on as lives are changed.”

CT365 will be taking over the church property located at 12118 MacArthur Drive. They are transitioning this property into “The Grove: A Center For Caring And Community.” Their hope is that, in the coming years, this center will become the home of countless



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

### Arkansas Governor Signs Abortion Bills

On April 20, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed pro-life measure S.B. 527 into law. It is now Act 740 of 2021. This law by Sen. Ben Gilmore (R/Crossett) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) requires abortion facilities to have transfer agreements with hospitals to handle complications from abortion. Act 740 is similar to a Kentucky law that has been upheld in court.

Abortion carries a number of serious risks—including risk of laceration, hemorrhaging, and death. That’s why it is important for state law to protect women from dangerous abortion procedures. Act 740 is a law that will help protect women from botched abortions and life-threatening complications from dangerous abortion procedures.

On April 21, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed S.B. 463 into law. The bill is now Act 787 of 2021. It previously passed the Arkansas House and Arkansas Senate with strong support. This law by Sen. Blake Johnson (R/Corning) and Rep. Tony Furman (R/Benton) requires the State of Arkansas to provide abortion data to the federal Centers for Disease Control for statistical purposes. It also tightens Arkansas law concerning abortion facility inspections, and it requires abortionists to file certain documentation when the woman is a victim of rape or incest. This is a law that will provide additional

community activities and programs. As part of their CT365 Community Cares initiative, they plan to use the building to offer a choice-based food pantry and, in the future, a store that will offer gently-used clothing, household items and furniture. CT365 will also use the property to begin hosting local farmers and craft markets, community events, an after school tutoring program and adult GED classes.

GMBC Pastor Travis Matthews said, “I find it amazing to see and experience Pastor Ramsey’s (and the church’s) kingdom focused heart. It is our prayer to see this building be a place where people see the hands and feet of Jesus through the volunteers. We believe as we reach out in this unique way, lives will be transformed through the power of the gospel.”

They have set Saturday, May 1 as the Grand Opening for The Grove. The building will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the outdoor market for people to walk through and see everything. They plan to be open each Saturday in May for the local farmers and craft market. You can find out more about the CT365 community initiative, including how to get involved yourself, by visiting their website at [communitythrive365.com](http://communitythrive365.com).

protections for rape victims, and it will help strengthen Arkansas’ existing pro-life laws. ([familycouncil.org](http://familycouncil.org))

### House Committee Advances Religious Freedom Amendment

On April 26, the House State Agencies Committee advanced S.J.R. 14. This measure by Sen. Jason Rapert (R/Conway) and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R/Paragould) would amend the Arkansas Constitution, if approved by voters at the 2022 election. S.J.R. 14 prevents the government from burdening a person’s free exercise of religion. The measure is similar to Arkansas’ state Religious Freedom Restoration Act. However, it writes protections for religious freedom into the Arkansas Constitution. The measure previously passed the Arkansas Senate. It now goes to the entire Arkansas House of Representatives for consideration. ([familycouncil.org](http://familycouncil.org))

### 500 Laws Nationwide Proposed To Save Babies From Abortion

Americans all across the country are sending a message to the U.S. Supreme Court: It’s time to end Roe v. Wade and protect unborn babies from abortion once again. And they are doing so, in part, through the lawmakers whom they have chosen to represent them in their state legislatures. These lawmakers have introduced approximately 500 pro-life bills this year to protect mothers and unborn babies

from abortion, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The majority of Americans are making their voices heard through their local and state elected officials. A growing movement that began in Texas, 25 cities to date have passed Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinances to outlaw the killing of unborn babies in abortions in their municipalities. At the state level, voters also have passed pro-life ballot initiatives by strong majorities in recent years. And more pro-life ballot measures are being considered in Kansas, Iowa and Kentucky this year. These initiatives would allow voters to amend their state constitutions to make it clear that there is no right to abortion or taxpayer funding for abortions.

Meanwhile, pro-life advocates and abortion activists are anxiously watching for the U.S. Supreme Court to make a decision about whether to hear a Mississippi case. Last summer, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, the first woman to hold the position, asked the high court to uphold a state law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

In 1973, the Supreme Court took away the states’ ability to protect unborn babies from abortion under Roe v. Wade, and instead forced states to legalize abortion on demand. Roe made the United States one of only seven countries in the world that allows elective abortions after 20 weeks.

The massive number of pro-life state bills coupled with polls and the pro-life state lawmakers whom voters elect to represent them all point to the fact that Americans want the country to restore unborn babies’ right to life. ([lifeneews.org](http://lifeneews.org))

## Baptist Trumpet

(USPS 043-720)

(ISSN 0888-9074)

Published by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas; sponsoring Missions, Benevolence and Christian Education.

JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor  
[editor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:editor@baptisttrumpet.com)

P.O. Box 192208 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208  
 Telephone (501) 565-4601 • Fax Line (501) 565-NEWS  
 (Note: An answering machine on the 565-4601 line will take messages after regular working hours — Monday-Thursday)  
[www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com)

ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor  
[associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com)  
 (mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

Price: \$23.50 per year; Church Plan: \$20.25 per year

Published weekly except for the week of New Year’s and one week in April, May, July, September, November and December. Periodical postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. Editorial offices at 10712 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Baptist Trumpet*, P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the churches of the BMA.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access our website.



Like us on Facebook for late-breaking up-to-date news

# Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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

## President's Perspective

By Dr. Scott Carson, President • Southeastern Baptist College

While I was serving in the U.S. Army, Linda and I were blessed to have been assigned to Europe twice. Our first overseas tour was for three years in Germany during the Cold War while we were facing off the Communists who were threatening to invade Western Europe. It was during this time that the Berlin Wall was removed, the Soviet Union collapsed and freedom was restored to many Eastern European countries.

The second time we were assigned to Europe, the Lord blessed us with an opportunity to live in four different locations over a period of eight years — twice in Germany, with assignments to Italy and Belgium. After a while, we became very comfortable living in these foreign nations.

Believe it or not, it was actually quite difficult to break away from my work as a chaplain in order to visit the many fascinating European sites. I often said that we would have toured more, except that work kept getting in the way!

See PERSPECTIVE, Page 8



## Our Empathizing High Priest

By Corbey Jones, Assistant Editor

Webster defines sympathy as “an affinity, association, or relationship between persons or things wherein whatever affects one similarly affects the other.” Webster defines empathy as “the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present — also, the capacity for this.” Consequently, almost anyone has the capacity to sympathize with the suffering of their fellow man, except those whose conscience has been seared over, but it requires the same or similar past experience to empathize with a person.

The writer of Hebrews says, “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” (4:15). Jesus doesn’t just sympathize with your pain, He is able to empathize with you, whatever you are going through, because He has faced it Himself. What’s truly amazing is that He can suffer with you and celebrate with another of His children, a thousand miles away, at the same time. We sometimes can’t suffer or celebrate without it turning into sin and rebellion, but for Him, it never does.

Mother’s Day this year will mark 40 years in the ministry for me. I pastored 12 years before I was truly able to empathize with those who lost close family members. I officiated multiple funerals during that time and each time it broke my heart to see people that I loved and cared about suffer the loss of a close loved one. Yet it wasn’t until 1993, when my grandmother died, that I could really feel and understand what it was to lose someone who was that close to my heart.

Since then, I have lost my dad in 2000, my mom’s parents in 2004, my father-in-law in 2016 and the hardest of all, my son, Andrew on Jan. 1 of this year. Cindy and I know so many of you have been praying for us and our family, and we thank you and ask that you don’t stop. Until 1993, I could only feel sympathy for those families, but now I truly join them in their pain.

It makes me think of Jesus in John 11. He was walking with Mary, Martha and the Bethany townfolk, who loved Lazarus to the grave. He saw their tears, heard their cries and deeply felt their grief. Jesus wept, not for Lazarus whom the Scripture

See PRIEST, Page 8

## Mississippi Missions

By Larry Geraldson, Director

“...ye have not, because ye ask not” (James 4:2). Last year at this same time, we were facing the unknowns of COVID-19. Churches were unsure of the impact to their finances, and I certainly felt it was not prudent for me to promote our Special Emphasis for State Missions, which runs from April-May. Well, I did not ask, and we didn’t get.

This year, having heard from a number of our pastors that their finances, in some cases, are better than before, I am asking. We need to have a good Special Emphasis this year. In addition to not promoting and receiving a good Special Emphasis offering last year, we were hit with tornadoes and hurricanes that took a toll on our Disaster Relief Fund. For this and other reasons, I am asking you to take up a special offering for your State Missions Special Emphasis.

Our missionaries have done an outstanding job through the pandemic. Three missions are scheduled to organize into New Testament churches this year (see dates below). More of our missionaries have developed a multiple church planting vision, which will result in continued growth.

Two of our missions are currently getting ready to build, while one is just finishing the renovation of their building. This year, we witnessed the mission in the Kiln reach a high attendance of 135, meeting in a storm shelter, and our mission in Meridian establish a core group of 10 families starting in the middle of the pandemic. Faced with challenges, our guys have pressed forward, God has richly blessed, and there is more to come.

Our Special Emphasis is from April to May. We have prepared some promotional videos for our churches to use for promotion, and these videos can be downloaded directly from our website at [bmams.org](http://bmams.org). Just scroll down on the home page and follow the instructions for downloading. If you have any difficulty, please give us a call at (601) 428-8616.

We have at least 35 other locations where we could be planting churches if we had the men and the resources to do so. We have one person who is filling out an application, but we are praying that God will give us additional men to go and plant churches. Please join us in praying about this. We have associate missionaries in training and a coaching team of veteran missionaries that is providing outstanding support as they equip each missionary in the areas of discipleship, church doctrine and church polity. The results have been tremendous.

In addition to our church planting  
See MS MISSIONS, Page 8

The

## Missouri

## Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Editor - James Hoffmann - 176 Bear Creek Dr. - Wentzville, MO 63385 - [www.bmamissouri.org](http://www.bmamissouri.org) - \$10/year-12 issues

## A Page from My Heart

By Ben Kingston, Director - BMA of Missouri Missions

It’s April and we’re only a few weeks away from our Missions Symposium on Friday, May 14 and the Mid-year State Associational Meeting on the May 15, both at New Testament, Sullivan. I am looking forward to these meetings! Please make plans to attend both meetings if possible.

Have you ever heard the phrase “One life to live, soon it will pass, only what’s done for Christ will last?” Well, we as Christians need a steady dose of that eternal reality. Yes, there are many urgent things on this earth that require our attention and effort. But there is only one thing on this earth that is both important and urgent, and that is sharing the gospel of Christ in our sphere of influence and discipling those who come to Christ. This is the transcendent cause to which all of us have been called.

We must discipline ourselves to give our lives for this holy and eternal calling. All other pursuits will not pass the test of eternity when it comes to importance. Our finances will be gone, our possessions gone, many of our relationships will be over and our reputations forgotten. Once all the temporal is washed away with the reality of eternity, we are back to the cliché “One life to live, soon it will pass, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Let’s surrender anew to the Great Commission and support every level of missions in our work — local, state and national.

Please pray for Bro. Juan and His family on the mission field. These are his prayer requests and updates for this month:

- For Hannah’s and new baby’s health
- For new outreach, Sunday 2:00 p.m.
- For salvation for each one of the students attending our English as a Second Language (ESL) outreach — Omar, Cecilia, Janet, Maria, Antonio, Xiomara, David, Arturo, Jorge, Judith, Alma and Dulce.
- For building meaningful relationships for eternity!
- For salvation for each one of the relatives living here in St Louis and extended families south of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

We started another 40 days of prayer on April 5. We are praying for the “Men of Peace” discipleship study that started April 11.

Thank you again. The harvest is plenteous! May the Lord richly bless you in my prayer.

## Camp Garwood News

By Chris Polk, Camp Director

Greetings from Camp Garwood! On April 9-10, we held our Spring Retreat. It had been so long since we had an organized event at camp, and we enjoyed seeing everyone.

Our next event is the Men’s retreat scheduled for April 30-May 1. Whether your church has an organized brotherhood or not, we encourage your men to attend. We always have a great time of fellowship, great food and this year we are planning a corn hole competition.

Beyond these retreats, we move our focus to getting the campgrounds ready for summer camp. We have asked groups to adopt various buildings and projects to help get everything cleaned up and ready. Many buildings have been adopted but there are a few still available. Please contact me at (573) 945-2213 if your group would like to help.

We are planning an official work weekend for June 26. Get your group ready and come work on your project! We’ll provide a meal Friday night and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. If this date doesn’t work for you, get with me because we are at camp most weekends from now until Sept. I will not be at camp May 8, 15, 22 or June 19. Beyond that, we should be there.

A couple weeks ago, we had a Trail Life campout at camp. We set up tents above Lanny’s Logyard and built a fire ring in front of the two benches on the hill. It worked out to be a very nice place to camp. The moon was bright enough you could navigate very easily without a flashlight. As we lay in our tents (hammock) that night there were woodpeckers, owls, coyotes, dogs and one demented rooster that woke everyone up at 3 a.m. This was not our first

See GARWOOD, Page 8

# Baptist Progress

Official Publication of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas

Jerry Fulton, Editor | editor@baptistprogress.org | 972-923-0756 | www.baptistprogress.org

## A Word from Your Missions Office

By Heath Mitchell, Director

The world is opening up! Your missionaries are reporting visitors in their services and having effective outreach events again. They are reporting more gospel conversations and more responses. We are seeing opportunity and hope that the shutdown is behind us. We are seeing a new normal appear, but we don't yet know what that new normal will look like.

God is still God! The Year 2020 didn't take Him by surprise. The freeze didn't take Him by surprise. He is at work and His mission for His church is alive and well. He promised that He will be with us always until the end of the age. That is right now! He is able to empower and equip us when He assigns us. He is able to do impossible and improbable things.

Will you join me in prayer? Let's pray that God will use us. Let's pray for relationships with lost people. Let's pray for boldness and opportunity to share the gospel. Let's pray for chances to make disciples. Let's pray for new leaders in the BMA to come from our discipleship efforts. Let's pray for 100 new BMA churches to come from this effort. Let's pray for every church, mission and ministry in our family. Let's pray that God will be glorified. Will you join me in earnest prayer?

We have faced a hard year, and our country is a mess; but I want to remind you that Jesus Christ is Lord! He is our Lord, our leader. We can ask and He will answer. We know what 2020 was known for, and I pray that 2021 will be known for revival. Please join me in prayer.

## Wrestling for Jesus

By Paul Gauntt, Correspondent

One major backdrop to Scripture is to struggle or wrestle. Ephesians 6:12 says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood" and I Corinthians 9:27 (WEB) says "I beat my body and bring it into submission." The struggle is real and professional wrestling can help portray that battle.

Two pro-wrestlers turned church planters, Mike Watt and Trevor Cowan, were providentially placed together to be involved in both on the Texas Plains. Watt is teaching pastor of Cross-Work Church of Tahoka — a work that uses, among other things, professional wrestling as an outreach tool. Cowan is executive pastor. Both wrestle for Jesus.

Mike Watt was a kids' pastor at Calvary Baptist Church of Lubbock, and living in Tahoka. He had developed an interest in church planting. One day when he was en route to Lubbock, he was stricken with the thought of how many people he drove past on his way to do ministry in Lubbock every day.

Watt was also struck with the reality of a neighborhood boy who came over to play with his kids. "This boy was really good at striking up trouble," Watt

See **WRESTLING**, Page 9

## I'm Just Sayin'

By Jason Curry, President  
Texas Baptist Home for Children

You don't have to know a lot about our history to know that the Stanley family had a wonderful legacy. They led this place under biblical principles and strove to honor God in its ministry to kids. C.B. Stanley prayed that God would guide him in making changes. He prayed and walked boldly. Under his administration, he changed the name of the orphanage to Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC).

Under President Theodore Roosevelt's terms, the first White House Conference on Children convened in 1909. They concluded that the child should be placed in foster families and not in institutions. However, due to wars

and economic depression, it had little impact on the care of children. As the economy became better and financial help came to the Texas Baptist Home for Children, Stanley was able to embrace a new way of caring for kids by providing a home instead of a dormitory.

I do not think anyone feels that an orphanage is an evil place. But when a child only wants to have a place to call home, why should we not try to give them a place that feels like home. It cannot be a question of quantity of care, God calls us to provide quality care.

TBHC began building cottages in the 1950s and continued building into the 1960s. Along with so many others at TBHC, C.B. Stanley prayed to provide financially and give a future of promise for every child.

I'm just sayin'!



## Pastor's Wife Passes Away

Margaret Sue Phillips passed away on March 10 in Mineola, Texas. She married her high school sweetheart, Jerry Lee Phillips, July 28, 1957. They were married for 63 years. She was currently a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, where her husband serves as pastor.

She is survived by her husband, three children: Vickie Sue (Tony) Phillips of Garland, Texas; Lisa (Barry) Sutton of Elysian Fields, Texas; and Jerry "Bubba" (Hope) Phillips of Quitman, Texas; two brothers, Kenneth Riddle of Italy, Texas and Harold Riddle of Eustis, Fla.; 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on March 15 at Beaty Funeral Home in Mineola, Texas with a graveside service following at Italy Cemetery in Italy, Texas.



## Bobby Joe Fisher Called Home

Bobby Joe Fisher of Crandall, Texas passed away April 16. He pastored churches in Nacogdoches, Houston, Paducah, Cockrell Hill and Arlington for 30 years.

Survivors include: two daughters, Teresa Jo (Elias) Fisher Perez of Olton, Texas and Tasha Lenee Hudson of Crandall, Texas; a son, Stanley (Brandy) Fisher of Sulphur Springs, Texas; one brother, Paul (Cindy) Smith, and two sisters, Diane Ledet and Juneva (Jeff) Peters; and eight grandchildren.

A celebration of life took place on April 22 at Victory Church of Scurry, Texas. Arrangements by Roselawn Funeral Home of Seagoville, Texas.



## Louisiana Baptist Builder



Work crew at the ABS House

## Greetings from Tech!

By Danny Eddy, ABS Director

The spring quarter is now well underway, and things are slowly looking more normal around here. Average attendance for the month has been 12 at our weekly worship, which seems to be hit hard by work schedules and engineering nightly exams. But it's encouraging to have visitors, and see the students inviting their friends.

One day last week, we had an Association of Baptist Students (ABS) booth on campus for five hours, giving away snacks and information about ABS. There were 11 students participating, working shifts around their classes.

In addition to our weekly IMPACT Worship and Thursday Bible Studies, we've had a morning prayer breakfast and two Friday Fun Nights. The last one was an old-fashioned potluck, with all the students bringing a food item. One Saturday, we had a crew of nine hard workers show up on a cold day to remove an overgrown hedge and do some other sprucing up around the yard. It was hard work, but fun to be out there working together.

Another aspect of student life that is opening up again is intramural sports. We've had both sand volleyball and softball teams this quarter, with each playing about a game a week. The students say it's a great stress relief from their studies, and great to be able to participate again.

It's been a crazy year, but our president says Tech will be back to normal operations when we start up in the fall. Orientations will happen this summer, and we are looking forward to reaching out to new students. But in these last six weeks of the school year, we remain focused on working with our students and helping them grow in their walk with the Lord. As always, we appreciate all prayers on our behalf, that we would follow His leadership in all that we do.



ABS students man booth to giveaway snacks and ABS information.



ABS sand volleyball team

## Louisiana Baptist Builder

Deryl Jones, Editor

labaptistbuilder@gmail.com • (318) 285-0215

Subscription: \$7

## The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

### Latest News from Grace Harbor

By Nathan Brewer, BMAA Church Planter

March was an eventful and exciting month for us as the church formally ordained Thomas Mobly into the ministry, as well as installed him as an elder of Grace Harbor.

We were told early on that one of the few important milestones in a new church is that it has the ability to become self-governing. Thomas is one whose life has been in the view of those who are part of Grace Harbor for several years now. He has very much functioned as a pastor and shepherd of those God has brought to us, but we believe there is significance in the recognition and formality of what we were able to do just a few weeks ago.

What I found significant is that it served as a discipleship opportunity. Starting way back in August of 2020 all the way up to just last month, we took time to preach through the book of I Timothy. At Grace Harbor, we believe that the Word is the primary discipleship resource, so preaching plays a large part in our hearts and minds being formed.

We took time to walk through the book to understand what the purpose of the church is, the qualifications of an elder, the call for young pastors to lean into their calling and then the church's responsibility to elders and in raising up elders.

Beyond that, our folks were able to witness (many for the first time as new believers) the Lord's calling and faithfulness in raising up men to shepherd the church. I also think this will be the beginning of seeing several other men step into the role of pastor/elder at Grace Harbor.

We shared with our church that we feel compelled to immediately begin praying for and pouring into other men that would sense this call of God on their life. We anticipate the months ahead to be a fruitful time in being out in our community, praying for and sharing the gospel with neighbors.

As challenging as the last year has been in really connecting deeply with people, we believe the Lord is going to give us a big opportunity to see many find hope and trust in Christ!



The documents upon which all our laws are based are harmonious with Scripture. The sad fact of today is that not very many people are interested in the affairs of the nation.

As we continue to lose our liberties, we need to realize that our ability to share the gospel will become jeopardized. We have recently seen restrictions on our assembling to worship freely. If we preach Bible doctrine, we are labeled as old fashioned or bigots. We cannot exercise our biblical convictions because of the fear that we may offend. We don't go to church, and if we do, many times it is not a doctrinally sound church. We are being coerced and intimidated to turn our backs on the things of God. No longer do our nation, our families or our freedoms seem to matter.

As seen in Luke, we have a job God intends for us to do. "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath" (Luke 12:42-44).

Everything we have been given to us by God, and we are to use it for the glory of God. "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven" (John 3:27). Since everything has come from God, we need to use it wisely. We need to be busy about the Lord's work, and make sure we stand for the things of God.

I Corinthians 4: 2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." The question we need to be asking ourselves is this — how faithful are we? Are we making it free to preach the truth of God's message? Are we going to church? Are we training our families and presenting the gospel to those around us? Do we study candidates, so we know how to vote? Basically, are we putting in the effort?

Some of us are at the ending of our journeys. Are we leaving things decent and in order for those who are to follow in our footsteps? Will those who follow us bless us or curse us for what we have left for them?

Our children are being desensitized to the things of God. We are allowing garbage to be taught in the schools and, in some cases, the churches. Confused people are being placed in positions of authority and people who do not know God are becoming our moral compass.

We need to quit being lazy and take the stand for God that we need to take. Remember, our nation, our churches, our children and grandchildren are depending on us.

### The Oklahoma Baptist

Mike Mobly, Editor  
Michael.mobly@yahoo.com  
(405) 794-6646



### Share Your Faith with Your Kiddos

By Amber Spencer

He heard about a man who could heal his leprosy, and he traveled a great distance to see him. That's when he was told to do something he didn't want to do. He was so offended, he turned around to go home, but his men reminded him to **take initiative** and just do it! So, for the second time in this story, he took initiative and did what he didn't want to do. That is when he experienced a miracle of God... right smack dab in one of the dirtiest rivers around.

Asking your kiddos the following "would you" questions is a great way to introduce them to Naaman's story and show them this point: God's power often rests in the things we don't want to do, or feel like we are above doing. Yet, when we take initiative, that is when we can experience His power. Just ask Naaman!

These are great talks to open our kiddos' eyes — that God is in big stuff of life, the small stuff and the dirty stuff.

#### Talk Topic

- If you had a skin condition that was incurable and would only worsen with time, what would you be willing to do in order to get a cure for it?
- Would you be willing to get into the dirtiest river around and dip yourself in it seven times to get healed?

#### Anchor Point

- Read II Kings 5:1-13 — Naaman had leprosy. He took initiative to go see a man in Israel who could heal him. However, he didn't want to take initiative to do what Elisha the prophet told him to do — take a bath in a dirty river seven times. Naaman was so furious he nearly left! However, his men reminded him that this was a simple task and that he should obey it, even though it wasn't what Naaman had envisioned. When he obeyed, he was healed.
- Taking initiative doesn't always involve a crazy big step — God often asks us to do the ordinary things; and when we do, He does something extraordinary.



### Barbie Gives Opportunity for Biblical Truth

By Janae Polok

We are certainly in a new parenting phase in our home since we have added two more foster children. For some reason, the country song, "What was I thinking" just began playing in my head. We now have a Barbie-loving little girl, much to Aaron's dismay. Yes, teeny high heels, all things hot pink and the perfectly shaped blonde bombshell emerged Christmas morning. I also managed to find a "Barbie-like" Mama with triplets, a nicely tanned man and at least five more swimsuit covered beauties. Of course, Mammie Jennifer found a Barbie beach house, too. Who knew that these gifts meant that Aaron would be bringing a "Jesus lesson" to Barbie's beach house?

One day I heard a high-pitched little girl's voice say, "Hey Aaron, come check this out." As he rounded the corner, I heard her say, "Look at all these babies! You want to know where they came from?" I literally said to myself, "Oh, Lord Jesus, come quickly!" Not sarcastically, **nope** — I meant it with all my heart. Aaron had just been invited into the Barbie world and learning where babies come from... this **cannot** be good!

Then it began, "This baby belongs to her husband over there, and well that baby is her boyfriend's but her husband thinks it's his. Her friend is going to adopt this baby because we don't really know who the daddy is." The conversation broke my heart and left me dumbfounded that a young child already had such a skewed view of family.

I peeked around the corner, wondering if "Pastor Polok" would emerge with a sermon or the famous phrase, "You better talk to your Mom about that." But no,

See **BARBIE**, Page 8

### Stewardship

By Chris Gonther, BMAO Moral Action

Today's Christianity has some very unfortunate deficiencies. We are not as dedicated to the cause of Christ as we need to be. It is too easy, and much too readily acceptable, to have a very weak faith with very limited influence.

When we look at the life of Paul, we see a true warrior who gave everything for God's glory. We need to be concerned for those who will come after us and begin ensuring there will be a legacy to inherit. I am not focusing on the financial well-being of our loved ones, although that is important.

"A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just" (Prov. 13:22).

There are other fundamentals that we should be greatly concerned about as well.

At creation, mankind was designed and equipped to be caretakers, or good stewards, of the blessings God has given to us. At the very onset of humanity, it was instilled in Adam to be a caretaker of the garden.

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2:15).

When man becomes sedentary, we are existing in the state for which we were not designed. God has blessed us tremendously, yet we have become settled on our "lees" (remainders): "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, the Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil" (Zeph. 1:12).

Our nation has become full of apathetic people who really don't care about anything. We act as though God is irrelevant and that He will not reward good or evil. People no longer fight for godliness or righteousness, electing to take the easy road and avoiding all confrontations. We must struggle to maintain those precious gifts we have received from God.

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence begins with the following words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."

At the very founding of our nation, it was determined the country would be built and maintained on biblical principles.

## PERSPECTIVE (Continued From Page 5)

Europe has a wonderfully developed train system. One can travel conveniently by train to almost any location, even to smaller towns and villages. Between the larger cities they have bullet trains that can travel over 100 miles per hour. During our time there, we were able to travel on these rapid forms of transportation with ease and comfort instead of the alternative of fighting heavy automobile traffic. Trips that might otherwise have taken eight hours by driving, were only a couple of hours via bullet train!

Here at SBC, we often feel like we are on a bullet train in reference to the school calendar. The other day, a staff member mentioned that graduation is in a couple of months. I said it was more like a couple of days! They agreed that time flies here because of all the projects and work we do. We cannot afford to waste time by waiting to plan for a big event because, before we know it, we are already too late for efficient and well thought through planning.

The Army used the six-week rule for locking in their calendars and an event had to be on the calendar no less than six weeks out from its execution. We are also trying follow this rule, though COVID 19, and sometimes the weather, often interfere, especially with our sports programs.

### Our Next Big Event

The National Day of Prayer Breakfast is on May 6 at 7:30 a.m. Our guest speaker is Leander Bridges, alumnus and pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church in Ellisville, Miss. Our own Lighthouse Café will cater the breakfast, and this event is free because of the gracious gift provided by Bethlehem Baptist Church of Laurel. Come join us as we pray for our communities and America at this special nationwide annual event!

Also, soon to be announced is the date and time of the 2021 graduation exercise.

Thank you again for your continuing support. SBC is on the fast track and it's getting faster! Pray for us as we hurry to keep up with the Lord and His ever-expanding plans for your college.

### Spring Chapel

For this Spring Semester chapel program, I set a message theme for all our visiting guest speakers — the theme is "A Christian World View." It is found in the first line of the Southeastern Baptist College mission statement which reads, "Our mission as a biblical higher education provider is to glorify God by providing quality post-secondary education from a biblical worldview in a Christian atmosphere."

The Lord led me to set this theme after observing a growing anti-biblical

movement that has been developing throughout the western world over several decades. The movement has gained great strength in recent years in our beloved homeland of the United States. I have concluded that all things biblical are under direct satanic attack and these attacks are now in full public view and even being perpetrated by many of America's media companies.

The Bible and Christians, who believe in the God inspired and inerrant Scriptures, are being portrayed as backward, ignorant and bigoted people. Sins that are clearly defined by God Himself are being redefined as "normal" behavior, and anyone who says otherwise is labeled bigoted. This is an insidious world view that is outside of God's perfect design for the human race and is based upon the teachings of Darwin wherein society's opinion is the highest moral foundation that supersedes even the Word of God. Believers can refer to it as the "Darwinian World View" or the "Secular World View."

Topics I have assigned to guest speakers include: Jesus is the One and Only Lord, The Holy and Inspired Word of God, God's Truth is not Relative but Eternal, Racism: There is Only One Race, the Human Race Created by God, Only 2 Genders Created by God, The Sin of All Forms of Fornication, Cursing and the Christian, Honesty and Integrity, Evolution and the Darwinian World View, The Importance of Church Attendance, The Sanctity of Human Life and the Sin of Abortion and The Christian Work Ethic.

As we moved through the semester, I wondered how these messages would impact our student body. Although each student must write their personal testimony and secure statements from their pastor and other spiritual leaders before attending SBC, it has become clear that most of our incoming students lack the very basics of Bible knowledge but are thoroughly indoctrinated by the Darwinian World View. I know these chapel topics must have sparked intense discussions among our students after each chapel program.

Every semester, we are required to distribute a questionnaire that asks students to comment and evaluate each class they participated in. Chapel is one of the classes evaluated as attendance, so it is required. Here are some sample student comments regarding chapel for this semester:

- "I look forward to the chapel services each week and learning more about a biblical world view on certain topics of today."
- "I loved seeing the different aspects of speakers in chapel. I like that we can talk about things that aren't easy to talk about. Chapel is a good fellowship of young believers."
- "The speakers at chapel this semester were phenomenal."

As the staff and I reviewed these comments, we were elated that the Lord is using us to have an eternal impact upon our students!

We are all so blessed with having this ministry here at SBC. What a tremendous privilege it is for the Lord to bring into our college family young people with whom we can share the eternal truth of God's Word and help them grow in their knowledge and walk with the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the faculty, staff and students of SBC. We are in need of an immediate housing solution before next semester. We have more students wanting to be part of our school than we have housing. We are actively looking for homes we can purchase or rent near the college to put students in until we can build a new dorm, which will have to be in the next couple of years. It's a good problem, but it's still a problem! We know God has the solution. Might He be moving you to help us?

## MS MISSIONS (Continued From Page 5)

efforts, we have ministry activity in Church Ministries, Disaster Relief, Benevolence and Jail Ministry. Our primary mission is to serve our churches by supporting the missionaries they send out, but we also care for our churches through this myriad of ministries.

We have tried to be good stewards of the money you send us — 100% of every dollar we receive from you for missions goes out the door to our missionaries. We use none of it for overhead, upkeep, maintenance or even my salary. We have operated in the black for nine years straight and are on track to do the same this year.

You can find out more information about our missionaries, our ministries and resources that are available to your church by visiting our website at [bmams.org](http://bmams.org). There is so much more I could say and will say at upcoming associational meetings. For now, would you please allow me to encourage you to pray for us and seriously consider promoting our Special Emphasis?

### Organizations & Ordination

- April 24, Redemption Baptist Mission of Diamondhead will be organizing as a New Testament Church. The service will begin at 2 p.m. Campground Baptist Church is the mother church and Wesley Martin is the missionary pastor.
- May 1, Leo Adan, missionary at El Camino in Hattiesburg, will be ordained into the gospel ministry at Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. The service will begin at 2 p.m.
- July 10, El Camino Baptist Mission of Hattiesburg, meeting at the Westover Baptist Church, will organize as a New Testament Church. El Camino Baptist Church in Laurel is the mother church. The service will begin at 2 p.m.

## PRIEST (Continued From Page 5)

says He loved, but for his sisters and friends because He empathized with them. He knew He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, showing the glory of the Son of God. He shed tears because their broken hearts broke His heart, but He rejoiced with them at their loved one's resurrection.

I am learning something more and more every day — my savior understands my grief and feels it even more strongly than I do. He knows what it was to lose an earthly family member (Joseph and John the Baptist), but He feels deeply our pain as He does our joy. Our high priest can empathize with all who are His children. This encourages us to seek every avenue to turn to God in times of grief and joy.

## Mississippi Baptist

Don Brown, Editor  
[editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org)  
 (601) 426-3293  
[msbaptist.org](http://msbaptist.org)  
 Mailed: \$20; Emailed: \$15.

## GARWOOD (Continued From Page 5)

time camping there, but it was a good reminder of all the things in God's creation that we don't often hear. It's good to get outside beyond the sound restrictions of walls, tvs, phones, etc. and just enjoy the "quiet." God is good and His creation, even in the basic setting of Garwood, is still amazing.

Back in my Boy Scout days, we had a solitude retreat. Each camper went out by themselves in the woods with two matches a raw egg and a canteen of water. We spent 24 hours with no human contact and no electronic devices. It was a weekend I'll never forget. Partly because I cut my finger that night and still have a scar, but mostly because I was completely alone with God. We need time alone with God — no background noise, no tv, no ear buds nothing — just God time. Can I encourage you today to get alone with God? Let the world pass by for just a few minutes.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psa. 46:10 ESV).

## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

James Hoffmann, Editor  
[mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net)  
 (314) 277-8644  
 Subscription: \$10 per year

## BARBIE (Continued From Page 7)

the most beautiful and unlikely event occurred. Aaron went from leaning on the doorframe to sliding down to sit next to the Barbie beach house. With the Mama doll in his hand, I heard him say, "You know that might be how the world sees it, but did you know our Bible teaches something very different and super important about family?"

I watched and listened as a little girl hung onto his every word. When a grown man is holding a Ken and Barbie with three babies and explaining the family picture according to God's Word, it has a tendency to catch everyone's attention. I was so caught off guard by his very calm approach that allowed him to really pour God's Word into a little girl's life. After listening to him intently, it was a continued conversation or question and answer session throughout the day. At bedtime, she even asked to read those verses again.

This Mama learned something that day! Aaron did not go into shock and awe mode. He remained so calm. Watching him ease on down the wall and grab his favorite role-model doll (sarcasm inserted here), showed he knew how to reach her in the midst of her confusion. In that moment, truth and grace flowed from his lips.

A little guilt crept in for me because I'd so wanted to pull out my soapbox. A little jealousy crept into my thinking because "how on earth was he pulling this lesson off so effectively?" Then the reality of the lesson hit me — this is what grace, mercy and truth looks like when you follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He modeled an important parenting lesson, but more importantly, a spiritual life lesson. Hmmm, I am still a little perplexed, but equally as impressed. I didn't expect a Preacher Dad to use Barbie as a teaching tool. I guess two girls in our house learned a whole lot that day!

## Baptist Herald

Aaron Polok, Editor  
[baptistheraldeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:baptistheraldeditor@yahoo.com)  
 (620) 249-5471  
 Email only \$15

Check Out The  
 Trumpet Archives At  
[baptisttrumpet.com](http://baptisttrumpet.com)

Need  
 Printing?  
 Trumpet Printing  
 can help. Call  
 (501) 565-0479



## Bro. & Mrs. Townsley To Celebrate 65 Years

Dardanelle Townsley and Wanema Roach were married May 5, 1956 at Pool's Chapel in Sandtown, and next week will celebrate this milestone with their family.

Bro. Townsley was ordained in October of 1962 and began pastoring in the same year. He pastored five churches for over 50 years — Lone Oak, Ravenden; Philadelphia, Dowdy; Oak Grove, Jonesboro; Fellowship, Walnut Ridge; Hilcrest, Cave City; and Faith, Mena, where he pastored for 33 years until retiring in 2012. Mrs. Townsley is a retired pharmacy technician.

They have one daughter, Melody Terry, of Alexander. They also have three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: Paul Terry, wife Erin, children Timothy and Ian of Benton; John Terry, wife Lindsay, children Anastasia, Azalea, Adaline, and one on the way of Haskell; and Audrey Weatherly, husband Parker of Conway.

If you would like, you can send them a note or card to: The Townsley's, 12321 Woodvine Dr., Alexander, AR 72002.



## Angel de Jesus ChangeMaker in Puerto Rico.

great opportunity to look into Paul's multiplication ministry and see foundations for ChangeMaker missions.

ChangeMaker missions is based on outside partnerships that are the scaffolding, not the building. We certainly seek to enter partnerships with indigenous believers who are doing Great Commission ministry, and especially those who are the fruit of our own missionary efforts. However, we do recognize that these outside partnerships are temporary, like scaffolding. They are intended to give support and structure until the permanent building (ongoing local ministry) is ready, then we take our scaffolding and go build in another place. Paul was a great leader, not because he got things done, but because he got things done through others! He had no intention of building his own private empire in any place; it was all about building the kingdom of God through the multiplication of disciples, leaders and churches.

ChangeMaker missions is based on passing the baton, not paternalism. Historically, many involved in global missions talked much about passing the baton of ministry to indigenous leaders, but rarely followed through. Paternalistic actions where one "partner" dominates the other was more of the norm. In Colossians 4, Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Luke and Demas were all Gentiles, while Aristarchus, Mark and Justus were Jews. These men were from a myriad of places and backgrounds, but Paul's aim was always the same — win, disciple, equip and release into ministry around the known world. Paul really did not have to "pass" the baton because he included them from the beginning.

ChangeMaker missions is about lives changed by the gospel who are now repeating the process. Tychicus was the missionary mailman who delivered many of Paul's epistles. He did this in spite of great personal peril in travel and deep personal sacrifice. Onesimus was the thieving runaway slave from Colossae who, according to history, later became the pastor of the church at Colossae. Epaphras started the church in Colossae; Luke was the beloved physician who wrote the books of Luke and Acts; Aristarchus was with Paul in riots, imprisonments and shipwrecks.

Their stories were altered by Jesus and they were sharing the story to the known world. That is ChangeMaker missions.

## WRESTLING (Continued From Page 6)

said. When the boy started his mess, "I started praying, 'Alright Lord, you know that some church needs to bring that boy to You, or he'll be bringing all kinds of sin to this town. Lord, that boy probably has family in Wilson, and New Home, and all around.'"

Then Watt said, "It was almost like Jesus asked me, 'Do you know anybody?'"

He said that was when he decided to reach out to Chris Driver, West Texas Multiplication Network coordinator for BMA Texas Missions.

"I shared my vision with him about how I felt God wanted me to be involved in church planting because there were people in my small town not being reached with the gospel," Watt said, noting that both he and Cowan went through the assessment process with the state work and are state missionaries.

Watt and Cowan became acquainted at Calvary, Lubbock, where Cowan was a high schooler and where Watt was the kids' pastor.

"Trevor came home from youth camp that summer saying that God had called him to the ministry," Watt said. "That was like candy to me — someone was ready to be disciplined."

Watt spent a year "being nice" to Cowan, but after a year, Watt changed his approach. "I decided to be mean to him," Watt said with a laugh. "I would slap him and punch him on the arm and wrestle him and say, 'come on, it's time to do ministry.' But oddly enough, Trev responded better to my tough love. Sometimes the donkey needs the carrot and sometimes he needs the stick!"

Watt said, after Cowan finished high school, he would volunteer at least 35 hours a week to help Watt. Then Watt was able to convince the church to put Cowan on as an intern — in which he served for the next two years.

During this time, Cowan got a burden for missions and unreached people groups. He had a burden for Thailand and Japan and explored avenues to serve in those fields. He did some short-term mission trips, but the long-term move never fell into place. He had applied for church staff jobs all over the Lubbock area, as well as other jobs, but no doors were opened to him. Nothing turned up for him.

The wrestling began when Watt attended a Christian Wrestling Federation (CWF) meeting in Rockwall in 1999 during his last semester in college.

"I went to their youth ministry conclave to check the program out, and after talking to one of the CWF reps, I asked him how to get in on it," Watt said, later moving his family to the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 2001. He ended up doing youth ministry and being involved in the CWF.

Watt spent 10 years wrestling for CWF in Rockwall when he moved to Lubbock to do kids' ministry at Calvary in Lubbock. At this point, because of the distance, he could only wrestle two

to three times a year. "Suddenly, the parable about the talents started weighing on me and that's when I decided to start the West Texas branch of CWF."

His program was sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, another church called the Dream Center and the CWF. "One thing to know about wrestling is that in professional wrestling, money is king. It all hinges on money. They do whatever they have to do to get your money. They will end a night with a 'cliff hanger' to entice the crowd to return the following week — it's all about the money," Watt said. "But in the Christian Wrestling Federation, the gospel is king. It is all about the gospel and telling sinners they need a Savior. We don't want money; we want to share the gospel and give people an opportunity to respond."

Mike and Trevor have used the wrestling exhibitions and wrestling training as a tool for gathering a crowd from a town and sharing the gospel of Christ.

Chris Driver weighed in on the ministry. "It is such a great ministry for small towns," he said. "In many of these west Texas towns, there's not much else to do, so virtually the whole town shows up for the event. Nobody will leave without having heard the message of salvation. I think we are going to get to see a lot of west Texas towns be reached with the gospel through this medium."

Mike has his wrestling ring set up in his father-in-law's barn about a mile from the church. They have no problem attracting a crowd of young boys to an event, and to hear the message of Christ.

Cross-Work Church is located on the main thoroughfare of town (U.S. Highway 380, near the Tahoka ISD complex). The church is a spacious brick veneer edifice that had once been a Church of Christ.

Watt shared how the name "Cross-Work" was chosen for the church. "I was reading a book by Darrin Patrick titled, Church Planter and in it, he made the statement, 'Every church should be about the cross work of Christ,'" Watt said.

"That just sort of stuck with me. We want our church to always be about the Cross-Work of Christ." Mike and wife, Blanda have four boys: Josh, Grayson, Ben and Caleb.

Mike and Trevor are utilizing most every tool at their disposal, and they both concur that social media and Facebook should not be overlooked. They have a brief devotional video called, "Mike and Trevor in the Morning," which can be seen on Facebook.com/crossworkchurch.

For more information about Cross-Work Church, visit [crossworkchurch.org](http://crossworkchurch.org).

## CHANGEMAKER (Continued From Page 1)

400 ChangeMakers globally.

The biblical examples of "ChangeMaker missions" fill the pages of the New Testament and are especially visible with Jesus and His earthly ministry with the 12 and Paul in his church planting efforts. Some of the principles for

ChangeMaker missions can be found from Paul's words in Col. 4:7-15.

In these verses, Paul is in prison and concluding his letter to the churches in and around Colossae. This passage is the ending of that letter, and he is greeting many in the Colossian churches in the name of some on his missionary team. It is in the names of these team members that we have a



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.  
[charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or cell 501-472-2183

*A Gift That Keeps Giving*

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

### Some Ways to Give

Stocks and bonds  
Life insurance policies  
IRA Rollovers  
Bequests  
Charitable Gift Annuities

## Baptist Progress

Jerry Fulton, editor  
[editor@baptistprogress.com](mailto:editor@baptistprogress.com)  
(972) 923-0756  
Mailed version: \$24  
Emailed version: \$18



## Larry and Tammy Wood: Their Heart for Ukraine

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer • BMAA Missions

Although Ukraine has a reputation of political corruption, missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood find the Ukrainian people themselves to be very honest. With a population of 250,000, Lutsk has been their home since 2019, and during that time the couple has lost items that were later returned with nothing missing. One of those lost-but-returned items was an American passport, which is highly valued on the black market.

One thing that is true of Ukrainians is that they are reserved and even suspicious of Americans who come to live there. “Why,” they ask, “would you want to leave the States where you have money?” The Woods’ response is that they are not rich Americans and are in the country to teach English. Nothing proves their honest intentions,

however, like time spent on developing relationships, which they have worked to make with the people they meet and with their English language students.

Larry and Tammy say Ukrainians’ lack of trust in people is due to national and local leaders who have betrayed them and broken their promises. Before leaving for their recent furlough, some of their Ukrainian friends questioned if they would even return from the States when they said they would, but return they did. They now consider Ukraine their home.

### Their Ministry Calling

Married in 1981, the Woods began ministry together in their first church one week after their wedding. For 40 years they have been in churches and on church staffs serving in the areas

of music, youth, education, and other roles. During those decades of raising children (Joel, Jennifer and Lauren), doing ministry and relocating for job opportunities, they felt God leading them to something more, even as early as 1992.

But it wasn’t until 2010 for Larry and 2011 for Tammy that they went on mission trips. Michael Gott Ministries, a 30-year-old ministry based in Texas, sponsored their trips to Ukraine: Larry went to Ukraine for the first time with the Singing Men of Texas, and a year later Tammy went on an English language trip. The trips developed their love for and desire to serve Ukrainians.

During the next five years they continued their Michael Gott trips and prayed about the timing of their move and the specific city they would call home. After two separate trips that gave them different perspectives on the country, God gave them the same confirmation that the city of Lutsk would be their mission field.

Leaving their children, grandsons and parents would be hard, but their children were supportive of their call, along with their church family, Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, where they had been for 17 years.

With Farley Street as their sending church, they began Pre-Field Preparation and Orientation training and deputation 2017. They were commissioned at the BMA national meeting

in 2018 and arrived in Ukraine in August of 2019 with the purpose of planting churches and establishing an English language school as an outreach ministry.

### Their Outreach And Church Planting

Prior to their arrival, Fimiam Baptist Church in Lutsk began looking for an American with whom they could partner in planting a church. The Woods were happy to be that couple, so they joined the church and began their English school there. The plan was to build relationships through their Practical English School students, neighbors, business owners and patrons, then share the good news of the gospel.

However, according to Larry and Tammy, “Earning the right to share the gospel takes time. Ukrainians have been lied to so many times and automatically think you’re lying to them, so we always tell the truth about why we’re living here: ‘God directed us to do this to help you learn English and tell you more about His love.’”

Knowing this, they prayed for open hearts in the people they would meet. God blessed their efforts beyond what they imagined and in less six months, the pastor of Fimiam Baptist Church asked them to pray about starting a new church in the center of the city, which is where they live. The Woods agreed to do so, along with Sasha Grebenyuk (home church and youth

pastor at Fimiam for 10 years) and his wife, Julia.

After working hard to prove their sincerity in the community and to their English students, Water of Life Baptist was planted in November of 2019. With 20 first-time visitors in attendance, Pastor Sasha welcomed them to celebrate and continue to be part of what God is doing in Lutsk through this new fellowship of believers. The church recently added a youth pastor who is leading them to serve throughout the city.

### The Woods’ Small Group Bible Study

The Woods have also helped restart a second church, Grace Baptist, that was planted 10 years ago by Fimiam in Volodymyr-Volynskyi, an hour away from Lutsk. Led by Sergii Morozuk, the church has struggled, so Larry and Tammy were asked to help with the mission. Church members are diligently working with their pastor to build a strong church to reach their city with the gospel.

### Their Hindrances to the Gospel

The main churches in Ukraine are Ukrainian Orthodox, and they don’t like new churches. “It’s a matriarchal society,” Larry and Tammy explain, “so if the orthodox church notices the family is going to a Baptist church, the priest will go to the grandmother, ask why her family members are attending

**See UKRAINE, Page 12**

**BUILDING 429**

**PAUSE SOAR 2021**

**JULY 6-8 2021**

HILTON ANATOLE, DALLAS, TX

REGISTER AT **SOARCONFERENCE.COM**

**/// \$110.00 PER PERSON**  
REGISTRATION BEFORE JUNE 4, 2021  
(DOES INCLUDES TSHIRT AND FREE PASS TO JADEWATERS WATER PARK)

**/// \$125.00 PER PERSON**  
REGISTRATION AFTER JUNE 4, 2021  
(DOES NOT INCLUDE TSHIRT BUT DOES INCLUDE FREE PASS TO JADEWATERS WATER PARK)

**Missionaries**



Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198  
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 Carter Pearce, Grace, Green Forest; (870) 688-7412  
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
 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  
 Clinton Morris, Not Alone, Springdale; (870) 316-1519  
 Office Location: 10712 Interstate 30 • Little Rock, AR 72209  
 (501) 565-4601 • E-Mail: bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 195514, Little Rock, AR 72219  
 Director's Email: arstamis@comcast.net  
 www.bmaofarkansas.com  
 Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



**PAUL WHITE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Not Everyone That Says Lord, Lord...

*"There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none" (Eze. 22: 25-30).*

This could be the headlines in America's papers today. But I am thankful that many refuse to roll over and play dead. For it's not more revelation we need but more inspiration.

Do you have a wall to keep the enemies of God out of your life and home? If we have a wall, are we leaving the gates open and unguarded? Are we willing to fight to defend our families and our church? Are we willing to stand up to the world?

This particular wall is not one of brick and stone, but a spiritual wall anchored by God, designed to keep spiritual problems out. I Tim. 5:8 says that if we fail to provide for the needs of our loved ones — both physically and spiritually — we are worse than an unbeliever! Have we done anything to protect our families or has worldliness totally pervaded every aspect of our lives and homes?

Satan hates walls. "Let's all be one happy family," he whispers in our ears. But please, do not fall for this line! In type, the church is to be a wall, within which peace dwells and righteousness flourishes (Song of Solomon 8:10). God supplies this spiritual wall to those who seek His Way, His providence and His will. If we reject God, break down the wall or neglect our relationship with Him, what happens?

Whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent (Eccl. 10:8). Many of our brethren have allowed their walls to crumble, and Satan has struck. The surest way to restore the wall is through sincere and complete repentance.

Playing at the repair job, daubing bits of untempered mortar here and there, will only increase God's wrath (Eze. 13:8-16). Such a wall, lacking God, gives the impression of security but crumbles at the smallest enemy attack. We need to be totally committed to restoring our neglected relationship with God, thus restoring God's presence as our wall.

## From Our Missionaries

**Connection Point, Brookland:** Chad White writes, "We had a good week at Connection Point. Saturday, our Teens traveled to Southaven, Miss. to attend Winter Jam with some great Christian bands and speakers. Sunday, we had a good day. Our attendance and offerings were back up a bit. God blessed us with a great time of worship."

"We have some exciting things coming up in the weeks ahead. May 2, we will relaunch our classes for all ages with a few new additions to the lineup. May 9, we will have our Baby Dedication service. May 15th, we have a church-wide fish fry planned at Crowley's Ridge State Park. A Women's Retreat is scheduled for May 21 & 22. Our Senior Sunday is planned for May 23rd.

"It is an exhilarating time to be a part of our mission here in Brookland."

**The Mustard Seed, Cain:** Jim

Tollison writes, "God blessed us with another good Sunday morning. We had some returning visitors. One of our new couples had a lot of questions after services. They are getting very close to making the mission their church home. One of the other couples said, "we are definitely coming back next Sunday". Those were some exciting after service conversations. Every Sunday God seems to remind us that He is still in charge."

"We are preparing for a special Mother's Day service Sunday, May 9. Special music is going to be presented by the Warren family. Our Mothers deserve an extraordinary day."

"Thank you for all of your support and prayers."

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On March 14, Jonatan received Christ as his Lord and Savior, he and two of his children have been attending church

since that day. His wife, Carolina, had attended only the day Jonatan made his decision for Christ. She was about to give birth. The last two Sundays the whole family has attended the Sunday service.

"All that to share with you that this last Sunday (April 25), 6 weeks after the conversion of the head of the home, Carolina and two of their children, Steven and Eduardo, decided to give their lives to Christ. Glory to God, He has brought the entire family to His feet. We are happy!

"Right after the service we confirmed his decision. We then agreed to start his discipleship process on Saturday afternoons. Please pray that this family can be established in the faith and is faithful, available and teachable."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "God has given us a very good week. On Wednesday we went to the Rodríguez family to start Bible studies. We made an introduction to the Bible and its composition, and we explained to Jenny how God formed the canon of both the Old and New Testaments. Jenny is thirsty for the Word of God. It is her first time to study the Bible, she wants us to be able to present her baby girl to church very soon. We want to take advantage of Wednesdays for our children to take this series of Bible Study. They see that their father and mother give discipleship to many people and now we want to take time together with the Rodríguez family so that they have a growth in the Word of God. So we will have Daniel, Jenny, Rubencito (Little Ruben), Zuly, Kory and I. Pray for spiritual growth not only in the Rodríguez family, but also in our children."

"Last Sunday was full of testimony of what God is doing in Ebenezer. On the one hand, Zolimar Rojas visited his daughter in Houston, Texas for a week, and shared the gospel with her and she made her decision for Christ. Zolimar has only one month of being a believer and now he shared the gospel with his daughter and granddaughter. Esther Batres shared with us the significance of the Biblical Study of her Berean group (cell) and with tears she told us the truths they have discovered from the Word of God."

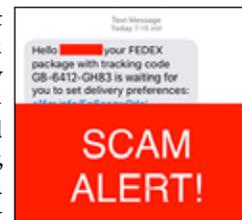
"There are weeks when it is difficult to share all the testimony of what happens in our congregation. This is one of them. I thank God that our mother church, Chenal Valley Baptist Church, resumed their Sunday School. They



**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**LESLIE RUTLEDGE**  
ARKANSASAG.GOV

## Scammers Are Phishing For Personal Information

It is always exciting to get the text message alert that your package has arrived — but what if you didn't order anything? The latest trend from pesky scam artists comes as a text message telling Arkansans a package is being delivered to their home and they must click on the link in the message. In reality, there is no package, the text does not come from a legitimate delivery company, and the scammer is just trying to hack into a user's phone and steal personal information.



"Scam artists are using an old email scam to steal from Arkansans right from their phones," said Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. "If you receive a phony text message that you did not sign up for, do not click on anything in the message and delete the message immediately."

AG Rutledge has provided these tips for Arkansans who have experienced phishing text message scams:

- **Do not reply to unsolicited text messages and do not click on the links in the message.** If you are an AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon or Sprint subscriber, you can report spam texts to your carrier by copying the original message and forwarding it to the number 7726 (SPAM), free of charge.
- **If you find unauthorized charges on your cell phone bill, report those to your cell phone provider and ask that the charges be removed.**
- **Check with your wireless carrier to see if it has options available to reduce text message spam, such as blocking all text messages that originate from a computer or the internet.** Texts sent by an email address, as opposed to direct-dialed texts, are those most likely to be scams.
- **Apple iPhones and Google Android have provided instructions for customers to block specific numbers.**
- **Protect your phone by setting up software to update automatically.** The software updates can give you critical protection against security risks.
- **Use a multi-factor authentication process to protect your accounts,** which offers extra security by requiring two or more login credentials to log into an account on your phone. This could be a passcode, fingerprint or your face.
- **Backing up your data is the most secure way to protect your information.** Make a copy of your files, photos and other important data on your phone and make sure it is connected to a cloud storage device or external hard drive, not connected to your home network.

For more information and tips to avoid scams and other consumer-related issues, contact the Attorney General's Office at (800) 482-8982 or visit [ArkansasAG.gov](http://ArkansasAG.gov).

are a church that blesses us and prays for us. We also pray for them. Their success is a joy not only for us but for the Kingdom of God. I can only say, to God be the Glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had several out this week for different ailments, so please join us in prayer for those. These are all faithful members with serious problems."

"Our number was still good, and we had a wonderful time of worship on Sunday. We met new people again this week that say they will come, and we pray they will."

"We helped the people that we are buying the house from with their moving sale and met a lot of new people in the community. One thing we have noticed is that a lot of people have heard about us, are noticing us and talking about us (by us, I mean all of Faith Chapel's members, not just me and Karen). Our folks are talking to people and inviting them, and those people are telling their friends and neighbors."

"So please continue to pray for us, for Flippin and all these seeds that are being planted, that God will give the increase

and send workers to the Harvest."

**Not Alone, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "We had many house meetings this last week, with meetings on Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoon. We also hung out with several of our neighbors this week and are working on plans to have a neighborhood BBQ cook-out to meet more."

"Sunday's meeting was with a prospective couple for the church plant. It has been so amazing to see God work. I had a chance encounter meeting with the innovator of Boomsauceministries — a college campus-based ministry. He is hoping that we might come together soon to do a joint event."

"Plans are being formed for a sneak peek event in July. We are still trying to find a place for the event, but we are thankful for the leading so far. We are headed into another action-packed week, and looking to see how God directs in each aspect."

"Things to specifically pray for us: a second vehicle, an inexpensive meeting spot for our church, spirit leading for the people that God is bringing into this plant and that we will see souls saved."

## UKRAINE (Continued From Page 10)

one and threaten that the family will be cursed. The community will wait a while to see if the family has endured some kind of difficulty due to cursing, and if there hasn't been any, the Baptist church possibility is opened back up."

There is a Baptist Union in Ukraine that looks more like the orthodox churches with their elaborate styles. Although they are evangelical, they are not evangelistic. In fact, a bishop in the Baptist Union was against the Woods planting a church, saying to them at the celebration of their first church plant, "We're glad you accomplished something you wanted, but we don't need any more Baptist churches."

Another hindrance to their acceptance of the gospel is, of course, their suspicions that Americans are only in the country to make money in some way, just like others have done before. But fortunately, Ukrainians are also curious. They notice there is something different about Larry and Tammy, especially their smiles. The Woods explain their joyfulness this way: "Smiling is an eye-catcher. They believe people who smile and laugh are usually insane. 'Why do you smile so much?' they wonder. In ourselves there is nothing good, we tell them, but God in me makes us feel this way."

### Their Adjustment to Culture

A socialist country, Ukraine has

its own version of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. The Woods have experienced attempts to get more money out of them because they're American, but Larry always refuses, and security officers finally give up.

Another issue is "entrepreneurs," as they are called by Ukrainians, wealthy people who create businesses but don't hire employees, so there's no "sharing the wealth" or trickle-down economics to benefit the unemployed. Such businesses have found a way around reporting taxes to the government and likely bribe government officials to turn their back on the taxes they owe.

On the other hand, some wealthy people come into the country, ditch their nice cars and nice clothes to look poor so they can make money from the Americans who come to do ministry. Then they pack up and leave.

Larry and Tammy have adjusted their ministry to combat these, and other, unfortunate cultural issues with genuine love for people with whom they build relationships.

### Their Covid Response

When the pandemic hit, the Woods adjusted their teaching methods and learned how to use Zoom. During the first virtual lesson they discussed COVID-19 and its effect on their lives. The virus gave them an opportunity to talk about God and his faithfulness then share the gospel.

Seventy percent of Water of Life's church members lost jobs during the pandemic, but Pastor Sasha challenged them to trust the Lord financially and commit to tithing. The Lord has honored that commitment, and they have paid all their bills in addition to passing out food baskets to the hungry.

### Their Praise and Prayer Requests

In early March of 2021, the Woods were finally able to return home from their furlough. They were met at the airport by excited church members who were smiling and celebrating their arrival.

Please join BMA Missions as we praise the Lord for new believers in Ukraine, new church plants and new opportunities to prove that the gospel is worth their surrender and obedience to the God who saves. Pray for Larry and Tammy to break down barriers to the gospel in Ukraine and, with the Holy Spirit's power, bring people to Christ then disciple new believers.



**Worden, Bald Knob,** June 14-18, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme - Rocky Railway.

**Antioch, Conway,** June 21-24, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; closing-Thur. 6 p.m.; theme - Treasured.

## HOMEcomings

**140<sup>th</sup> Homecoming, Bluff Springs, Rosston,** May 16, 10:30 a.m.; Travis Dillard (devotional); Donnie Dillard (message) potluck and singing; Donnie Dillard, pastor.

**New Home, Quitman,** May 16, Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., message by Don Betts, followed by lunch and singing in the afternoon; J.D. Courtney, pastor.

**Union, Rosston,** May 23, 10:30 a.m., lunch 12:00 p.m.; Joe Brown, pastor.

**Center Gove, Cord,** June 20, 10:30 a.m., Velvet ridge Singers (music); Verlon Wood (message); potluck and singing; Barry Anderson, pastor.

**Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw,** July 25, 10:30 a.m., John Ed Dorman (devotional); Taylor Bruce (message); potluck lunch and singing; Lane Garner, pastor.

## Revivals

**Faustina, Hampton,** May 2-5; 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. Sun.; 7 p.m. Mon. - Wed.; Dwayne Williams, evangelist.

**Dickinson, Harrell,** May 3-5; 7:00 p.m.; Ruben Weaver, evangelist; Phillip Reddin, pastor.

**Temple, Fordyce,** May 9-12, 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Lance Hollis, pastor.

**Union, Rosston,** May 24-26, 7 p.m.; David Dillard, evangelist; Joe Brown, pastor.

**Liberty, Stamps,** June 6-9, 7 p.m.; Donnie Edward, evangelist; Adam Rogers, pastor.

**Lemonwood, Whitehall,** June 11-13; 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. Sun.; Neal Clark, evangelist; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

**Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw,** Sept. 12-17, 7 p.m.; Jimmy Walker, evangelist; Lane Garner, pastor.

## Called Meeting for Greenbrier BMA

The Greenbrier BMA will have a special called meeting on Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier to consider a recommendation from the Missions Advisory Committee. Each church may bring up to three voting messengers for this meeting. Other guests are welcome to attend.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE**

2ND ANNUAL  
*Scholarship Gala*  
JUNE 5, 2021 ~ 6:00PM ~ CONWAY EXPO CENTER

~ A CELEBRATION OF PATRIOTISM AND FAITH ~  
*with special guest Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell*

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE AT [CBC.EDU/GALA](http://CBC.EDU/GALA)  
*Due to the generous contribution of an anonymous donor, 100% of ticket sales, sponsorships, and additional individual contributions for this event will be matched up to \$400,000.*