

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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2021 BMAA National Meeting August 2-4

Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas



72nd Annual Meeting Of The BMA of America

By Jeff Swart, BMAA President

We are pleased to announce that the 72nd annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will be held Monday, Aug. 2 thru Wednesday, Aug. 4 at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. By now, all our older pastors

and church members, who were most susceptible to the adverse effects of COVID, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and we believe that we can host a national meeting that will be safe for those who attend.

The theme of this year's meeting will be "Missions: Think Globally But Act Locally." It seems both Scriptural and logical to "think globally"—support missionaries around the globe, and at the same time, to "act locally"—share the gospel with our neighbors next door or across the street. During the time we are together, we hope to share some ideas that will increase the effectiveness of missions in our local churches that will impact our missions footprint around the world.

The hotel information is the same as it was for the 2020 meeting, and we are asking our state papers to republish this information for the convenience of our churches. (see below)

Please pray for your officers and the national meeting production team as we plan a meeting that will glorify the Son and edify the messengers and guests of our churches. We look forward to seeing you in Waxahachie as we set a course for the coming year.

Hotel Reservation Information

Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone

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.

Charlie Dixon has resigned as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Manila. He is available for pulpit supply and pastoral service as the Lord leads. Contact him at (870) 815-1091 or 689 N County Road 309, Manila, Ark. 72442.

Jackie Manasco is the new pastor at Letona Baptist Church in Letona, Ark.

Jerry Evans has accepted the position of interim pastor of First Baptist Church North Lewisville.

numbers are included. You must identify that you are with the **Baptist Missionary Association of America**.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

• **Fairfield Inn & Suites**, 2020 Civic Center Lane: (Single/Double, \$135 per night, Rate Code: BMCO; King, \$135, Rate Code: BMCK; King Suite, \$155, Rate Code: BMCX). Telephone reservations: (972) 937-8886.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

• **Best Western Plus**, 1701 North Highway 77: (Single/Double, \$119.99; Queen/King, \$129.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: (972) 938-1600.

• **Comfort Suites**, 131 RVG Plaza: (Two queen suite, \$109; King suite, \$109; for more than two people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: (469) 517-1600. Use Group Code: BMAA.

• **Hampton Inn**, 2010 Civic Center Lane: (Double Queen: \$139; King standard, \$129). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: (972) 923-0666, Ext. 0.

• **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**, 984 North US 287 Bypass: (Single King, \$139.99; Two Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone

See MEETING, Page 5

ChangeMakers and 2021 Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering

By John Meriweather

Sunday, May 2 was an exciting day for BMA Global Missions as the first BMA church in Paraguay was commissioned. Divine Grace Baptist Church was born from the church planting ministries of two ChangeMaker missionaries — Regino Acuña Cossio and Divine Grace Pastor Ivan Philippini.

As my former pastor Henry Horton would say, "Glory! That's shoutin' news!"

Through your prayerful and generous support that prioritizes kingdom expansion, God is using BMA churches to fulfill the mission of God. This year, our churches have once again demonstrated this commitment to His mission. To date **\$487,000**

has been donated to the Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering! Glory!

Dr. John David Smith says, "We have no higher calling and privilege than to be involved in God's global mission by obeying the commands of Jesus to make disciples and plant churches. We are thankful for men like Bro. Regino and Pastor Ivan who invest their lives in the lives of others every day. This multiplication ministry is happening in almost 80 countries through BMA Global Missions. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for blessing others through your prayers and support on World Missions Day."

With donations still coming in, we pray that our 2021 offering will exceed \$500,000. BMA Missions appreciates the churches, families, individuals and businesses that contributed. We are humbled by your support and more encouraged than ever that, in these darkest days, God is on the move and we want to go with Him. Glory!

It's not too late to send in your offering. Donate online or mail checks to: BMA Missions, Jerry Kidd World Missions Offering, P.O. Box 878, Conway Ark. 72033.



Daniel Springs Summer Schedule

By Jason Prewitt, Camp Director

We are excited about the upcoming summer after very limited events for the past year due to the global pandemic. The summer schedule will feature nine different camp options, beginning with Pre-Teen Camp 1, followed by two split-week "combo camps" for both Pre-teen (3rd-6th grade) and Students (6th grade thru college), then Pre-teen Camp 2, followed by two Ark-La-Tex camps and finishing the summer with Student Camp. Here is the summer camp schedule:

- Pre-Teen Camp 1 — June 23-26
- Combo Camp 1 — June 27-30

- Combo Camp 2 — June 30-July 3
- Pre-Teen Camp 2 — July 14-17
- Ark-La-Tex Camp 1 — July 18-21
- Ark-La-Tex Camp 2 — July 21-24
- Student Camp — July 25-28

Daniel Springs is also available for retreats and private event rentals. We pride ourselves on providing beautiful, clean and spacious facilities that will make a lasting impression on all that attend. Contact us to reserve a time for family reunions, birthday parties, college groups, weddings, corporate events, community events, field trips,

See SCHEDULE, Page 3

In This Issue

- A Difference Maker (pg. 3)
- Defining Moments (pg. 8)
- Home From College (pg. 5)
- Making Christ Known (pg. 3)
- To the Graduate (pg. 5)



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Twitter: @CentBaptCollege and @tkimbrow

Terry Kimbrow
President



Men's Golf

• **Cape Girardeau, Mo., May 4** — Coming into the final round of the American Midwest Conference (AMC) Championship at Dalhousie Golf Club eight strokes behind, CBC looked to charge forward on the final day to win the title. CBC would end up shooting a 308 and finish in fourth place, shooting an overall score of 922 to finish 24 strokes behind the winners, Missouri Baptist.

Women's Golf

• **Eugene, Mo., May 10** — Teeing off for the first round of their final tournament of the season, CBC was on the course at the Redfield Golf and Country Club for the first round of the AMC Championship. CBC shot an opening round 357 amongst three golfers, which is not enough to post a team score.

Baseball

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 4** — With their season continuing in the AMC tournament, the AMC announced the All-Conference selections for 2021. **Andrew Killough, Ruben Hernandez, Jay French, Steven Stewart, Kelvin Volquez** and **Wille Baez** were all selected to the AMC's all-conference teams after their performances this season.

• **O'Fallon, Mo., May 4** — Opening the AMC tournament at CarShield Field, CBC, the #5 seed, took on the #8 seed Hannibal-La-Grange Trojans for the right to move on in the AMC Tournament. CBC (24-20) saw their season come to end after they led 7-3 in the fifth inning, falling 11-7 to HLGU (18-26).

Softball

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 5** — On the first day of the AMC tournament, the conference announced their all-conference selections. Seven CBC players — **Allison Seats, Hannah Work, Baleigh Jackson, Alyssa Estrada, Katie Goike, Allie Burroughs** and **Ysabella Esquivel** — were all selected to the all-conference teams.

• **Kansas City, Mo., May 5** — Accomplishing something that hasn't been done since 2012, CBC has been ranked in every poll this season as the NAIA released the final Coaches Poll of the regular season. CBC will be ranked 19th entering the AMC tournament, a drop of one spot from their previous ranking.

• **Columbia, Mo., May 5** — Opening the AMC tournament, #19 CBC, the #2 seed in the AMC Tournament, took on the #7 seed Hannibal-La-Grange at Antimi Softball Complex. CBC (28-11) came back from down 4-2 in the first to beat HLGU (15-



Student Ministry Matters

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Dan Carson
Director BMA of Arkansas Youth Department
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“Pick Up Your Trash!”

During my time at Central Baptist College, I met a handful of people whose lives have continued to exemplify the CBC experience. I had the opportunity to take classes with a Bible student named Terry Kimbrow, who went on to become the CBC president. Another one of my classmates was Julian Dominquez. Julian continues to be one of CBC's biggest cheerleaders. He even got the CBC Mustang tattooed on his leg.

Then, there was Bobby Wilkey. I didn't live in the dorm with Bobby, sing in the choir with him or go to any classes with him, but he was always there. If you ever met Bobby, you couldn't forget him. He just served as a faithful part of the CBC support staff. This past weekend, Bobby Wilkey was celebrated in a big way after many years of service. He was even awarded a bachelor's degree.

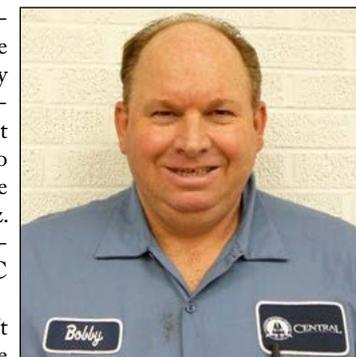
At the beginning of every school year, I would hear him tell us to “Pick up your trash.” You ask anyone from those years at CBC and they can still hear him saying those four little words. While those words may not seem like a lot, they spoke volumes and continue to do so today. As college students, Bobby was teaching us some valuable life and ministry lessons in addition to trying to keep CBC a beautiful place.

• **When you make a mess, you need to clean it up.** If Bobby had thought to say it, he probably would have said, “I'm not your Mama. You better pick up after yourself.” Somewhere along the road, you have probably heard that exhortation. In ministry, we will occasionally make a mess of things. Do your part in the repair of the situation. You don't have to do it all yourself, but you shouldn't ignore it and just expect someone else to fix it.

• **It is important to invest in where you are.** Bobby poured himself into his job. CBC has been his world for over four decades. We often don't give enough of ourselves to the ministries in which God has placed us. We will look ahead to the bigger church or the next phase of our education. Wherever you find yourself, love the place and love the people.

• **Loyalty to your job is important.** Bobby was committed to CBC. Are you committed to your church? Are you willing to endure the tough times to see the times of blessing? Perseverance in life and long-term ministry can be a huge blessing. If we are not careful, we will be hopping from job to job or even ministry to ministry every time we see what we think is a better situation. Aim for the long haul.

I appreciate Bobby today so much more than I did back during those college days. His faithfulness and loyalty to CBC will always be something I remember.



Commencement 2021

The 2021 Commencement at Central Baptist College was held on Saturday, May 8. The ceremony was organized by the college's Graduation Committee and was modified to offer private ceremonies for each graduate to address continuing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 global health pandemic.

This year's class consisted of 131 total graduates, 107 in the Traditional program and 24 in the PACE program. Of this year's 131 graduates, 100 made plans to participate in the on-campus ceremony.

Each graduate who participated was given a private appointment time between 9 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Upon entry into the Harold E. Cooper Educational Complex, the graduate and their entire party were escorted to a private holding room where he/she was greeted by either a CBC staff member or student volunteer. While graduates waited for their official graduation time, a CBC faculty or staff member shared time with the graduate and their guests and prayed over them.

When it was his/her time, the graduate and his/her party were escorted into the Burgess Auditorium for his/her private graduation ceremony. Besides the graduate's guests, also in attendance were members of the CBC faculty and staff who were socially distanced throughout the space. After the graduate's guests were settled, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gary McAllister officially presented the graduate by announcing their name and degree earned. The graduate then walked across the stage and received their diploma from President Terry Kimbrow.

The final portion of the day's events included the graduate walking from the Harold E. Cooper Educational Complex, down the Legacy Walk and through the Ratliff Bell Tower. For several years, administrators and faculty leading the graduates in a processional through the Ratliff Bell Tower has become the customary way to end Commencement exercises. Once through the Ratliff Bell Tower, graduates were able to take photos and celebrate with their family and friends on the campus lawn.

Graduates who are unable to participate in person will have their diploma, tassel, program and any cords they have earned, mailed to them.

Bobby Wilkey Receives Honorary Degree



The final graduate of the day was CBC retiree, Bobby Wilkey. Bobby initially came to CBC as a student in 1978 and was hired as a full-time employee on Aug. 1, 1981. Bobby retired from CBC on Aug. 14, 2020 after 39 years of service to the institution. Due to COVID restrictions, the college was not able to honor Bobby previously, but did so on May 8. The institution conferred upon Bobby an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree, one of only five ever awarded by the

See CBC, Page 3

24) 8-6 and move on in the winner's bracket of the AMC Tournament.

• **Columbia, Mo., May 6** — Looking to stay in the winner's bracket at the AMCTournament, #19 CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist in a winner's bracket game at Antimi Softball Complex. CBC (29-11) took a 6-2 lead early and survived drama in the seventh, advancing in the winner's bracket 6-5 over MBU (15-13).

• **Columbia, Mo., May 7** — Looking to clinch a spot in the AMC Tournament Championship series and the second automatic bid to the NAIA Softball Opening Round, #19 CBC took on the Cougars of Columbia and the Owls of William Woods. #19 CBC (30-12) lost a tough one to CC (39-5) 4-3 before beating William Woods (21-22) 3-0 to clinch a bid to the NAIA National Tournament

Opening Round for the second time!

• **Columbia, Mo., May 8** — Looking to upset the #1 seed in the AMC Tournament, #19 CBC took on the #7 Cougars of Columbia College in the AMC Championship game. CBC (30-13) couldn't withstand the offensive onslaught of Columbia (40-5) and fell 8-0 in five innings.

Track & Field

• **Creve Coeur, Mo., May 8** — After qualifying at the AMC Championships, hosted by Missouri Baptist University, CBC looked for their first-ever conference title in just their third year of existence. CBC would finish seventh in the men's team scoring and eighth in women's, but **Ally Swaim** and **Jamal Washington** both won individual championships and **Dylan Burnham** medaled in two events.



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

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Making Christ Known

Why are we silent in sharing the gospel? God's Word is quite clear about how vocal we are supposed to be in sharing the gospel, but we are not!

Psalm 71:15 (CSB) says, "My mouth will tell about your righteousness and

your salvation all day long, though I cannot sum them up." It seems that while some feel they do not have anything to say, the Psalmist was more concerned

that he had too much to say and could not condense it. The gospel is the heart of the Bible. God has always been about forming a gospel people for a gospel message, beginning with Abram in Genesis 12. Yet, the great commission has become the great omission.

In *Life on Mission*, authors Dustin Willis and Aaron Coe tell us that everything in Scripture is either preparation of the gospel, presentation of the gospel or participation in the gospel. Yet once again, so many are missing in action when it comes to being faithful to His mission. Willis and Coe continue, "having a knowledge of theology is great if you are taking a test, but that amounts to a zero if you do not apply it." They ask a very poignant question about who is more spiritually mature, the person who knows hundreds of things about God and applies one or the person who knows two things and applies both?

How is it possible to say we are spiritually mature and not be actively sharing the gospel with everyone we can? In *Made for More* by Todd Wilson and Rob Wegner we read: "The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling and then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society." Does your church have an outreach system? This is not about a program but an intentional plan to equip, empower and release your people into the harvest where they have been trained well to share the gospel.

Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI) training reminds us that our outreach system should be designed to evangelize as many people as possible. Build your system on biblical principles such as the Bridge Principle,

"Understanding (and communicating sensitively to) the hearts and minds of people in the target community is essential to reaching them effectively with the gospel." Here is DCPI's definition of outreach, "To evangelize is

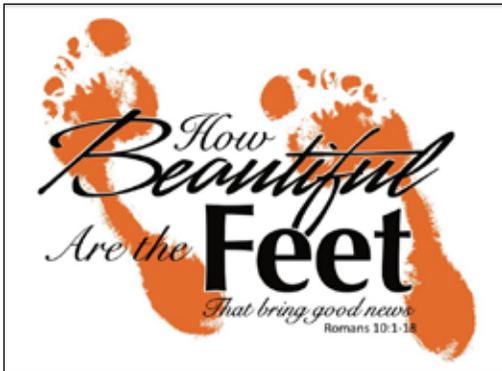
to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior and serve

Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church."

Jesus did not tell us to make decisions, but rather to make disciples. Matthew 28:19 makes it clear, "Go and make disciples." When someone decides to follow Jesus that is the first step in the journey. Not only do you need an outreach system, you must also have a discipleship system in place. What will you do if everyone you invite to church next Sunday comes? What will you do if all of them decided to choose Christ and follow Him? Are you prepared to help them become fully devoted disciples of Christ? If you are not, you have fumbled the true goal of the Great Commission — making disciples who make disciples.

Your first step is developing your outreach system, followed by implementing your discipleship (spiritual growth) system. Next you must consider your assimilation system of how you will integrate people into the life of your church. It is almost impossible, certainly not biblical, to be a disciple and not be actively involved in a local church. People cannot grow when in isolation. When in isolation, no one can obey the many exhortations in Scripture which teach us to serve in the local church, love members of the local church, give to the local church, submit to the leaders of the local church and encourage one another to love and good deeds.

Prayerfully consider basic strategies for your outreach, discipleship and assimilation systems. What does a step-by-step process look like that includes prayer, evangelism, discipleship pathway, leadership pipeline, mentoring, serving and making sure your church is focused on building relationships with pre-believers. Have you trained your people well to know



CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

institution in its history.

After the graduation ceremony, Bobby made his way to the Dining Hall in the Mabee Student Services Complex for his retirement celebration. In attendance were CBC employees, CBC retirees, members of Antioch Baptist Church of Conway where Bobby is a long-time member and family and friends.

On the program to make comments in celebration of Bobby were President Terry Kimbrow; Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister; retired Vice President of Finance Mr. Norman Crass; Athletic Director Lyle Middleton; Division Chair for Humanities & Arts, Social Studies Department Chair and Professor of History Dr. Dusty Bender; Physical Plant Director Byron Baker; and BMA of Arkansas President Tom Mitchell.

To honor Bobby's retirement, the Athletic Department presented him a framed women's basketball jersey, a signed basketball from the men's team, a signed volleyball, a framed soccer jersey, a signed softball, a framed baseball jersey and a signed and framed team photo from the baseball team. The CBC employees presented Bobby with a large screen TV, and the college presented Bobby with a monetary gift, in addition to conferring upon him an honorary degree.

Central Baptist College would not be what it is without Bobby Wilkey's dedication to caring for the campus and its people. We are indebted to him for all he has given to the institution, and we were honored to celebrate him this past weekend.

how to lead someone into a relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you prepared to nurture new believers in their first steps of faith? Are you ready to unfold new believers into your church? You must accept your responsibility to help people each step of the way.

These movement systems are reproducible and interconnected processes by which the organization actualizes its values and achieves its mission. What best practices do you need to implement and follow through on? What changes need to be made? What do you need to begin doing immediately and what do you need to stop doing? Do not be afraid to evaluate and change the areas necessary for your systems to move forward and accomplish the tasks God has directed your church to carry out. What are you doing well? Where do you need to improve? After asking yourself these questions, then develop the next steps needed to get you where God wants your church to be!

Healthy Church Solutions has many free resources to help you process and develop these systems. If we can help you in any way, please let me know at larry@bmaam.com.

Just Thinking...
By Tom Mitchell
President, BMA of Arkansas
(501) 804-6647 • temitchell1946@gmail.com



A Difference Maker

I was just thinking — the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas is quite diverse. More than 300 churches comprise the association. Those churches, as I have previously mentioned, combine their support of four particular entities — ministries if you please. This past Saturday I paid close attention to one of those — Central Baptist College.

Friends, we are blessed to have such an institution that is biblically based and has as its core a Christ-centered approach to every class, whether it is Bible, missions, education, nursing, music or sports.

Saturday, Karen and I were attendees of two very special events at CBC. The first was the 2021 graduation exercises. Still dealing with COVID restrictions, members of the administration and faculty laboriously prepared for the day so that each graduate had the experience of walking across the stage to receive his or her diploma — the fruit of time spent in studies to meet the criteria for graduation.

The Burgess Auditorium was not filled as on a "normal" graduation day. Instead, faculty was scattered around the auditorium observing, applauding and supporting the grads who had been in their classes.

Each graduate could have no more than 24 guests in the auditorium as he or she received that long-awaited diploma. Most had much fewer than the allotted 24.

Despite the COVID effect, I was impressed with the lengths the school had gone to in order to make graduation special for each young man and woman.

Thank you, Central Baptist College, for making such an impact on the graduates and their families!

The second event also impressed me greatly. It was a retirement party for a man who served the college in various roles for 39 years. Bobby Wilkey touched the lives of five CBC presidents, numerous administrators and faculty and countless students in his time at the college.

Bobby was not a retiring administrator, instructor or coach. He was a lawn keeper, maintenance worker, security guard, clock keeper and, above all, a friend to everyone who set foot on the CBC campus.

What was impressive was how the college he loves so much treated him Saturday as various ones spoke about a man with a servant spirit. He was showered with gifts — treasures that will keep CBC in his heart for years to come.

As I interviewed Bobby at the close of the program, I was touched by his openness. He said that, as a teenager in Jonesboro, people made fun of him; but at CBC none did that. Bobby received love and I can tell you — Bobby gave love!

As I close, I want to emphasize that many may never step foot on the campus, but be assured, CBC deserves the continued support — prayerfully and financially — from the churches and individuals of the BMA of Arkansas. Central Baptist College is a difference maker!

Well, that is what I was just thinking.

SCHEDULE

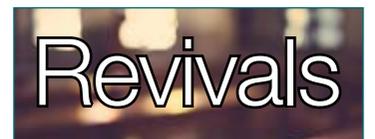
(Continued From Page 1)

Bible study groups, church groups, school events, crafting events, team building tournaments, recreational activities (such as archery tag and pool rentals) or anything else we can help make memorable!

For more information about any of our camps or making an event reservation, please visit our website at danielspringscamp.com or call us at (903) 685-2433. You can also email us at info@danielspringscamp.com.



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



Corinth, Rosston, May 17-20, 7:00 p.m.; Rocky Goodwin, evangelist; Mike Goodwin, music director; Petite Ward, pastor.

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

Parkview, Trumann, May 28-30, 6 p.m.; Paul and Joe Pritcher, evangelists; Wayne Hillis, 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.



Biden Overturns Trump Rule

In June 2020, President Donald Trump issued a pro-life rule that will protect pro-life Americans and help save babies from abortion. His administration implemented a rule to block the effects of a dangerous Obamacare provision that could be used to compel doctors to participate in abortions. On May 10, Joe Biden reversed it.

During the Trump administration, the Department of Health and Human Services finalized a rule that revises 2016 provisions of the Obamacare section 1557 rule that had redefined discrimination “on the basis of sex” to include “pregnancy termination.” The Trump administration rule protected doctors, nurses and medical professionals from being compelled to assist abortions.

Biden’s decision overturns the Trump rule, which had defined “sex” as gender assigned at birth and clarified that sex discrimination does not include abortion when it comes to health care and coverage. (lifeneews.com)

Biden Administration to Reinterpret “Sex” in Obamacare Law

On May 10, the Biden Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services announced it will redefine the word “sex” in Title IX and the federal Obamacare law to include sexual-orientation and gender-identity. The move reverses a Trump-era policy that interpreted “sex” to mean simply biological sex — not sexual orientation or gender identity.

In 2016 the Obama Administration began issuing guidelines and memos redefining “sex” to include sexual-orientation and gender-identity. The Trump Administration rolled back many of these radical policies. Now that President Biden is in office, his administration is reinstating them. (familycouncil.org)

Joint Effort Aims to Get Bible in All Languages

Mart Green has a vision that everyone in the world will have the Bible in their own heart language in the next 12 years. Green, founder and CEO of Mardel Christian & Education, a chain of 37 stores in seven U.S. states, is helping lead a Bible translation project featuring a variety of organizations with the goal of translating the Bible into all known languages by the year 2033. The translation effort, called illumiNations, includes a partnership among 10 of the largest Bible translation organizations in the world, including Wycliffe Bible Translators, American Bible Society, Pioneer Bible Translators and Deaf Bible Society.

Green, son of Hobby Lobby founder and CEO David Green, also

serves as the ministry investment officer for Hobby Lobby. The goal of the illumiNations alliance is to eliminate “Bible poverty,” or not having Scripture in a language one can read and understand. The group estimates there are 3,800 language communities that do not have a completed Bible in their language, and 2,000 of these groups do not even have one verse of Scripture in their language. The number of people worldwide who do not have a Bible in their language is estimated to be more than 1 billion.

Green said the ministry of Bible translation has been on his heart for a long time after a “life-defining moment” more than 20 years ago. During a trip to Central America, he witnessed a man become overwhelmed with emotion after receiving a personal copy of a completed Bible in his own language that had taken more than 40 years to translate. After previously being unsure about whether the ministry of Bible translation was worth the time, money and effort it involved, Green said his outlook on the ministry changed in that moment.

Green began meeting with leaders from the top Bible translation organizations several times a year starting in 2010. As things stood then, those groups estimated that the Bible could be translated into all world languages by the year 2150. Agreeing this was far too long, the alliance decided to work together to attempt to complete those translations by 2033. (baptistpress.com)

Missouri House Approves “Rush Limbaugh Day”

The Missouri House passed legislation Thursday that would make Jan. 12 “Rush Limbaugh Day,” according to *The New York Post*. Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh died in February after battling lung cancer. Many paid tribute to Limbaugh, including Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy who said he “revolutionized American radio” and led the conservative movement, according to *The New York Post*.

Limbaugh began “The Rush Limbaugh Show” in 1988, which boasted the most listeners of any radio show in America. Former President Trump awarded Limbaugh the Presidential Medal of Freedom and former Vice President Mike Pence narrated a series on Fox Nation honoring the talk show host.

In order for the measure to become law, the Missouri Senate must approve it before the legislative session ends May 21, *The New York Post* reported. The measure will be included with an underlying bill that proposes several different state designations such as “Black Maternal Health Week,” “Random Acts of Kindness Day” and



Beware of Con Artists After Storms Hit the State

Most of Arkansas was rocked by heavy rains and thousands of power outages as storms tore through the Natural State. While many Arkansans want to help their neighbors clean up after a storm, con artists will seize the opportunity to take advantage during a vulnerable moment. Keep your home and family safe from con artists just trying to make a quick buck.

“Arkansas is just one big small town, and I will go after those who take advantage of our loved ones,” said Attorney General Rutledge.

AG Rutledge released the following tips to ensure Arkansans hire a reputable contractor to complete home repairs:

- **Beware of door-to-door solicitors selling home-repair work.** To find someone reputable, ask friends or family who have recently used a home-repair contractor or professional. Consider contacting the Arkansas Contractor’s Licensing Board to verify that the contractor is licensed and has not had any complaints filed against it.

“Mormon War Remembrance Day,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported. (lifeneews.com)

Surge of New Pro-Life Laws Has The Abortion Movement Terrified

We’re not even halfway through the year yet, and state legislatures have already introduced over 500 pro-life laws. So far, 61 laws have been passed across 13 states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which was once associated with Planned Parenthood as their research arm and often tracks such legislation. We may have the most pro-abortion administration in our nation’s history in President Joe Biden, and a Democratic-controlled Congress, which won’t even consider legislation protecting babies born alive from failed abortions. Such legislation previously failed in the Senate, thanks to pro-abortion Democrats. That being said, the states are at least not letting the pro-life movement, and more importantly, the unborn, down.

This legislation has the pro-abortion movement terrified, as it should. The Guttmacher Institute, which tracks such legislation, noted that “If this trend continues, 2021 will end up as the most damaging anti-abortion state legislative session in a decade — and perhaps ever,” as part of a press release. No matter which party may be in control of the White House or Congress, it appears life is winning. (lifeneews.com)

Avoid any home-repair solicitor who asks for an upfront payment or who will not provide you with a written contract.

- **Get at least three written estimates.** A reputable contractor or professional will never try to pressure you to obtain your business.

- **Obtain and check at least three references from your contractor or professional.**

Check with the AG’s office or the Better Business Bureau to find out if the company has a complaint history.

- **Obtain a written and detailed contract that includes the grade, quality, name brand and quantity of**

any materials to be used. The name and address of the contractor must be on the contract. Remember that all contracts resulting from a home-solicitation sale generally must include a buyer’s right to cancel within three business days after the contract is signed.

- **Avoid paying for the entire job up front.** One-third paid in advance, one-third paid halfway through the job and one-third paid upon completion is a better plan, helping assure that your project will be completed. Never make the final payment until you have had an opportunity to inspect the work.

- **Make sure all warranties and guarantees are in writing.**

- **A contractor cannot promise that your insurance company will cover the work done.** Verify your insurance coverage and authorized contractors before you agree to pay for repairs.

For more information and tips to avoid scams and other consumer-related issues, contact the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office at consumer@arkansasag.gov or visit ArkansasAG.gov.

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From the President...
Think Globally—Act Locally

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To the Graduate

Graduation season has rolled around again. This year's graduates are excited to take the next step in life and make a mark on their world. I congratulate this year's graduates, and I pray that your dreams will all come true. This month, you will hear a lot of advice from graduation speakers, your fellow classmates and your family. So, please allow me to join them and put my two cents in before you move on and change the world.

It has been said: "Some collegians think manual labor is the president of Mexico — until they graduate. Suddenly the light dawns. Reality frowns. And that sheltered, brainy, fair-skinned, squint-eyed scholar who has majored in medieval literature and minored in Latin comes of age. He experiences a strange sensation deep within his abdomen two weeks after framing his diploma — hunger! Remarkable motivation accompanies this feeling.

"His attempts at finding employment prove futile. Those places that have an opening don't really need a guy with a master's in medieval lit. They can't even spell it. Who cares if a truck driver understands European poetry from the twelfth century? Or what does it matter if the fella stocking the shelves at Safeway can give you the ninth letter in the Latin alphabet? When it comes to landing a job, most employers are notoriously pragmatic and unsophisticated. They are looking for people who have more than academic, gray wrinkles between their ears. They really couldn't care less about how much a guy or gal knows. What they want is someone who can put to use the knowledge that's been gained, whether the field is geology or accounting, engineering or plumbing, physics or barbering, journalism or welding.

Just now finishing school? Looking for a job? Remember this — dreams are great, and vision can be rewarding, but in the final analysis, when the bills come due, they'll be paid by manual labor. Labor... hard work forged in the furnace of practicality."

Solomon shared these words of wisdom with his readers: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10). There has never been and never will be a substitute for hard work. Please remember that the only place that "success" comes before "work" is in the dictionary! Now, please go out and make this a better world for my grandchildren!

HOMECOMINGS

140th 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.



Bodcaw, Rosston, June 7-11, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; theme—Alpine Ascent.

First, Cave Springs, June 7-12, 6-9 p.m.; theme—Tracking Down The One True God.

Park Place, Bryant, June 7-9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; theme—Rocky Railway.

Bluff Springs, Rosston, June 12 (one day event), 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.; theme—Cosmic Crusade.

Zion, Fordyce, June 13-16, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme—Treasured.

First, North Lewisville, June 14-18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; theme—Wonder World Fun Fest.

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.

Home From College

By Autumn Herring

Just like that, my second year of college is done. It honestly seems unreal to me! Over the past eight months God has brought countless friends into my life, and I have been able to build and strengthen so many relationships. I can definitely say that I was not ready for the semester to end (minus the schoolwork) because I did not want to say goodbye to the people I have become so close to.

When finals week came and went and I had said my "goodbyes" and "see ya later," I was filled with a deep sadness. You see, I attend Central Baptist College and when I moved home to Maumelle, I was just going "down the street" in comparison to most of my friends, who live much further away. Of course, I was happy about coming home to be with my family, but at the same time I am already missing my friends from school.

I definitely can't speak for every college student, but I know that leaving college and coming home for the summer has been a challenge for me. It is only Day 4 of being home and, let me just say, it still feels weird. I am slightly anxious because I don't know exactly what these next three months are going to look like. Other than some of my regular summer events — GMA Camp, Church Camp and SOAR — and a couple of weddings, I don't really have many plans, but I am excited to see how the Lord uses this summer to help me grow and deepen my relationship with Him!

What I do know is that I am ready to be reunited with the friends God has blessed me with through my time at college because my heart already hurts being away from all of them. In the meantime, I see a lot of FaceTime calls and maybe even Zooms in the near future!

I would just like to encourage fellow college students to reunite with some of your high school friends, keep in touch with your new college friends and, most importantly, seek God's direction in this season. August will be here before we know it!

MEETING

(Continued From Page 1)
reservations: (972) 938-3300.

• **La Quinta Inns & Suites**, 311 Stadium Drive: (Standard room, \$104). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: (972) 937-5525.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.

Note: There are no RV hookups available at Farley Street Church. There should be ample parking space. Anyone interested in RV parking could contact the church directly or contact the Waxahachie Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.waxahachiecvb.com, (469) 309-4040 or info@waxahachiecvb.com.

— Jerome Cooper, Bill Thornton and Daniel Williams



The Master's Builders Work In Tenaha, Texas

By Nelda Malone

On May 3, a few of The Master's Builders traveled to Tenaha, Texas to help on some repairs at Old Center Baptist Church parsonage. They helped remove the dining room floor, replace all floor joists and put down new plywood.

Old Center Baptist is the home church of Master's Builders Wayne and Leona Wimberly. James Grandberry is their pastor.

Six of our Builders worked on this short project alongside Tommy Spurlock, Doug Armstrong and Mike Worm. While working there, three of our men bunked at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas. Thank you, Jason Prewitt, for giving them access to your facilities. Also, thank you to Virginia Spurlock, Martha Shelton and Leona Wimberly for feeding our men while they were there.

This was job #171 for The Master's Builders.

Remember, if your church has building needs or if you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, you can contact Eddie Sikes at (470) 462-1675, Mike Green at (972) 935-3877 or David Axe at (903) 918-0720.

Like us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders" (church arbor logo).



UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Haley Creek Boys, June 5, Meal-5 p.m., Singing-6 p.m.; Faustina, Hampton.

BMA Camp, June 21-24; Chis 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

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



Bethlehem, Greenbrier reports two by statement and 1 by letter; Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor.

Calvary, Heber Springs welcomed four by baptism and one by letter; Homer Branscum, pastor.

Grace Temple, Paragould witnessed one by baptism; Blake Jamison, pastor.

First, Damascus rejoices over two by baptism; Daniel Williams, pastor.

Letona, Letona gained one by baptism; Jackie Manasco, pastor.

Little River, Manilla received three by letter; Jeff Knowlton, pastor.

North View, North Little Rock added one by letter; Mike Cantrell, pastor.

The Bridge Church, Mt. Home reports two salvations and welcomes one by baptism and three by letter; Hershel Conley, pastor.

First, Mantachie, Miss., witnessed one profession of faith.



Red Cross Responds to Increasing Number of Home Fires

In the first three months of 2021, Americans faced 16% more home fires than they did during the same period in 2020. As the nation's most frequent disaster, home fires have remained a constant threat during the COVID-19 pandemic as people have spent more time at home. From this past January to March, the Red Cross responded to nearly 17,000 home fires affecting more than 70,000 people across the country — an increase of 2,300 fires affecting nearly 9,000 more people

than the same time last year.

Locally, the Missouri-Arkansas Region has experienced a similar increase year over year. From January to March 2021, the Missouri-Arkansas Region responded to more than 1,100 home fires affecting close to 4,000 people — an increase of over 230 fires affecting more than 570 people than the same time last year.

“The Missouri and Arkansas Red Cross Region leads the nation in the number of home fires we respond to,

which ensures those affected by fires have our support after a fire,” said Chris Harmon, Regional Disaster Officer. “This doesn't mean we have more fires in our region, but it does mean through our partnerships with fire departments and with the help of our many volunteers, Missouri-Arkansas Red Cross has the highest response rate in the nation following home fires.”

This spring, Red Cross volunteers and community partners are working together through a national Sound the Alarm effort to educate 100,000 people in at-risk communities about home fire safety.

“With the help of our fire department partners, the Missouri and Arkansas Red Cross Region has installed more smoke alarms in homes and educated more individuals on fire safety than any other Red Cross region in the nation, all as part of our 2021 Sound the Alarm campaign,” said Harmon. “Since April 1, we have made nearly 800 homes safer with smoke alarm installations and provided fire safety education to more than 2,100 people.”

This annual Sound the Alarm initiative is a key part of the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, which has saved at least 864 lives since launching in 2014. 29 of those lives saved were in the state of Missouri. To learn more and to pledge to prepare your family against home fires, visit SoundTheAlarm.org.

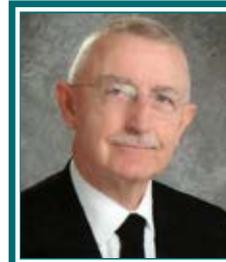
This work is made possible thanks to generous financial donations from national partners: Delta Air Lines and Lowe's.

Two Minutes to Escape

Most of us don't realize we have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late, according to a 2020 Red Cross survey. Follow these steps to help protect your family:

- **Create an escape plan with at least two ways to exit every room in your home.**
- **Practice your plan until everyone in your household can get out in less than two minutes.**
- **Place smoke alarms on each level of your home**, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas. Change the batteries at least once a year if your model requires it.
- **Check the manufacturer's date of your smoke alarms.** If they're 10 years or older, they likely need to be replaced. Follow your alarm's manufacturer instructions.

Parents can enable the Pedro's Fire Challenge skill on Alexa-enabled devices to have “Pedro the Penguin,” a Red Cross youth program character, guide children through engaging activities and games to earn virtual fire safety badges. The Red Cross created the skill to help children learn core home fire and preparedness skills, such as identifying smoke alarm locations, crawling under smoke in a fire and ways to cope after a fire. Learn more in this video: cutt.ly/redcrosspedro.



Leave it to Cleaver

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Thoughts on I & II Timothy

• *“I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry” (I Tim. 1:12 CSB).*

Let's focus on the phrase: “*appointing me to the ministry.*” Ministry is not something one chooses for himself. Rather as it is written in the Scriptures, it is an appointment by Christ Jesus our Lord. In other passages, Paul recounts his own divine appointment to the gospel ministry.

Today this calling must, of certainty, be a holy calling. It is not a job selected because family or friends said to you: “You would be good at this.” It is not a profession chosen because a standardized psychological instrument scored you high in the “interpersonal people area.” Paul's thankfulness was a humble realization of his unworthiness to be called into ministry — not by his own choice but through the dynamic call from above.

Dear Pastor, give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who will strengthen you even on a dark and dismal Saturday night after your congregation's strident committee meeting. Yes, He will strengthen you even on a Sunday afternoon following a less than outstanding sermon delivery and worship service. It is He who appointed you, and it is He who will complete the work He has called you to do!

• *“But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths” (I Tim. 4:7).*

One Bible translation (KJV) uses these words: “*But refuse profane and old wives' fables.*” Still another (NET) translates: “*But reject those myths fit only for the godless and gullible...*”

Dear Pastor, there are some things that are good for your ministry. There are some things that are not so good for your ministry. There are some myths floating around our world today that every pastor needs to shun. There are some pointless beliefs that are not worth giving the effort of your attention. Multiple untruthful and demonic teachings espoused by the “social gurus” have found root in many organizations. Those who propagate these teachings are hypocritical liars who profit from deceiving those who are silly enough to follow these myths.

On the other hand, pastoral nourishment comes from the words of faith and those words found in the Scriptures. Pastoral training focuses on godliness. Certainly, there are social, economic and even political needs to be addressed. Yet these are not the focus of the minister's energy. Pastor, set your hope on the living God, who

is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

• *“Don't be too quick to appoint anyone as an elder...” (I Tim. 5:22).*

How does one become a pastor, preacher or minister? In some Christian traditions, one has to complete a degree in a seminary, serve as an apprentice, then is ordained, usually by a bishop of the denomination. Other traditions are somewhat less rigorous in ordination — one shares his calling with a local church and that church ordains him to the ministry, with no requirements of formal schooling or internship. No matter the process, it is a solemn and serious matter to be ordained.

Dear Pastor, treat it that way! You have been set apart for service of Christ and His church. The church has laid their hands on you as a confirmation of your calling. This is not some “job that you send off some money to be ordained from a magazine or TV ad.” The process of ordination is not to be hasty. The apostle warns of rushing to appoint a minister. This, of necessity, must be a two-pronged process. On the one hand, the one who wants to be a minister must search, and search diligently, his heart to make more than certain God has called to this task. The other part belongs to the church. Will this church be a partner in the minister's work? It is almost like a marriage — both have to say: “I do, and I will.”

• *“But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness” (I Tim. 6:11).*

Paul shifts abruptly to instruct the man of God to pursue some important things. He has already told Timothy to flee the love of money — the root of all kinds of evil. He lists those things the man of God is to pursue. The first is righteousness, which is virtue, blamelessness or decency. This is found in the life of Christ — emulate His life!

The second is godliness, which is placing heavenly and sacred filters on all that comes in and goes out of life. Faith is the third area the man of God is to pursue. Conviction and belief with assurance in the Lord Jesus whom you serve as minister is the key to this element of pursuit. The man of God is to pursue love, the fourth element, and it is not a silly starry-eyed love like that of an adolescent infatuation. It is the love of God who loved the unlovely with His grace. Next, the fifth element, the man of God is to pursue endurance, which means to go on to the end; to finish that which you started even with

See **CLEAVER**, Page 7



Missionaries

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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Repaying Trouble — II Thess. 1:1-10

Paul began his letter with an introduction and a salutation (verses 1-4). As always, Paul took advantage of every opportunity to give praise to faithful Christians who were suffering. Not only were they enduring under their afflictions, they were growing in faith and love for each other.

The church at Thessalonica was shaken in mind and troubled because of a forged letter that supposedly came from Paul. They understood the letter to mean that they were experiencing the kind of suffering from which Paul had said the child of God would be delivered.

So, Paul wrote to tell them not to fret because their suffering would be but for a season. Paul shifted from the greeting, to the comfort that could be found in persecution. To suffer for the cause of Christ is of great value — not that it guarantees us a place in Heaven (for salvation is by grace through faith), but that it guarantees us rewards in Heaven. We can rest assured that God will give every believer a just reward for the works done in this life. Don't become discouraged.

Job asked the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?" Considering the prosperity of the lost sinner, one must grasp the reality that a pay day is coming and that the law of sowing and reaping demands that all receive their just recompense. Do not long to have the things of this world that the lost seek after; but keep in mind that the lost person's possessions are all he will ever enjoy, while the best for the believer is yet to come.

It is no wonder that Paul, speaking of that glorious deliverance awaiting the child of God, said, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). For the believer, there awaits a place of eternal beauty and bliss where he will live eternally with his lovely Savior and Lord.

As Christians, we must live for eternity, not just for the present. In fact, living with eternity's values in view is what makes our Christian life meaningful today. We walk by faith and not by sight.

A Christian farmer, whose ungodly neighbor's harvest exceeded his own, was confronted one evening by the neighbor, who said, "I thought you said it pays to serve God and to be a Christian." "It does pay" replied the Christian, "but God doesn't always pay His people in September." Remember that God is faithful, and He will remember His own.

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "We enjoyed a wonderful week at Connection Point. On Wednesday, our ladies group had a game night with snacks, games and lots of laughs.

"On Saturday, we had our Men's Breakfast with a great turnout and a compelling devotional.

"Sunday was a great day. We had a good attendance to celebrate Mother's Day. We had three families dedicate their babies to the Lord in our Baby Dedication Ceremony. We also honored all our mothers and mother figures with a gift and a rose for each one. We are thankful to God for this amazing day."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "We had another great day at the mission. Ron and Mary Warren presented a great music program. We had five first-time visitors with us — some live next door to the church, and their kids have been

regular Wednesday night attendees. Encourage your church kids to keep on coming, and their parents may soon follow. Our attendance Sunday was in the forties, which is a pretty good post-pandemic crowd.

"It is my prayer that we, as a nation, are turning the COVID corner. Encourage your friends and family to get back to corporate worship. Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together. God bless all who read this."

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "During the week, we developed our discipleship meetings. Normally in the six groups that currently exist, each group is at a different stage. In total there are 34 people involved in discipleship.

"On Sunday, we celebrated Mother's Day with 19 mothers present. We prayed for them and had special songs and verses recited by daughters. One of the elderly mothers, Doña Reina, who visited us from Honduras sang a

song of gratitude to God. It was a very emotional moment, as she sang a capella and ended with a broken voice.

"Héctor and Alejandra dedicated their little daughter, Lael to the Lord. Prior to her presentation, Aba, her eldest 7-year-old daughter, sang a song expressing her love and gratitude to her mother.

"The preaching was from the book of Ruth, taking Naomi as a diligent mother who faced adversity with well-planned initiative and trust in God and aware of the environment that surrounded her.

"Upon leaving the temple, each one was able to pick up a cupcake, with a soda and each mother received a gift from the church."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "This Sunday was one of those days with a lot of activities. I preached twice — at 10:30 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church where Ali Velásquez pastors, and then I went to Ebenezer to begin our celebration service at 12:30 p.m. We also celebrated Mother's Day as each sister received a small gift from our congregation.

"The Berean Groups (cells) continue to function and, for the first time, my children (Rubencito and Zuly) are taking discipleship in a formal way. Keep praying for Jenny that she will make her decision for Christ. Each Berean Group continues to teach the Word of God and also transmit life.

"The MBL (baseball league) gave authorization so that each chaplain could give Bible studies in a face-to-face way. It will be a blessing to impact the lives of the players. Pray that each baseball player will have a thirst for the Word of God.

"Keep praying for the activities in our anniversary month. My wish is that God will continue to bring people with a thirst for God to Ebenezer. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a wonderful week at Faith Chapel. Only half of our members were able to attend Sunday morning. Some are still recovering from surgeries, some were sick and some were traveling out-of-state. Even with them out, we had several return visitors and three first-time visitors, and we had our best attendance in several weeks. Our members brought visitors, and some of our visitors brought visitors. We had a wonderful Mother's Day service, and a great study Sunday night!

CLEAVER (Continued From Page 6)

the last ounce of energy in your soul.

Finally, and the sixth area to pursue is gentleness. This is not to be confused with "being a sissy" or being a weak person; rather it takes a gentle man to be kind, tender and even moderate in desperate situations. What does it mean for the man of God to pursue these things? It means he follows these qualities of life like following a trail to hunt them down each and every day. He is engaged in these positive ministerial elements in daily practice. This allows the man of God to take hold of eternal life. Good Pastor, what are you pursuing?

• "... Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord" (II Tim. 1:2).

Those in regular and seasoned church attendance speak with words that are undecipherable to ordinary people who are outside the dedicated and systematic church attendance zone. There are three such words written in this passage: grace, mercy and peace. Note the source of these three — it is not of self, of the world or of social status, but rather from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

The first is grace, which is unearned favor from God to humankind. Grace can be akin to elegance and loveliness, for that is exactly what God offers us in His Son.

The second is mercy, which occurs when one who is far superior extends understanding toward the one who is inferior. For example, the healthy athlete could pulverize the pipsqueak in a fight, but chooses not to do so.

The third is peace, which is more than the absence of war but more the presence of all things good coming to life. It is the harmony of God with man, man with himself and man with neighbor. We all want a smooth road to drive, a calm sea to sail and clear skies to fly.

So, Dear Reader, will you accept the grace, mercy, and peace that comes from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord?

• "But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance..." (II Tim. 3:10).

A good mix of anything includes

"We closed on the house last week, so we will be living in Flippin, with the mission very soon. Thank You, Lord! He opened every door! The sellers made a generous donation to Faith Chapel. They are currently experiencing major health problems, so please join us in prayer for this precious couple. We have prayed with and for them every time we have been with them, and they not only appreciate it, but they have also come to expect it.

"Please continue to pray for us, for Faith Chapel and for Flippin and Marion County. The Lord is hearing our prayers, and answering."

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "We're still looking into a place for our hopeful July 17th event.

all of the intended and needed ingredients. The delicious cake includes all that is needed, mixed well and baked to perfection. The concrete structures that dot our world must have the appropriate mix of sand, gravel, water, steel and cement to be strong. If any one thing is left out of any mixture, the result can be tasteless, worthless and even disastrous.

In this verse, the Apostle Paul tells his protégé a mixture of life graces that are needed in the blend of Christian development. One of those requirements mentioned is endurance. Endurance can be seen as durability or staying power.

Good Reader, many come to the portals of Christianity, but soon drop out. They have no endurance that is much needed for the life journey. Perhaps the process of living got too weighty for them to support on their own strength. Self-strength endurance failed. The Christian journey ended quickly before it had time to be nurtured by His grace. Endurance is a key element in the mix of Christian venture. Without endurance one cannot continue on the path the Lord has laid out for each of us. Endurance is an element of survival for the Christian life. Mix it well in the bowl of prayer time and alone time with the Lord.

• "... Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica." (II Tim. 4:10).

The word "apostate" has a high meaning as it bespeaks of one who is chosen by God to do His work. The word "apostate" has a low meaning as it designates one who deserts the things of Christ and His church. Demas is one of those who was labeled apostate in his life choice. Paul said he had gone to Thessalonica. That town was a crossroads of commerce and government activity. It seemed more appealing to Demas to be there than to be with Paul and his work for the gospel. Good Reader, we might consider Demas for a moment lest we too make a similar decision and become apostate like him. Let's not desert the Christian way. Let's not go to Thessalonica. Let's not love the present world. "For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions — is not from the Father, but is from the world" (I John 2:16).

"We are behind on the website and I hope that we can tackle these things this week. We are also working on inviting a few more folks out to the church.

"I am looking forward to chatting with a pastoral candidate that has a heart for the people that this ministry is targeting. Is God bringing the future pastor of my plant this early into the plant?"

"It has been a crazy couple of weeks, and God has shown Himself through everything.

"Continue praying for us. Things to specifically pray for us are: 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."



Defining Moments

Defining moments are life-altering or crucial moments that God uses to demonstrate Himself in an obvious way, resulting in you never being the same again. Defining moments often change the trajectory of one's life. Defining moments often reveal character, conviction, calling and faith.

Some defining moments are positive and some are painful. Some defining moments are successes and some are failures. Some defining moments are experiences and some are events. Yet, all impact us for a lifetime.

• **Abraham's defining moment was his calling (Heb. 11:8-12, 17-19).** A simple man of faith living in Ur, God interrupted Abraham's life with a specific calling. God prompted Abraham to pack up his possessions and his family and move to a land that God had not yet fully revealed to him. That act of obedient faith was a defining moment in Abraham's life and the nation of Israel.

• **Joseph's defining moment had to do with his character.** While Joseph experienced many ups-and-downs in his life, the defining moment was likely

the two years he served after being forgotten by the Pharaoh's cupbearer (Gen. 40:1-15, 23, 41:1). After Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, Joseph's fellow inmates, the cupbearer was restored to his place of service to Pharaoh. As the cupbearer departed the prison, Joseph asked him to "put in a good word" for him. It was two years before Joseph's opportunity arrived. Those two years of anonymity in prison both revealed and strengthened the character of Joseph.

• **Daniel's defining moment had to do with convictions.** Daniel was a Hebrew deported to Babylon during the Babylonian Captivity. One purpose of this deportation was to indoctrinate key captives in the ways of the Babylonians in order to build loyalty and prevent future rebellion. While away from his homeland, Daniel lived through two empires and four rulers, and rose to places of importance (Dan. 2:48; 5:29; 6:28); all without compromising his spiritual convictions. Daniel's decision to reject the king's food and eat only vegetables and drink only water (Dan.

6) early in his captivity was his defining moment and set the stage for his future spiritual successes.

• **Mary's defining moment focused on her faith.** When the angel appeared to the young Hebrew girl and announced that she would give birth to Messiah, Mary responded in faith. Her life would be turned upside-down as a result of God's decision. By faith, she accepted God's plan, lived out God's plan and trusted Him through the process. Mary's faith-decision to trust God that day changed the trajectory of her life.

Here are some takeaways:

- The most important defining moments are spiritual in nature and have eternal implications. (Abraham)

- Defining moments are successfully navigated because we have remained faithful in many smaller moments prior to the defining moment. (Joseph)

- Defining moments are successfully navigated because Christians hold deep convictions about God's power, God's presence and the priority of God in one's life. (Daniel)

- Defining moments, for a Christ-follower, always involve faith in God's promises. It involves faith to obey Him. It involves faith to prioritize Him. It involves faith to get up after a failure. It involves faith to carry on, even when there seem to be no visible results.

What are the defining moments in your life, so far? What are some spiritual decisions that changed the trajectory of your life?

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Worship resources for children and families.

Week 3
Diligence

1. Review Diligence Definition (P. 1) in the Bible with the children. Have them read the definition and discuss it. (1:1-3)

2. Family Bible Story: Gideon's 300 Men and the Chariot (Judges 7:1-25)

3. Connect the dots to discover what Jesus did for us! Write the address in the address. Then color.

4. Memory Verse for the Week: Matthew 6:33 (Don't Worry About Tomorrow)

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