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The Real Impact of Casino Gambling

(via Larry Page, executive director, Arkansas Faith & Ethics Council — The following are excerpts and facts cited and footnoted in the 2013 report "What's the Problem with Problem Gambling?" published by the Responsible Gambling Council)

Cost to the Individual

Studies have consistently found problem gambling to be linked to a range of mental health disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, personality disorders); poor general health; drug, alcohol and nicotine dependence; personal debt and bankruptcy; legal troubles; reduced work productivity and job loss; and, in extreme cases, suicidal ideation and behavior.

Research has shown:

- As problem gambling severity increases, so does the likelihood of having a psychological disorder, especially antisocial personality disorder, panic disorder, major depression, and phobias.
- About 78% of individuals with gambling problems have been diagnosed with a mood disorder at some point in their life, compared to only 25% of individuals in a control group.
- Approximately 20% of individuals with gambling problems attempt suicide — a rate higher than any other addictive disorder.
- Individuals with gambling problems are four times more likely to abuse alcohol and to smoke daily compared to non-problem gamblers, and they are also nearly twice as likely to have problems with illicit drugs.
- People with gambling problems are six times more likely to be divorced than non-problem gamblers.

MOVING with ministers and staff

Frank Hankinson, of Columbia, Miss., has accepted the pastorate of Rondo Baptist Church at Rondo. He and his wife, Carolyn and their son, Bubba are already on the field.

Robert Wade surrendered to the ministry Sept. 23 at First Baptist Church in St. Charles.

Crime

As access to money becomes more limited, gamblers often resort to crime in order to pay debts, appease bookies, maintain appearances, and garner more money to gamble. For example:

- The majority of individuals with gambling problems who have committed crimes reportedly do so specifically to obtain money for gambling or to pay off gambling debts.
- Rates of arrest for individuals with gambling problems range from 32-36%, compared to 11% for low-risk gamblers and 5% for non-gamblers.
- Incarceration rates for problem gamblers are 10-21% for problem gamblers, 4% for low-risk gamblers and 0.4% for non-gamblers.
- Many gambling-related crimes are non-violent and include such activities as credit card theft, embezzlement, check forgery, fenced stolen goods, insurance fraud, bookmaking and employee theft/fraud.

Reduced Work Productivity And Job Loss

- Among individuals with gambling problems, research has shown:
- 61% report missing work to gamble.
 - 59% report difficulty concentrating at work due to a preoccupation with gambling and gambling debts.
 - 50% report almost losing their jobs due to gambling.
 - 36% reported losing their jobs.

Debt

- Among individuals with gambling problems, research has shown:
- 90% report gambling with their paychecks or family savings.
 - Over 60% report borrowing money from friends and relatives to avoid credit problems
 - 60-70% have accumulated indebtedness to financial institutions.
 - 30% report gambling debts ranging from \$75,000 - \$150,000.

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Team photo sent to 501 Life magazine — Front Row (L-R) Allison Skelton, Anna Beth Duncan, Kinley Burrows, Allison Seats (holding magazine), Kylee McLendon, Aleighu Porterfield, Brooke Trout; Back Row (L-R): Rachel Gregory, Cali Lankford, Katie Goike, Baleigh Jackson, Kym House, Rachael Jones, Kaylee St. John, Hunter Clark, Madison Skelton, Bri Nunn.

Softball Receives World Series Rings

In recognition of their 2018 National Christian College Athletic Association World Series championship, the Central Baptist College softball team received their championship rings at a special ceremony at the Story Library on the CBC campus. This was the second NCCAA National Championship for the Mustangs, following their triumph in 2010.

"I would like to thank the friends, families, faculty, staff, Mustang Club, VP Ryan Johnson, VP Sancy Faulk, our AD Lyle Middleton, President Kimbrow and anyone else who followed these girls last year for the amazing outpouring of support!" said head coach Jordon Jones. "Tonight was something these girls will never forget, and it was made possible by so many people. Thank you to Erik, our SID, who continues to follow us and keep everyone updated with our progress! We will continue to play for you all and be grounded by the fact that this game is a blessing and can be used as a way to bless others. Go Mustangs and let's keep building!"

The Mustang softball team went 42-19 last season and played for the American Midwest Conference championship. In the NCCAA Playoffs, the Mustangs went 7-0, winning both games in the NCCAA Central Regional and then sweeping through the World Series, beating Oakland City 7-3, Trinity International 6-5 in nine innings, Cincinnati Christian 8-0 in five, then defeating Warner 9-5 in the semifinals before capturing the title by a 5-2 score over Belhaven.

Kymerlie House was named the most outstanding player of the tournament and was joined on the all-tournament team by Allison Seats and Alyssa Estrada.

What Do Spouses Do When Their Callings Don't Line Up?

By **Lesley Hildreth • Baptist Press**

Several years ago I was speaking with a student from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary who was in a degree program where the student completes half of it on campus and the other half on the mission field. He said, "I have completed my on-campus hours and am ready to study overseas. But, I have a problem: my wife isn't willing to go."

Discerning the Lord's call is an important step for everyone seeking to walk with God. Questions about how to sort out this crisis of calling abound. More specifically for this conversation are the questions about how spouses discern a call together, and what they do when they don't



seem to share the same calling.

Since all Christians are commanded to make disciples of all nations, the questions believers must ask are "To whom are we sent?" and "Where?" Not everyone will be called to pack their suitcases, sell all their possessions and move across the ocean to reach the nations. But

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PROFILE

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“Not an Easy Decision”

It is with much regret that I confirm what some have already heard, that Central Baptist College conducted a layoff of several employment positions within the institution this past Friday, Sept. 14. This was not an easy decision or an action taken without much prayer and consideration.

I wanted to use my profile article this week for two purposes. First, I want to do my best to explain what led to this necessary action. Second, I want to share how the churches of the BMA of Arkansas and of the BMAA can come alongside Central Baptist College so that we can move forward and continue the mission and ministry that began when the first students took classes in Conway in 1952.

The short answer to what led to this action is that the institution did not meet enrollment projections upon which the 2018-2019 budget was built. Traditional enrollment for the Fall 2018 semester is 23 students under the enrollment projection.

In addition, a lower fall enrollment typically means a lower spring enrollment, so we had to consider that as budget cuts were determined. It looks as if the PACE Department will hit its end of term enrollment projection, but total enrollment is used to balance the budget each year. Taking into account the actual fall enrollment numbers and the anticipated lower spring enrollment numbers resulted in an anticipated budget deficit of \$350,000. Action had to be taken to balance the budget so that the institution did not operate at a deficit for the current budget year.

Not including high school students taking concurrent credit courses, enrollment has declined 118 students (15.1%) over the past five years. Previously, we had experienced several years of a double-digit percentage in enrollment growth, and departmental budgets and personnel were increased to accommodate that growth.

As enrollment has declined, we have kept the budget balanced by cutting departmental budgets and leaving employment positions unfilled when employees left the institution. That worked until the 2017-2018 academic year when the institution ended the year with a deficit of approximately \$1 million.

The institution cannot continue to operate at a deficit, so when enrollment came in under projections this semester, the budget had to be balanced immediately. Departmental budgets and employee benefits (retirement contributions were frozen and the employee free lunch was eliminated) had already been cut back significantly to balance the budget going into this academic year. There simply were not enough additional cuts that could be made in these areas and continue to operate the institution efficiently. Because of that, the difficult decision was made to eliminate personnel positions to get back to a balanced budget.

This is happening across the higher education landscape and is not unique to Central Baptist College. We just haven't had to take this action until now. Higher education has been and is changing. Competition for students is fierce and ever changing; so again, this is not a unique position that we find ourselves in, but that does not make it any less difficult.

What happens next? You know that just because positions have been eliminated, the workload to operate the institution doesn't change. Our students, their parents, alumni, you, our churches and our other constituencies expect the same level of service. We must continue our operation and our services without interruption, and all the while, maintaining the standards that are expected. Workload has been shifted, in some cases, within departments. In other cases, it has been shifted across departments and divisions of the institution.

You may be thinking: how does faith play into this decision? The leadership team and I have agonized over that very question. I do have faith that God has a mission and a purpose for Central Baptist College that has been and is being carried out.

But, to ignore that the budget must be balanced so that hard decisions don't have to be made is not responsible or wise. I am grieved that we have had to take this action. Ephesians 3:20 has been a verse that we have used as a theme verse for years. It says, *“Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the*

power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

I do believe that God is able! I know that God is sovereign! And I know that He still has a mission and ministry for Central Baptist College to carry out! I ask that you join with me in praying for that mission and ministry. I still believe that God is doing a great work through the students of Central Baptist College to our state, our country and the world.

Besides praying, the next best thing you can do is to talk about CBC in your church and encourage your students to consider Central Baptist College. Invite them to register for our upcoming Stampede Preview Day by going to cbc.edu/stampede. Invite them to schedule a personal campus tour at cbc.edu/visit.

I also strongly encourage you to host a CBC Day at your church. Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations, can answer any questions you might have and get you the necessary materials that you need. You can contact Duffy at dguyton@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8920.

I am so thankful for the countless churches and individuals that have supported Central Baptist College since its inception in 1952. It is because of you that the mission of the institution can continue to be carried out. Thank you, and God bless you!



Golf

• Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 18

— Entering the final round of the Southwestern Christian Fall Invitational tied for second individually, Taylor Morton looked to earn his first career collegiate win. Morton would shoot a final round 71 to finish with a 139 (-5) in second place, two shots behind the eventual winner from Kansas Wesleyan. Morton led the 'B' team for CBC, which would finish seventh after shooting a total of 605 for a +29. The 'A' team finished third as a group, shooting an even par round of 288 in the finals to finish at +6 582, 14 shots off the win by Kansas Wesleyan.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 24** — Central Baptist College men's golfer Taylor Morton was selected by the American Midwest Conference as their men's golfer of the week for last week. Morton becomes the first Mustang to win a conference award this season.

• **Covington, Tenn., Sept. 24** — A week after finishing third at the Southwestern Christian Invitational, CBC golf returned to the course for the Freed-Hardeman Fall Invitational at the Covington Coun-

SPOUSES (Continued From Page 1)

some will. When this happens, the cost must be considered for the benefit of the nations and for the sake of healthy marriages and families because healthy families are testimonies to the reality of the Gospel in a broken world.

If a marriage fails, the couple will be forced to leave the field, potentially leaving no witness behind.

Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 teach that husbands and wives submit to each other and pursue God's plan for their lives. One spouse should not base his or her call solely on the experience or discernment of the other.

Each must seek to discern God's call. However, the Bible also depicts a husband and wife joined as one flesh. Although this union does not eliminate the individual responsibilities of each spouse to obey, when it comes to God's call to missions there is no biblical basis for thinking that God will only speak to one spouse and neglect the other.

How to Discern God's Call to the Nations

God uses several tools to awaken hearts to this specific call. Couples should work through these individually and then together:

• **Scripture** — God reveals Himself through His Word. Christians should study and meditate on His Word. The more believers know Him, the more they can discern His voice. Explore Scripture passages that address God's plan for the nations. Couples can discuss what God

try Club. CBC finished first in the opening round shooting a 297 (+9) to lead by eight shots.

Cross Country

• **Henderson, Tenn., Sept. 22** — Returning to the course for the first time in two weeks, CBC cross country ran at the Freed Speed Open hosted by Freed-Hardeman University. The CBC men's cross country team would finish fifth out of seven teams in the 8K race while the women finished sixth out of nine in the 5K race.

Men's Soccer

• **St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 21** — Trying to defeat Missouri Baptist for a third consecutive matchup, CBC men's soccer took some momentum into the American Midwest Conference tilt with the Spartans after a win in their last match. CBC (1-2-2, 1-1-1 AMC) fought off 14 Spartan (5-3-2, 1-1-1 AMC) shots, coming out of the match with a scoreless draw in double overtime.

Women's Soccer

• **St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 21** — Looking to build off their win over St. Louis College of Pharmacy, CBC

seems to be teaching each of them.

• **Prayer** — Spend significant time in prayer. Learn to be still and listen for God's voice. In order to know His will, Christians must prioritize this discipline. Pray intentionally for the nations together. Daily prayer requests for specific areas of the world can be found at imb.org/pray.

• **The Counsel of Mature Believers** — God places Christians in a community of other believers. These men and women know each one's spiritual gifts, talents, training and ministry experience. Couples should seek counsel from them, and look to the body of Christ to affirm their call. They should find a mature couple or two, talk with them about how they feel the Lord is leading, and ask for advice and prayer support.

• **A Willingness to Obey** — Believers cannot put conditions on their obedience to anything God asks them to do (Luke 14:26-27, 33). They should be honest with each other about their hesitation and reservations. They should identify and confess any fears or idols that may be hindering them from hearing from the Lord or obeying Him. Believers should pray for and support each other as they do.

• **Keep a Journal** — The couple should record all that God is teaching each of them through time spent in His Word, in prayer and through circumstances and opportunities around them. They should discuss what they've been journaling. They should ask each other to help identify next steps as they respond to all the Lord is revealing.

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women's soccer was back on the road in American Midwest Conference play taking on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist. CBC (1-4, 1-2 AMC) did not get a shot off against MBU (3-4-2, 3-0-1 AMC), allowing five second half goals and falling 6-0.

Volleyball

• **Conway, Sept. 21** — Having not played in six days, CBC volleyball returned to the court in American Midwest Conference play against the number one team in the NAIA, the Pirates of Park University. CBC (3-13, 1-2 AMC) played well in the final two sets, showing that they are coming together as a team, despite being swept by Park (14-0, 2-0 AMC) 3-0 (11-25, 22-25, 19-25).

• **Conway, Sept. 22** — Looking to build momentum after playing well against the NAIA's number one team, CBC volleyball returned to court at Reddin Fieldhouse for an American Midwest Conference match with William Woods. CBC (3-14, 1-3 AMC) played well in stretches, but the Owls' (11-7, 3-0) attack was too much, as they won their eighth straight match in a sweep 3-0 (15-25, 13-25, 17-25).



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Should We Have a Strategy?

Some seem to think that having a strategy or planning out our ministry is unspiritual. We just need to pray, trust the Lord, follow His leadership and allow Him to work out the details. Certainly, we can sometimes lean way too heavily on our plans, methods and strategies; but God has always had a plan from the very beginning.

The word “strategy” is a military word that is used to refer to large-scale planning and directing of operations toward a certain goal. A method usually refers to a scaled down way of going about a task. Studying Paul’s life, we see that he had a strategy, as well as a complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

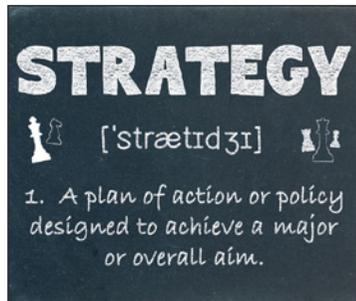
We must be very careful not to organize Christ right out of our ministry, planning and churches. Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI) gives an excellent perspective for making sure we proceed with prayerful planning. This training stresses 12 Biblical principles:

The first is “The Boss Principle.” Christ is the Lord of church planting, and He has a vision for your new church. Christ has a vision for the church that He wants you to plant. Your job is not to invent a vision. Your work is not to appropriate a successful vision from another church planter and church.

The second is “The Power Principle,” that states prayer is the indispensable source of God’s power and wisdom in each phase of church planting. As often as possible, emphasize the need to prayerfully seek God in all stages of the church planting process and not to move to the next stage until you have a clear vision from God for the new church plant. Your job is to prayerfully discern the vision that Christ has for your church. We should be strategists and tacticians, and applying biblical church growth principles can help us. Good research is essential. Learning good leadership skills is crucial.

The right kind of practical church training and planning is vital but the message of the Gospel will have impact only through prayer. Unless the Gospel is proclaimed, no one will be saved. But without prayer, hearts will remain closed to the transforming power of the Gospel. Prayer is as essential to the harvest as preaching the Gospel.

DCPI gives great advice in their training on how to have the proper perspective about strategy and methods with the goal to always be driven



by principles, not models. While it is almost impossible to remove all models from any training, these principles are pretty universal.

• **A Time-Driven Approach** means moving forward in your planning based on pre-set dates, no matter what progress you’ve made in building your team and planning your strategy. In this approach, the calendar rules, and you must keep moving; but sometimes we need to wait on the Lord.

You may be pressured to move ahead, ready or not. You have a group of people eager to get going and you may feel pressured to start your project before you feel fully prepared. There are definitely some challenges to taking a purely Time Driven approach. The reality is that your timing might not be God’s timing

• **An Objective-Driven Approach** means moving ahead based on reaching objectives and goals you have planned. Paul’s plan was to go into Bithynia and reach the people there, but the Lord had a different plan. Have you communicated the vision to all of your team well? Have you answered their questions, and do they understand what your expectations are in reaching the goals you have agreed upon?

Even though you have a plan that was agreed upon, you need to make sure that everyone has “bought” into the vision and they are ready to execute the plan and carry it out. There must be team buy-in.

• **A Spirit-Driven Approach** combines the time and objective-driven approaches under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is, by far, the best approach. “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25 ESV). A Spirit-Driven approach looks at the calendar, plus the objectives, and brings everything before the Lord for His timing. Timeline dates are pre-planned, but are always “written in pencil” so they can be erased and changed, based on the Spirit’s leading. You make plans and decisions only after intense prayer and waiting on the Lord. Everything is subject to

UPCOMING EVENTS

Called to Praise, Sept. 30, 5:30 p.m.; ice cream fellowship following worship service; Temple, Fordyce.

The Arkansas Concert, Oct. 6, 5 p.m. (meal); 6 p.m. (concert); Faustina, Hampton.

Eddie and Joy Kelso of Know the Truth Prison Ministry, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.; Union Grove, Blevins.

Doug and Diane Lee, BMA Missionaries to the Philippines, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.; Central, Prescott.

Preaching Lab, Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$20, lunch included; for more information, email pastor@gmbchope.com; Garrett Memorial, Hope.

Family Fun Walk for the Cure, Oct. 14, 5 p.m.; Park Place, Bryant.

The Representatives Concert, Oct. 14, 6 p.m.; love offering will be taken; North View, North Little Rock.

Southern Jubilee Gospel Singing Convention, Oct. 19-20, 6 p.m. (Fri.); 5 p.m. (Sat.); Free Admission with Love Offering, Mike Goodwin, emcee; featuring Heaven’s Echoes, The Woodalls, NHim and the Kinsmen; Calvary, Warren.

Friends and Family Day, Oct. 28, 10:45 am; potluck following morning service; Kingsland, Kingsland.

Fall Fun Night, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.; food, games, candy; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

Trunk or Treat, Oct. 31 6-8 p.m.; Fellowship, Walnut Ridge.

CBC Singers in Concert, Nov. 4; First, Cave Springs.

revision by the Holy Spirit!

J. Herbert Kane puts it this way: “We might begin by asking: Did Paul have a strategy? Some say yes; others say no. Much depends on the definition of strategy. If by strategy is meant a deliberate, well-formulated duly executed plan of action based on human observation and experience, then Paul had little or no strategy. But if we take the word to mean a flexible *modus operandi* developed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and subject to His direction and control, then Paul did have a strategy.”

It is wisdom for us to learn from the 2,000 years of trial and error as churches have tried to plan and effectively reach people with the Gospel.

David Hesselgrave says it this way: “Church planters and planners should always be faithful to biblical principles, and they should always be attentive to biblical precedents. In every phase of both planning and planting, they should both give themselves to prayer and exhort co-workers and converts alike to do the same. Little or nothing will be accomplished without prayer! Little or nothing will be accomplished without thinking and working. Ask the apostle Paul. Consult the biblical record!”

Yes, we should plan our strategy as we seek His face and ask for Him to direct, guide and help us in every area!



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The Ministry of Presence

A couple of weekends ago, I had a unique window. This is my daughter’s senior year at Har-Ber High, so if the band is involved there, that is where you will find me. Well, I finally hit a Friday night where I wasn’t on a trip and the band wasn’t playing. It gave me the freedom to do something — go to another high school’s football game.

Am I that big of a football fan? No, not really. However, I am a fan of Georgia. Georgia plays the flute in the Farmington Band, and because of my obligations with my own child, I can’t make it to too many games. So when I saw that I had a free Friday night, I drove 30 minutes down the road to watch her band play in Pea Ridge.

Why do I share this? It isn’t to brag. I have missed more things over the years than I care to admit, but on a hot Friday evening in Northwest Arkansas, I chose to get in my car and be present.

Why is this important? Why should we go out of the way to be at a game or play? Let me give you a few reasons that this can be powerful.

• **Your student will feel valued by an adult.** Many of the students I meet are struggling to feel that they have worth. Teachers and coaches are trying, but when they have so many students to work with, the quiet kid in the back may get lost in the shuffle.

You may be in a more normative size church and have a “small” group. If so, look at it as a blessing because you have the ability to pour yourself into your students’ lives and to help them feel valuable.

It is always great when you catch your students eye before they have a chance to come over and talk at an event. There is a sense of excitement and joy as they realize that you came there because of them.

Your students need to feel valuable. They need to understand that God loved them enough to send Jesus. We should do what we can to help them come to this realization.

• **You are banking relationship dollars with your student.** When you go to a game, event or ceremony, your student starts to realize that you care what happens to them. It is powerful thing to see the relational investment pay off when the student goes through the difficult parts of life. They will open up to you and the message that you carrying from God’s Word because they know you are here for them.

• **Your actions are letting parents know that you care about them, too.** You want to speak to my heart, treat my daughter with love and respect. You want to get in good with me, invest in my son. It is the same with most parents.

When you spend time going to their child’s game, it makes the parent feel better. In addition, where are you going to sit? By yourself? No. Take those moments to connect with families and be available to speak God’s Word into their lives.

Those are just a few of the positive things that will happen as you show up for your students. However, I want to point out that this shouldn’t just be done by the guy or girl that you are paying to work with your students. God has called us all to invest in the people of our local body. Showing up and being present can be done by anyone, but it is at its most powerful when it is done by the person or family that doesn’t have to be there. They just came to see Tommy play some ball. It is powerful what that can do.

Are you being present in the lives of your fellow believers? A night at the ball field may not seem like a big deal to you; but to a student/child, it can change their world.



College Enrollment In Arkansas Slips Again

"The number of students in Arkansas' colleges and universities continued to decline in the 2018-19 school year, preliminary figures released by the state Department of Higher Education (DHE) show," said Rachel Herzog in a Sept. 24 *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* report.

Overall, enrollment fell by 1.3% from the previous year, according to the department's report, fitting in with a 5.4% enrollment decrease at institutions in the state over the past five years.

DHE Director Maria Markham said improved economic conditions after the recession and Arkansas' low unemployment rates likely contributed to lower campus head counts. That's especially true for two-year colleges, which have not seen an increase in the number of students enrolled overall since 2014, she said.

"The economy was a lot weaker five years ago," said Michael Pakko, chief economist at the Arkansas Economic Development Institute. "The job market in Arkansas really started to pick up momentum in 2014."

Arkansas' enrollment decline fits in with a national trend, with schools across the country facing lower enrollment numbers, said Ed Venit, lead student success researcher at the Washington, D.C., education research organization EAB.

Lower birthrates during and after the recession mean the downward trend will likely continue, Venit added. Additionally, children who grew up during the recession are now college-aged and more frugal, he said. (arkansasonline.com)

"Free Speech" Policy At ASU Targeted

"Last week U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos criticized a 'free speech' policy at Arkansas State University," said Family Council Director Jerry Cox in a Sept. 24 report.

You may recall nearly a year ago attorneys with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) filed a lawsuit in federal court against Arkansas State University after the school attempted to suppress free speech by its students.

ADF says the school has tried to limit speech to sanctioned "free speech" zones. The university's policy reportedly restricts free speech to 1% of its Jonesboro campus. When a student wanted to set up a table outside the student union to generate interest in forming a chapter of the group Turning Point USA on campus, a school administrator stopped her, citing the university's speech policy.

At an event in Philadelphia last

week, DeVos acknowledged the situation and criticized the school's policy. (familycouncil.org)

Ireland: No Protections For Unborn, Free Abortions

"Unborn babies no longer have any rights or protections in Ireland after President Michael D. Higgins signed an amendment to repeal the Eighth Amendment on Tuesday," said Micaiah Bilger in a Sept. 19 *LifeNews* report.

Ireland voted in May to repeal the pro-life Eighth Amendment, which recognized unborn babies as valuable human beings and prohibited abortions. However, legal challenges delayed the nation's leader from signing the paperwork to officially repeal it from the constitution, according to the *Daily Mail*.

The Pro Life Campaign lamented the news, calling the act a "sad day for human rights. Today is a day to remember all the lives saved by the Eighth Amendment and all the people who are alive today because of it," said spokeswoman Dr. Ruth Cullen. "But it's also a sad day for human rights as a vital life-saving human rights provision of the Constitution has been removed."

Breaking News Ireland reports government leaders now are pushing the legislature to pass a radical pro-abortion bill that would legalize elective abortions and force taxpayers to pay for them. Health Minister Simon Harris, who is pro-abortion, said he wants abortions to be legal and free of charge to women by the beginning of 2019.

Harris's proposal also would force hospitals to abort unborn babies and doctors to perform abortions or refer patients for them. Many Catholic hospitals and doctors already said they will not comply. His bill would also legalize abortion for any reason up to 12 weeks of pregnancy and up to six months in a wide variety of circumstances, including eugenic abortions that discriminate against unborn babies with disabilities. (lifenews.com)

Law Allows People To Help Kill Family Members

"California governor Jerry Brown signed into law yesterday a bill (SB 282) that allows any person to 'aid, advise and encourage' suicide under the state's assisted suicide law. Until now, these actions were felonies, as the state had a longstanding policy to protect people from self-harm," said Alexandra Snyder in a Sept. 20 *LifeNews* report.

The bill was introduced in the

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SPOUSES

(Continued From Page 2)

• **Missionary Biographies** — They each should read books, blogs, etc. Listen to missionaries speak about their lives and ministries. Invite a missionary to coffee and ask them questions. In the journal, record insights and challenges from other missionaries that stand out and why. The couple should share those with each other.

• **Go on a Short-term Mission Trip** — If the couple has yet to travel overseas, this could be a significant step. They should make an effort to go on a short-term trip together. As they minister together, they should consider how this experience may be exposing God's gifts and desires for them. They should record everything from preparing for the trip to debriefing the trip once they return. Discuss insights, challenges and highlights.

• **Work Locally with Internationals or Refugees** — Nothing magical happens when one gets on a plane and goes. If one is not sharing the Gospel here, they won't share overseas either. They should find out how their local church is ministering to internationals, and explore ways that their family can be involved. If a couple's church does not have ongoing opportunities to do so, they should research other ministries or talk to their local Baptist association or state convention to find specific ways they can help meet the needs of internationals or refugees in their community.

The Rest of the Story

As for the student I mentioned above, I encouraged his wife to seek the Lord, to pray to know God's direction. I challenged the husband to wait for the Lord to do only what he could do in his wife's heart. For this particular couple, a disconnect in their callings meant delaying one semester so they could walk through discerning their call together before going overseas. Eventually, their callings lined up.

This outcome is not guaranteed, unfortunately. However, it is important to remember that the model for how husbands and wives relate to each other is illustrated by Christ and the church. Following this example requires love, service, respect, honor and submission. As Christians consider their callings to missions, it would be unwise for them to make demands or manufacture a calling that is not of the Lord.

Those who believe they are called should remember that the same God who called them is powerful enough to call their spouse as well.

For more information, go to imb.org. (bpnews.net)

Check Out The
Trumpet Archives At
baptisttrumpet.com



Fishing Lessons

By Ron Fields

Over the years, family and church were my primary focus. There were many interests and softball surfaced. Then about the time I stepped aside as pastor, a couple of men invited me to go fishing.

I learned some basics, and I can now tell the difference between a blue gill and a catfish! Friends have invited me to go and are very patient as I have been learning how to clean the catch and prepare them for the freezer and cooking.

It's a far cry from the day a retired pastor picked me up and took me fishing with him back in the late 70s. Then he caught several and, at the end of the day, dropped me off at home with a huge container of fish and told me they were mine!

What does a non-fisherman do with a large catch? I took a butcher knife from the kitchen and began. Then, after countless unsuccessful tries to get a little bit of meat, I finally took all I had to my garden and

used them as fertilizer!

That ended my fishing until El and Steve took me out, let me watch how they did it and patiently showed me how to clean a fish.

By the way, did I tell you about the one that got away? Sitting in the boat, two lines in the water, one in hand and one lying at my feet, a whopper took the bait! My reaction time was so slow that I only watched as the entire hook, line, rod and reel slid out of the boat and into the lake! I know that had to be the biggest fish in the lake.

Jesus chose twelve to become fishers of men. He spent time with them, teaching, demonstrating, mentoring. The result was that after His ascension into Heaven, those followers turned Jerusalem upside down for God! Thousands became believers.

Who knows but that the person you pour your life into will become the catalyst of redemption and renewal for this needy world. (*Bro. Fields serves as pastor of senior adults and care ministries at Temple Baptist Church in Rogers, where he previously served as pastor for 18 years.*)

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The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

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

BMA of Missouri to Meet

By Dale Fish, President

Please mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the BMA of Missouri's 91st Annual Meeting, Oct. 27, 9 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell, Mo.

The Church Letter forms are printed in the center fold of each 2017 BMA of Missouri Minute book. Please complete both sides. If you need another copy, please call our Clerk, Don Burke at (573) 438-8899.

Representation of every church is important as we meet to conduct business. As Missions Director James Hoffmann said in his August report, "Remember, it is not my work or yours, but God's!"

Please begin praying now, then come help us have a harmonious and productive meeting. Luke 2:49, "... (We) must be about (our) Father's business."

From the Host Pastor,
Ben Kingston

Bethel Baptist Church is so honored and excited to host the annual meeting this year! The church will be

open at 8 a.m. We will have donuts and refreshments for the start and lunch will be served.

Gene Hankins, BMA of Oklahoma Missions Director and pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church in McAlester, Okla. will be bringing God's Word to us. He has led their church planting push the last couple of years.

If anyone needs accommodations, there are two hotels on I-44 in St. Clair: Budget Lodging and Super Eight. If you need anything whatsoever please call me at (636) 629-2526. Please pray for a harmonious meeting and for God to be glorified.

Numbers, Numbers, Numbers
By Don Burke, BMA of Mo. Clerk

I went to my doctor recently, and it reminded me just how overly-obsessed this man is with numbers. Of course, if I'm sick I expect him to take my temperature, which is a number. And stepping on his scales each visit (another number) is an accepted part of the routine.

See MO MEETING, Page 10



Britt, Former Missionary, Dies

Richard Thomas Britt, 79, died Aug. 8. He entered the ministry June 26, 1964 and was ordained at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in DeSoto, Mo. April 9, 1967. He pastored the following Missouri churches: Temple at Belgrade, Kewanee at Kewanee and Landmark at DeSoto. He became a Missouri state missionary in December 1994 and started the Heritage Baptist Church in Farmington and Caseyville in Caseyville, Ill.

During also served in various positions in the state and local associations and their committees. He also loved to sing and was able to use this talent throughout his ministry.

He is survived by his wife of almost 61 years, Barbara Didson Britt; two children, Pam (Ken) Lucy and David (Jill) Britt; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Aug. 12 at First Baptist Church, where he was a member. Cremation was accorded by McCombs Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Jackson. Donations may be made to the church or charity of choice.

of other improvements: concrete in the pavilions and other areas, LED lighting, power upgrades to the lower shower house, plumbing improvements in the upper shower house, replacing the last of the gas water heaters and camper site power and sewer upgrades.

It doesn't look like we made a lot of headway on the mini golf, but actually we did. We spent a lot of time getting the area ready for paintball, which was necessary for the mini golf course. We have the power in place for the mini golf and have started on some of the mini golf obstacles. Our primary focus this year will be getting the mini golf course operational. We have funding for that, so we can use our regular funds for getting the revolving loan fund paid off.

Ladies who were at camp will remember the last night for a long time as we had a main breaker fail in D4, which forced us to rearrange every girl staying at camp. The ladies were very gracious about having to be relocated at the last minute. Even though it wasn't ideal, we are blessed because it wasn't a fire situation and it happened on the last night rather than the first night. We have the new breaker ordered and will be good to go next year!

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

It Takes a Church

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21).

"Red rover, red rover, let Ronny come over." My friends and I braced our arms together, grasping each other's wrists like Roman gladiators and awaited my brother's collision with our barrier. His goal was to break through what he saw as the weakest link. Ours was to strengthen the lines, band together and shout encouragement to one another. We mustered all our strength and awaited the battle.

You've played this child's game yourself. Even if you didn't call it Red Rover, you've played. Maybe not as a child, but as an adult, you've belonged to a team that pulled together to overcome the onslaught of the battle at hand. You've pooled your resources with others in an effort to belong to something larger than just yourself.

In school, you were part of the team, part of the band, part of a group of friends. In the workplace, in your neighborhood, in clubs, societies and community endeavors, you're part of a team.

And what about within your church? How strong is the bond you hold with the folks with whom you sing "Blessed Be the Ties That Bind"? Are they immediate family or distant relative, friend or foe? Unity among Christians brethren is paramount in the mind of God. He addresses it repeatedly in the Scriptures:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

See CHURCH, Page 11

Camp Garwood DEWRs

By Chris Polk, Camp Director

For our first DEWRs weekend, we had 32 present, which is about half of our known DEWRs. If you give \$75 or more a year to camp, you are a DEWR, and the purpose of the retreat is to say "Thanks."

Our goal is to get the DEWR cycle to go from the first weekend in June every year. We would like to get T-shirts ordered early May and give them out at the DEWR weekend in June. We hope the DEWR income in May will boost our funds as we go into the summer months.

Be sure to get registered for your T-shirt in May and try to come to the DEWR weekend.

This first DEWR weekend was awesome! We didn't have a busy schedule. Friday night was just a group of friends hanging out around the fire pit, roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. We had a birthday cake, peach cobbler and ice cream, with a lot of laughs. A few folks went to the drive-in, while others just hung out.

We made a couple trips with the train, and while I was gone on a train ride the fire pit crew had a visit from an armadillo that was good for a few

laughs.

We had a late breakfast Saturday. Rick fixed flavored pancakes, and Dan gave an encouraging devotional. Then most of us headed out on an adventure, which was supposed to last until noon but ended up being all day.

We went to Cave Springs in Van Buren, and it took most of the day getting everyone through the zip lines, although some were happy just watching. After zip lines, we panned for gold and toured a nice, cool cave.

As of this writing there are 38 weeks until the 2019 DEWR weekend. At this point, \$2 a week will put you a little ahead of schedule. Be a DEWR — you won't regret it!

On other camp news, we're broke! I say that only partially joking. I'll give a more detailed report at the state meeting. We are still taking care of camp week expenses, so I can't give complete information yet.

In short, we owe the revolving loan fund \$25,000, and we will begin paying that back this month. There were a lot of big improvements that were made at camp this year. Everyone can see the new equipment shed, which was needed and was a big expense. However, we completed a lot

A Deadly Hazing Event

By Jesse Spurlock

When I was in my freshman year in high school, the seniors were permitted to administer an "initiation" to the freshmen. Later, Stratford High School discontinued the freshmen initiation.

I served four years in the Marines, got out and began attending college. Although the colleges themselves no longer practiced "freshmen initiations," their fraternities were still practicing it.

Since they were more sophisticated than high school kids, they then called it "hazing." But regardless of what it was called, it was still a stupid, juvenile practice.

When I joined the Los Angeles Police Department, my first duty station was University Division. It was named "University" because the University of Southern California (USC) was located within the boundaries.

One section, 28th Street, was known as "Fraternity Row" because their numerous fraternity houses were located there. Since USC was the most expensive school in California to attend, all the wealthy people in California sent their spoiled



children there.

Of course, many of the fraternity members thought they were above the law and thought it high sport to throw things at any police car that dared drive down Fraternity Row. They actually believed that 28th Street belonged to them. Anyone not living on Fraternity Row, even the police, were considered by them to be trespassers.

On Sept. 17, 1959, we received a call, "Ambulance Injury" on 28th Street. When we arrived, the fire rescue team and ambulance crew were working over a young man on a stretcher, later determined to be Richard Swanson, the 21-year-old son of a prominent doctor.

The fraternity brothers didn't tell us or the ambulance workers about

See HAZING, Page 11

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Together as One; United for a Purpose

By Justin Rhodes, President, BMA of Mississippi

The 212nd annual session of the BMA of Mississippi is almost upon us. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. I hope and pray that you will plan to attend the meeting this year. We are planning for a one-day meeting, which will conclude Tuesday evening with the annual message by Wesley Martin, BMA of Mississippi Church Planter in Diamondhead.

Monday evening, Oct. 22, the Brotherhood will meet at Southeastern Baptist College at 7 p.m., and the WMA will be hosting a banquet at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove at 6:30 p.m. The WMA will also have their business session Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. in the chapel at Southeastern, just before the association convenes.

The theme for the meeting this year is "Together as One; United for a Purpose," which is taken from Ezra 3:1. As an association of churches, we have a great opportunity to be united together in the work of the Lord. There are many things that we can do together that would be hard to accomplish on our own.

Unity, in and of itself, is not the goal. It is not just enough to have unity, because unity is neutral until it is given its goodness or badness by something else. It is therefore, never enough to simply call Christians to have unity, because it could be good or bad.

If a church or a group of churches unify together to say that something is good and acceptable when the Word of God has said otherwise, that is not the kind of unity in which we should find ourselves. Unity only finds its goodness when you consider the source, the view and the aim of this unity.

It is my prayer that we will unite together around the purposes that bring us together and make us who we are as an association today.

Impacted By The Presence

By Larry Geraldson, Director
BMA of Miss. Missions

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:12).

We have so much to be thankful for as the Lord continues to shower us with blessings!

We have one new missionary candidate that is scheduled to interview with the Missionary Committee soon. We have other applications out, and we continue to have discussions with other folks who have shown an interest in Missions.

On Sept. 16, Central at Southaven organized, and Day Star in Sumrall is planning their organization for some time in January.

I recently asked our missionaries to provide me with a testimonial of someone in the mission who has been impacted by the presence of the mission. I have received many, and plan to share them with you in this and upcoming articles.

The following was provided by Missionary Phillip Burns about a family in his mission:

"Tim Pittman was an individual I met early in the mission work. He was going through some personal problems during that time, and I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with him. Over the course of about six months, Tim came to the point in his life when he placed his faith in Christ, and he was concerned about his children's salvation.

"While he was away from his family for a year, the Lord began to deal with his daughter, Jennifer. My family and I began to get to know her, as she would come to church. Through those opportunities, we had many discussions about the Bible and we would, from time to time, share the Gospel with her.

"It was during the 2016 Christmas season that Jennifer placed her faith in Jesus Christ. She was delighted to share her testimony at one of the previous Missions and Evangelism Conferences and has been vocal to others about her faith in the Lord.

"Since she came to know the Lord, she experienced great loss in her life as her grandmother, mother and step grandfather all passed away. The mission was able to have a hand in ministering to the family through this time of grief.

"Jennifer's sister, Brianna has since started coming to church with her and her dad. I have had the opportunity to talk to Brianna about some personal things she has struggled with, and I shared the Gospel with her when I had an opportunity. Back about four months ago, Brianna came forward and accepted Jesus as her Savior.

It's been amazing to watch a whole family, that wasn't in church at the time we moved here, surrender their lives to the Lord and become very faithful church members. God is good!"

President's Perspective

By Dr. Scott Carson, President
Southeastern Baptist College

It is official. We have more than doubled our student body population over last semester. We are at 106% growth! Praise the Lord!

With this growth, has come many expected and some unexpected challenges. The men's dorm had been shuttered for several years, and a section of the dorm had not been updated in decades. We were able to quickly turn around the inside of this building just in time for fall occupancy. It is now full to capacity!

The downstairs of the women's dormitory needs less work and is occupied to capacity. The upstairs will have to be renovated in the near future in order to accommodate more students.

We have 56 resident students living in our dorms during the school week. Several choose to go home over the weekends. One particular challenge we have discovered is that many of the students are financially strapped and are finding it difficult to provide nutritious food for themselves. I have done some research on the subject, and have discovered that this situation is true on nearly every campus in the nation. I know it was true for me when I was in college not so many years ago.

Most colleges have instituted food pantries for their hungry students. We have one, as well, and I praise God for those who have already donated toward it. However, there are continuing issues with students not having the skills to create nutritious meals for themselves. This creates a ministry opportunity for you!

Last Friday, Linda and I provided a lunch meal to available students. One student was moved to tears, gave Linda a big hug and thanked her for the

meal. It was a touching moment for us.

If you feel led to answer this need, we can show our love of Jesus visibly and our support toward our students. Perhaps you, your church or a civic organization would like to participate in providing a meal. This could be a meal once, twice, or more a month, once a week or as often as God leads you.

The best days and times for providing a meal is the lunch hour on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, when most of the students are in the dorms. A good number to plan for is 50 students. Breakfast and supper can also be provided, but the number of meals required would probably be less.

What can you do with the leftovers? No problem, the students will be happy to take the leftovers back to their dorms! Pray about your participation in this effort. I trust the Lord will lead several folks and churches to provide toward this need. Contact Coach Brad Phillips to coordinate a day and time for meals (870) 378-7203.

We're Number 3!

Okay, maybe we're not number one, but in a recent posting by Best-Colleges.com it listed Southeastern Baptist College as the third best college in Mississippi for earning an on-campus college degree for 2018! This rating is from among all colleges and universities throughout the state. God bless our faculty and staff who have earned this distinction! You can read more at: www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-in-mississippi/.

Immediate Basketball Program Needs

Coach Phillips provided me a list of immediate needs for the restart of the

See PERSPECTIVE, Page 9



(L-R) SBC Basketball Coach Brad Phillips, HGTV star Ben Napier and SBC President Scott Carson.

Southeastern Contributes To HGTV Project

Southeastern College is making changes in the college gymnasium which requires removal of older classrooms and offices that were built in the late 1970s. One side of the gym's bleachers were removed to make room for needed space. With physical changes, relocation of offices and other needs, this area is being removed to bring the basketball court area back to more usable condition.

The Home Town series is filming its third season. President Scott and Mrs. Linda Carson were new to Laurel during the first season, and their home was featured on the program. Carson spoke to Ben Napier, the program's star, about some old "tongue & groove" flooring on the second floor of the area to be demolished.

Many remodels by Napier include reclaiming materials from other sites. The HGTV crew has taken the flooring to be used in a remodel being worked on in Laurel.

The Goodness of God

By Sidney Davis, Director
Miss. Baptist Children's Home

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Whatever God thinks, says, plans and does is good. He is the giver of everything that is good. The Bible says in Psa. 33:5, *"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."* If this were not so, we could not quote Rom. 8:28 and really believe it. Because He's good, we know that all things are working together for those who love and obey Him.

Psalms 23:6 states that God goes before us with the blessings of His "goodness." Isn't it good that we can just trust God?

God has been good to supply the needs of the Children's Home, and we want to thank Him for His goodness!

Homecoming Services

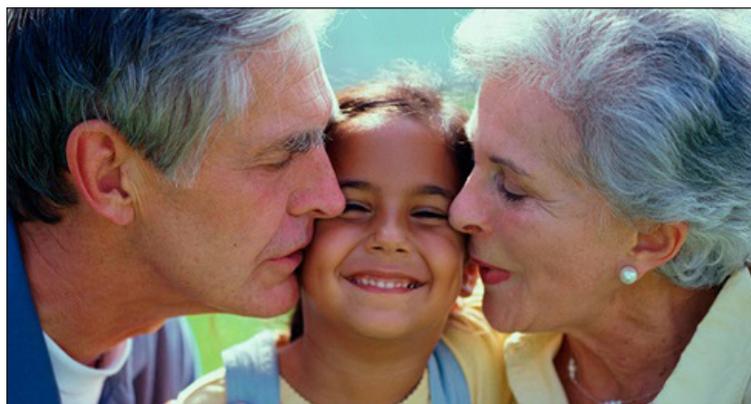
It was good, as one of the former pastors, to be with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula, for

their 60th Homecoming Celebration service. I had the privilege of bringing the homecoming message.

The homecoming was uplifting and encouraging, as families and friends renewed old friendships and acquaintances. The homecoming was well attended, with estimates of about 180. Praise the Lord for the ministry of Woodlawn Baptist Church for these past 60 years in the salvation of those that have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and the many who continue to serve the Lord — not only in the Pascagoula area, but in many places around the world. To God be the glory!

Graduating Senior

Desi Brunty will be a part of the 2019 graduating class of West Jones High School this year. After graduation, she plans to attend college at Jones County Junior College. Remember her in your prayers during her senior year as she completes her high school studies and all the activities that go along with being a senior.



The Impact of Grandparents

By Jenae Polok

I love reminiscing over precious memories of my grandparents. Making Waldorf Salad with Grandma Shoemaker, Grandma Joy Lee rescuing my baby blanket from my mother's clutches and recovering it five different times, digging up earthworms and learning to bait a hook with Grandpa Shoemaker — the memories seem endless.

My heart cries a little because I am filled with emotions, and I miss them dearly. Yet my heart is filled with even more gratitude for the legacy of service to the Lord they left behind.

Grandpa's fishing memory takes on a bolder statement when I know he provided enough fish for his church family to have huge fish fries. Grandma Shoemaker's dedication to cleanliness shines brighter when I remember working side-by-side to make her home church smell lemony fresh every Saturday. Then there's Grandma Joy Lee, there wasn't a church dinner she wasn't right in the middle of, and she would whip up her wieners and kraut dish and her "family-famous" Funeral Cake.

Be An Influence

By Jeff Swart, Missions Director

There are three word pictures found in I Peter 2 that are meant to help believers understand how to be an influence in our world.

First, he said that a believer is a stone that is "built up (into) a spiritual house" (I Peter 2:5). In I Corinthians 3, Paul called that spiritual house a "temple" (I Cor. 3:16). In both the Old and New Testaments, the temple was the earthly dwelling place of God. It represented God's presence in the community. Are you and your local church a spiritual "presence" in your community?

Second, I Peter 2 that teaches us how to positively impact our communities. Peter described believers as "...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (I Peter 2:9). I draw your attention to Peter's statement that believers are a "priesthood." In the Scriptures, a priest is a mediator between God and man. The root of the Greek word translated as "priesthood" literally means, "bridge builder." Believers are to be "bridge builders" between God and man.

How are we to do this? We are to share God's story — who God is, what He is like and what He has personally done for us. If you can tell someone what Christ has done in your life, you know enough to be a witness. The second step in positively impacting our culture is to become "bridge builders" between God and our community.

Third, Peter teaches us how to positively impact our communities is to remember that we are "strangers and pilgrims" (I Peter 2:11). The people to whom Peter was writing lost their status and rights in society when they became Christians. He was telling them it was okay because their citizenship was not in this world anyway, but in Heaven (Phil. 3:20). Those exact same words could be spoken to Christians in the 21st Century today. We also do not belong to this culture. So, what are we to do?

Peter said the way we will positively influence our culture is to live godly lives before the watching world so that "...they may by your good works, which they shall behold... glorify God" (I Peter 2:12).

Peter told his First Century hearers that they needed to understand that they were God's "presence" in this world; and that they were to build "bridges" to their ungodly culture by living before them a holy Christian life and by doing "good deeds" for them. To reduce it to a simple formula: "Presence plus bridges plus good deeds equals influence."

Baptist Herald

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Exciting Summer

By John Herring, Missionary

The summer months are over and school is back in full swing here in Nixa, Mo. This time of transition gives us the opportunity to be thankful for what God accomplished through the summer months and look forward to what He is going to do throughout the fall of this year.

Over the summer, we had four different small groups meeting and growing stronger in their walk with God. Some were serving together in the community, and others were studying the truths of God's Word together in ways that challenged us to move beyond the status quo for believers. It is exciting to see the change in the lives of many people simply because they decided to commit to and show up to a small group on a regular basis.

We also had the opportunity to host a One Day VBS in the community. We had almost 30 kids show up to this event, and many others who were serving in different capacities. It was a hot day, but God's Word was clearly taught in fun and relevant ways for the kids to understand. We're praying for continued growth and relational opportunities with the families we connected with through

this event.

Additionally, we were able to participate in the First Annual Back to School Bash here in Nixa. It was a privilege to partner with over 40 other organizations (churches, agencies, non-profits and more) in order to meet the needs of students in the community. We're already looking forward to the Second Annual Back to School Bash.

God has definitely been at work here in Nixa, and we are thankful for His continued involvement and provision for the work He has planned. Although our summer months have not seen the same type of physical growth as previous years have provided for our work, we can easily recognize the spiritual growth that has taken place over the past few months. We are praying that God will continue to grow His work here in Nixa as He desires, both spiritually and physically, in order to bring Him honor and glory for many years to come.

We ask that you pray for us to have wisdom and discernment as we continue to move forward. We also ask that you pray specifically for souls to be saved and lives to be changed. Thank you for your continued prayer, support and encouragement for us as we continually serve Him.



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BMA of Texas to Meet

By Jerry Fulton, Editor • *Baptist Progress*

The 2018 BMA of Texas Meeting will be held at Calvary, Fairfield, Nov. 5-6. The theme of the meeting is “Forever Faithful,” taken from II Tim. 4:7, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” The first session of the meeting will include a message from BMA of Texas President Robert East-erling and testimonies by Charles Breithaupt, senior adult minister at The Refuge at Terrell and Luis Ortega, Sr., pastor of Centro de Vida at Grand Prairie.

Breakout sessions on the first day of the meeting will include Activate with Larry Barker, operations director for North American Missions; Texas Size Hispanic Vision with Arnulfo Maldonado (in Spanish), Hispanic Coordinator for BMA Texas Missions; and Website and Facebook Basics by Michael Clements and Matthew Prather. Clements is the associate pastor of The Refuge at Terrell and Prather is pastor of The Bridge in Midlothian/Waxahachie. All breakout sessions will take place in rooms in the family life center at Calvary, Fairfield.

The evening session on Nov. 5 will include a testimony by Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, a concert by The Erwins and a message by Grady Cashion, pastor of First at Blooming Grove.

On the second day of the annual meeting, the WMA Annual Meeting and the Leadership Conference will take place at Round Prairie, Fairfield, followed by lunch at the church.

Reports from each department, as well as the administrative committee, WMA and Master’s Builders will be given during the afternoon session with more breakout sessions to follow. The second set of breakout sessions will include Activate; BMAT 101 (for new pastors in the BMA of Texas) with Heith Mitchell, BMA Texas Missions director; Reaching Your Hispanic Neighbor (in English) with Arnulfo Maldonado; a worship swap meet led by Shelby Race, minister of music at Calvary in Fairfield and a youth workers swap meet led by Devin Diguilio, minister of youth at Calvary, Fairfield.

The evening session on Nov. 6 will include a concert by the Jacksonville College Choir and the annual message to be preached by Jason Prewitt, director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. A missionary commissioning service will close out the meeting.

McCoy to Speak At Leadership Conference

The 2018 Leadership Conference will be held during the annual meeting of the BMA of Texas, beginning at 10 a.m. at Round Prairie, Fairfield Nov. 6. The conference will be offered in English and Spanish this year, and is presented by BMA Texas Missions. This year’s conference speaker will be Steve McCoy.



He has been in the ministry for over 35 years and is the founding and lead pastor of The 360 Church in Sarasota, Fla., a church he planted 11 years ago. Impacted by the Vision Frame, God Dreams and Leadership Pipeline Development processes of Auxano, 360 has grown from a launch team of 8 to a church of 700 with a laser-focused strategy that centers on building a culture of one-to-one relationships with a vision that is designed to invigorate Christianity in the U.S. by exporting the one-to-one culture.

In addition to graduating from Southern Seminary, he also has a doctorate in Piano Performance, coming to faith during the pursuit of becoming a concert pianist. His 25 years of piano lessons naturally embedded an appreciation for the impact of the one-to-one dynamic that is so often missing in the church culture.

His experience in the person-to-person environment in music, coupled with the Paul-Timothy model of one-to-one discipleship, motivated him to take six years to write a one-to-one discipleship track called smallcircle. Aiming to go beyond the typical approach of information transfer, Xchange is infused with real life labs, artistic films and graphic design engineered to bring a multi-sensory experience with the goal of growing disciples to become disciple-makers.

Smallcircle is now in the process of being translated into 12 languages and is operating on 4 continents. In Steve’s local church setting, 40% of those in small groups are in a one-to-one discipleship relationship. The one-to-one dynamic permeates all areas of 360 in order to create a culture of one-to-one relational depth.

Steve and his wife, Carrie, have two boys, ages 13 and 14.



The bride and groom and GMAs.

White Bible Ceremony

By Paul Gaunt

Since she was in the eighth grade, Haley Maynard of First Baptist Church (FBC), Palmer, Texas has been an avid member and leader in Girls Missionary Auxiliary there; and her participation has culminated in what the GMA program calls the White Bible Ceremony — given in honor of her upcoming wedding. She and her fiancée, Darrell Rasco, who serves as a part of the worship team at Central in Itasca, were honorees of the ceremony which was held, Aug. 26 at the church. The church presented the couple with a large white family Bible during the program.

“The White Bible ceremony is in honor of any GMA girl who has completed all her steps in the program, and is about to be married,” said Teel Witt, who has been director of the program at FBC for over two decades.

“It’s more than just going through the steps,” Haley said in response to how the GMA program has impacted her life. “It’s about having the mentoring of great leaders, and having other girls to look up to; it’s about the friendships with likeminded girls, and about the camaraderie.”

Haley, who has come up through what people of FBC believe to be one of the strongest local GMA programs in the association, has served as first vice-president and second vice-president for the state GMA program, and one year she was alternate Texas Miss GMA. She has also served as historian and president of the national GMA organization. Included in her diligent work through the steps of the program was her memorization of 346 Bible verses throughout her years in GMAs.

She recently graduated from University of Texas Arlington with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering. He is also a graduate of UTA, is an IT consultant for Planet Access.

They were married Sept. 8, and will make their home in Waxahachie, Texas. Haley said she will continue to be actively involved in the GMA program at FBC, taking her turn at mentoring young ladies in the program.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

By Dr. Mike Smith, President
Jacksonville College

You have probably heard the old saying, “two steps forward, one step back.” Have you ever felt as if that was happening to you?

On some days, one step forward and two steps back might feel more accurate. Some days, we make progress in one area but lose ground in another.

The Desert Rose Band recorded similar sentiments in the song “One Step Forward.” The chorus says, “One step forward and two steps back; Nobody gets too far like that. One step forward and two steps back; This kind of dance can never last.”

The Apostle Peter’s beginning journey with Christ was one step forward and two steps back. Even as his faith matured, and he experienced great victories, he still faced setbacks.

In Matt. 14:28-29, Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water to Jesus, but he soon took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink (Matt. 14:30).

In John 18:10, Peter bravely cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant, but Jesus told Peter to put away his sword (John 18:11). Then Jesus

healed the ear (Luke 22:51).

In Matt. 26:35, Peter boasted that he would never deny Jesus, but in verses 70-74, he denied Jesus three times.

The same Peter who frequently stumbled was the same Peter who preached boldly in Acts 2:14-41, and 3,000 souls were saved that day.

Ministry is like that. You make progress; you lose ground.

On one Sunday, 10 members join the church; on the next Sunday, 5 members get angry and leave.

Jacksonville College has experienced a “two steps forward, one step back” year.

We had 55 students make professions of faith in one chapel service. We had more ministry students on campus this year than in the previous year.

One ministry student was called to pastor a church; one was called to be an assistant pastor. Three were called to serve in youth ministries; one was called to serve as a children’s director. Five were called to work in camps, and one was called to serve with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Jacksonville’s Mayor Dick Stone

See STEPS, Page 10

A Word from BMA Of Texas Missions Office

By Heith Mitchell, Director

Thank you, Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfield for coming through on our request last month for folding chairs. They delivered 85 folding chairs to us that we are distributing to several new mission points. We praise the Lord for providing through Calvary and that they could hear about it through this wonderful resource, *Baptist Progress*.

The circuit of association meetings begin this month. I challenge you to attend your local association and make plans to be at the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting in November. If your church is outside of a local association, join one near you. Call the missions office if you need help connecting. It would be our pleasure to serve you in this way. There is value in associating with other believers for the cause of Christ and investing in the Kingdom of God together. You will be blessed and be a blessing to others by your involvement.

I have as many on my calendar as I can attend. I look forward to seeing you. I would love to come and share Texas Missions with your church.

Prayer Requests
From The Field

Although space will not allow the *Baptist Trumpet* to list all the individual Texas mission reports, we do want to share these prayer requests:

• Pray for God to provide people to fill specific ministry needs in several mission points.

• Pray for each of your mission points as they reach out this new school year.

• Pray for your missionaries and their spouses — Amanda Durham, Gloria Garcia, Manuela Molina, Chris Driver and Jaime Driver — as they face health issues.

• Pray for several men and women waiting on immigration documents.

• Pray for intern Kingsley Nduka, for God to reunite his family. They are currently stuck in the UK.

• Pray that God provides the funds and the laborers for more evangelistic disciple-making churches.

• Pray for souls saved, disciples made, leaders equipped and sent out to start again.

Praise Reports
From The Field

• God is using your missionaries to reach into the lives of truly struggling people. We are hearing stories of real conversion.

• Souls are being saved, disciples are being made, leaders are being equipped and missions are starting churches!

• God continues to answer your prayers on behalf of your mission effort!



Louisiana Baptist Builder



Trustees of the ABS, which includes Arkansas pastors, met at the Student Center Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. Those attending were: (Bottom, L-R) Robert Davis, Mike Fink, Chad Jackson, Anthony Raines, Karan and Danny Eddy, Deryl Jones, Jake Vandenberg. (Not pictured, Bobby Kelley)

Greetings from Tech!

By Danny Eddy, Director

Labor Day truly marked the end of summer around here, as it was “Move In Day.” We had nine students to participate in Dog Haul, helping the students move into the dorms and apartments.

Later that day, ABS participated in two events where we worked alongside five other campus ministries. First, we grilled 1,400 burgers in the center of the campus, as the university food service had not yet opened. After that, we had a campus-wide worship service together. We are fortunate to have a good relationship with these other ministries, as we all strive to reach others for Christ on this campus.

The remaining days of Welcome Week were spent back at the ABS center. Since we have not yet had an IMPACT Worship service, we have no average attendance to report, but we have had at least 49 faces come through the doors and fill out an information card! That is a great number, considering how many we graduated and transferred last year; so we sure hope most of them return when our normal schedule gets started.

Our welcome week events included a game night, a movie night with homemade ice cream and Kiddie Pool Wiffle Ball. We battled the weather all week, but didn't have to cancel a thing. All these events were planned by the officers, with the purpose of meeting new faces, and the officers really came through for us! They were there for setting up, taking down and did a great job of making new people feel welcome. One can only hope this is an indication of a great year to come!

We are in the first full week of fall quarter, and have had our first worship service. The praise team had practiced and were ready to go, and the officers are excited to see what new faces the Lord brings our way.

We appreciate all the prayers on our behalf, that we would reach new students for Christ, that He would bring new faces our way that we can minister to, and most of all, that everything we do be for His glory and in His will.



2018-19 ABS Officers

Louisiana Baptist Builder

Bobby Kelley, editor

labaptistbuilder@gmail.com (318) 285-0215

Subscription: \$7

PERSPECTIVE

(Continued From Page 6)

SBC Chargers Basketball program. The items below are needed by Oct. 1. Please contact him directly to coordinate if you, your church or a business owner wishes to donate:

- Two sets of jerseys — One set for men's J.V. and one set for the Women's teams (\$2,000 per set; total of \$4,000)
- Shot clocks: (\$2,000 total for both)
- Backboard padding (\$360)
- Gym wall padding (\$2,964)
- Score table (\$1,295 for permanent, high grade); or \$200 for a custom table cover
- Stocked medical kit (\$500)
- Team chairs (\$1,800)
- Possession arrow (\$130)
- Team travel expenses (\$2,500 per trip, total \$5,000) for overnight games to Louisiana and Florida.

Senior Adult Conferences

By Kenneth Flynt, Director Comm. on Senior Adults

The Commission on Senior Adults enjoyed two of the best conferences this present year, and plans are in the making to provide other conferences that will prove to be a spiritual time of blessings from the Lord. I am always appreciative of the host churches who do such an excellent job for our seniors.

The 2019 conferences will be held Tuesday, March 12 for the South Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso; and the North Conference to be held Tuesday, May 7 at Mantachie First Baptist Church. The registration fee will remain at \$15 per person.

The support from our churches continues to be good, and it is always a blessing to know our churches are supporting our senior members so well. Thank you, and God bless you for your continued support and attendance at these gatherings for this special day for our senior members. It is always a day filled with joyful excitement. Your participation is a special joy and we hope many of you will come to these conferences ready to use your talent for the joy of others.

Let's look forward to another good year in this ministry. Save those dates — March 12 and May 7.

We hope to have added features that will be enjoyed by all. The Trustees of the Commission will be meeting soon to address these conferences.

Mississippi Baptist

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Mailed version, \$20

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New Mexico BAPTIST MESSENGER

BMA of New Mexico to Meet

By Editor Keenan Witcher

The BMA of New Mexico is scheduled to meet on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Northern Heights Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M. The meeting will continue on Saturday morning, Oct. 13.

We would like to invite all who can possibly come to this meeting. As we approach the end times, we need stronger associations in order that we might help and encourage each other in the work of the Lord.

The first churches fellowshiped or worked together in unity as they served the Lord. No one church can possibly carry out the Great Commission by herself. Therefore, we need each other in the Lord's work.

If you need any information, directions or help, please call me at (575) 626-5598. I'll be glad to assist you in any way I possibly can. I hope to see you in Hobbs, Oct. 12-13.

Just as I Am

By Clea Strehlow

“Just as I Am” — that's how I came to Him! And He? With outstretched arms, seemingly wide enough for the whole world, He reached for me and drew me close.

Exactly as I came, He accepted me — no resume, no test, no “prove yourself first” — that type of thing. I came empty, dry and barren, like a desert. I needed Him so much, yet I had nothing to offer.

He snatched me from danger and set me free. He gave me love. He gave me time. Then He even let me call what He had given me mine.

In ecstatic joy or excruciating pain, always without exception, He remains the same. When I'd stumble, He'd catch me. When I'd fall, He'd reach to pick me up. Never did He push me down; always, He'd pull me up. Why?

Sure, He loves me; I mean, He really loves me. Not because of what I am or am not, but rather because of who He is.

I've taken plunges. I've hit bottom

and found it solid because He is the Rock I stand on. My anchor is driven deep in the Rock of Ages.

In the midst of life's storms, my inadequacies take a firm grip on His all sufficiencies. He is stable, able to deliver — in the beginning of trouble, then double trouble, and triple trouble, He goes with me through it all.

No charge, or call limited or expiration date on His availability, because I'm one of His own. I'm His child, and He's my beloved. No one had to tell me when He touched me.

“Now to be thine, and thine alone. O Lamb of God, I come, I come.”

Lord, all I have, I give. My utmost to your highest. In truth, I believe in truth, I receive in truth, I talk in truth, walk in truth and I abide in truth. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” and in that truth I confide.

Together we walk, just Jesus and me. Through sunshine or rain, in pleasure or pain. He's my everything. He is all God, yet total man. He understands when no other can. He is the Man I can trust.

New Mexico Baptist Messenger

Keenan Witcher, Editor

(575) 626-5598

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The Baptist Custom

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Ganey, Former Editor And Pastor, Dies

Curtis E. Ganey, 86, of Jacksonville, Fla., joyfully went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018, with his daughters by his side in Coral Springs, Fla. Curtis was born Dec. 28, 1931, to Frank and Julia Mae Ganey, in Mayo, Florida. He was the sixth of seven siblings. He married the love of his life, Joan Gary Ganey in September 1957, and was blessed with 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

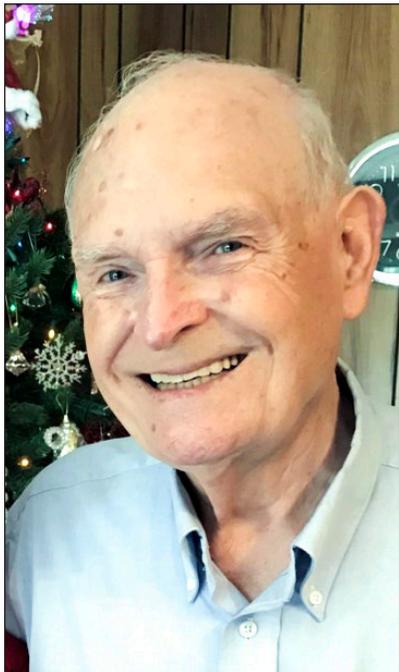
He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army. He graduated from Baptist Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas in 1963, and served as the pastor of Temple Gate Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. In addition to his unwavering service to his Lord, he worked for the U.S. Veterans Administration.

He also edited the newspaper for the BMA of Florida until health issues caused him to give it up. He lived his life fully with a servant's heart, a humble spirit, giving thanks in everything.

Survivors include two sons, Keith (Tami) Ganey and Brad (Kendra) Ganey; three daughters, Kimberly (Norgel) Almaguer, Rhonda (Tony) Millican and Pamela Toler; a sister, Ruth Rhoden; 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Aug. 31 at Hardage-Giddens Riverside Memorial Park & Funeral Home in Jacksonville, Fla., and interment was at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to BMA of Florida, Attention: Mary Watson, 1100 North Century Blvd. McDavid, Fla. 32568.



From Editor Holt

By John Paul Holt

• **Food for Thought** — Sin comes from the dark, and that is where we want to keep it. What about when it comes to the light? Sin will always be exposed. It is this moment when we should want to change, repent, and that is a good thing.

As time goes on, people are caring less about keeping sin in the dark. Sin is no longer shameful, there is no longer guilt.

People want to do what they want to do, and they believe if the Word of God doesn't agree, then the Word of God must be wrong.

Sin, out in the open, is a plague. The people that are not directly involved with it, get used to it, tolerate it and sometimes even support it.

God doesn't change, and His Word is fact. Political correctness and changing with the times, does not invalidate God.

• **Pastor's Perspective** — As a pastor, you spend a great deal of in study and prayer. Each week, you work with God to deliver a good message. You want to give them something they can use. You want to be able to add the pieces that are missing between them and God.

You can do everything right, but even if they hear you, it doesn't mean they are listening.

If everyone was on the same page, if everyone gave, if everyone did what is right, how great would the church be? It can be very frustrating, knowing the resources are there and you can't tap them.

The Baptist Custom

John Paul Holt, Editor
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Free Subscription, Donations Accepted

Pope, Texas Minister, Dies

James Howard Pope, 86, of Weatherford, Texas died Aug. 26.

He had been a Baptist minister for over 53 years, pastoring Texas churches in Navarro County, Olton, McAdoo, Lubbock, Morton, Plainview, Mineral Wells, Duncanville, Cedar Hill and Crockett.

He enjoyed watching Texas Tech sports, especially football or basketball and enjoyed woodworking.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Jettie Pope; 5 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 1 at Shady Grove Baptist Church and interment was at Oakwood Cemetery, under the direction of Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home in Corsicana.

STEPS

(Continued From Page 8)

declared May 9 as the first Jacksonville College Day, and 142 business leaders joined us on campus for lunch in the Little Cafeteria. These leaders gave JC a generous offering.

Giving is up from our churches, giving is up from our associations and giving is up from our individual supporters. Unfortunately, our expenses are up as well.

Enrollment has increased from last year. Our number of commuter students has increased, and so has the number of online students. Our number of resident students has decreased.

We need to replace the old cast iron pipes that are under the cafeteria. This will cost \$34,000. So far, \$5,000 has been given, but more is needed.

By the grace of God, Jacksonville College is still providing a quality education from a biblical worldview. However, we need your prayers, and we need your financial gifts.

We are currently getting ready for our reaccreditation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) next year, and it is very important that we finish this year in a financially strong position.

We would appreciate an extra financial gift from all of our supporters by the end of year.

Baptist Progress

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

Missouri Missions Report

By James Hoffmann

We continue to pray for churches in Missouri that are searching for pastors, and hope God will burden more preachers to get involved in pastoring and not be satisfied with just "preaching" when the opportunities arise. Brethren, we need a burden for ministry if our churches are going to grow and plant more churches! Please pray for me as I try to encourage churches and preachers who are discouraged and who are searching for God's leadership in their ministries. We serve The Mighty God and need to give Him our best effort in all we do! If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

If you have any ideas that will help us in the work in Missouri, please share them with me or with any member of our Special Missions Committee so we can consider them when we meet before the annual meeting to formulate recommendations about the work in 2018-2019. This committee meeting will be taking place within the next few weeks so we need to hear from you as soon as possible. The members of this committee are: Chairman Ben Kingston; Clerk Dan Wisely; Claude Evans, Russell Chitwood, Dale Fish, Don Burke and Brian Meade.

These men would welcome your input and help in doing the work the association has given us to do. If you need to meet with the committee that can be arranged if we know of your desire early enough to make the arrangements.

I look forward to working with you and enjoying your fellowship at our annual meeting at Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell. Let's pray that the year ahead will be a great year of seeing souls saved, preachers encouraged and churches growing!

MO MEETING (Continued From Page 5)

But now there's the blood pressure numbers he keeps pointing out; and the cholesterol numbers and triglycerides numbers. And the older I get, the more personal the kind of numbers that he keeps wanting to get from me!

So why in the world is this guy getting all obsessed with my (sometimes personal) numbers? I asked him that and his reply was, "Because I'm concerned about your health — and the numbers tell the story of both your immediate health and your pattern for healthy living."

You know, the same principle is true for church and associational health.

That is one of the reasons our churches are asked to report their numbers each year in the annual church letter. It helps leaders on the state and national levels have a better grasp of what our association's health really is.

Take a moment to consider these numbers: At the end of 2017 the BMA of MO had 47 churches. Of those 47...

• One-fourth (12) failed to send in any annual letter last year.

• Nearly another fourth (10) sent in a letter, but included absolutely no financial data.

• Others failed to give *any* membership and attendance data.

• Even more churches only gave partial data.

Altogether, this means that we have more data gaps than we have data reported. Our data is so under-reported that it's virtually impossible to get a true sense of how healthy our association is.

So, please send in your church annual letter this year, and please consider filling in as much of the financial and statistical data as you can. Like with my doctor, we can only stay up to date on our churches' and association's health to the degree that we know our numbers.

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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ARE YOU A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF A BMA OF ARK. CHURCH?



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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

God Continues to Bless

By the time some of you receive this *Trumpet* by email, I should be headed to Arkadelphia to the Clark Association. The fall is a wonderful time for me to get to see so many of you personally and thank you for your faithful support of this department.

Because of your generous support, we are poised to reach out into new communities right here at home. Please continue to pray that God will raise up men with a burden to plant right here in Arkansas.

Saturday, we will be traveling to the Columbia Association in McNeil and Pastor Ken Williams.

From Our Missionaries

Arkansas Hispanic Missions: Michael Hight writes, "This weekend I had the privilege of presenting missions to Southside Baptist Church in Hope.

"My brother-in-law, Ernie Sorrells, is the pastor, and it gave us a great opportunity to worship with my mom, sisters and extended family. That doesn't happen very often.

"This week, we also began the process of restructuring the clinic. I pray that God gives us wisdom so we will know how best to improve this crucial ministry. Please keep this process in your prayers."

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "God blessed us with a good week at Connection Point.

"This past Saturday, we had our first Men's Breakfast and had a great turnout. Everyone enjoyed some great food and a fantastic devotional from one of our men. Hopefully, this is only the first of many to come.

"We had a good day Sunday. It was rainy, and we had quite a bit of standing water in the roads, but we had a great morning, anyway. God blessed with a good attendance and some first-time guests. We really had a good day, overall.

"Continue to pray for us as we plan some outreach events this fall. Pray we can share the Gospel of Jesus with some folks who need to hear it."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "The Lord was with us in a special way Sunday, and our attendance was pretty good. Our services were very warm and inviting, and the singing is continuing to improve.

"The mission folks are beginning to realize how each part of our services is an opportunity to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth.

"Thanks to Kenneth and Carolyn Colvert, we now have a new

laptop computer set up and ready to use for PowerPoint and movies in our fellowship/classroom, and we will be utilizing it in our youth Sunday School beginning in November. Plans are to use our smaller building as class space for children's church. We have a lot to move and set up for it to be usable.

"We are also in the process of putting together a plan for making some repairs that need to be done in our main building. We are redoing a gas line and repairing some weak spots in the floor, etc.

"We will be doing some touch-up painting before our big Sunday in October. There is always something that needs to be done.

"I hope you all had a great day of worship. God bless you, and please keep us in your prayers."

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "This Sunday, we studied in II Cor. 4:7-5:10 about the treasure that God has put in earthen vessels. To deposit the knowledge of the glory of God in containers so fragile and perishable, and have the purpose that the power exercised, is obviously recognized as the power of God. As time passes, this vessel wears away.

"We pass through tribulations, which produces in us a glorious expectation, because we walk by faith and not by sight. While we await the glorious transformation of this body into an eternal and incorruptible one, we must live confidently, working hard for the Lord, hoping that when we present ourselves before Him, He will say 'it is well, good and faithful servant.'

"After the meditation, the congregation was invited to come to the front and ask the Lord for forgiveness for not being the faithful and committed servants He wants us to be, and to ask Him to use us in His work in His mercy, committing our-

selves to obeying Him.

"Almost the entire congregation came, and we had a good time of prayer, praying for each of those who were in front and their families.

"Thank you, God, for those times of communion and harmony that you allow us to live as a church. We give you all the honor and glory."

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, "We are making great progress with our building and should complete the remodel very soon. Once it is ready, we will invite you all to a building dedication ceremony where we can show everyone the facilities with which God has blessed us.

"On a personal note, I would like to ask you to pray for my 14-year-old son. Gabriel was born with four heart defects, and he has been experiencing some pain and heart racing. "The great staff at Arkansas Children's Hospital has diagnosed him with a particular tachycardia (periodic racing heart rate) and has started him on some new medicine. He will take this medicine until a procedure can be scheduled to block the electrical receptors causing the concern.

"Your prayers have always gone a long way in helping us through his heart issues, and I ask once again that you add Gabriel to your prayer lists."

GAMBLING

(Continued From Page 1)

Bankruptcy

Researchers have found a strong association between the spread of legalized gambling and bankruptcy. In 1997, SMR Research Corporation surveyed 298 U.S. counties with and without gambling, and found that those with gambling had a bankruptcy filing rate 18% higher than those without. Counties with five or more gambling outlets had a bankruptcy filing rate that was 35% higher.

Legalized gambling was found to be the fastest-growing driver of bankruptcy in the U.S. and the third leading cause of individual bankruptcies.

Cost to Family Members And Others

Negative impacts on family members can include a variety of physical,

HAZING

(Continued From Page 5)

the hazing ritual, instead attributed Swanson's respiratory distress to a "nervous spasm." The young man was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead upon arrival.

It was then the truth came out that the Kappa Sigma pledges were told to swallow a quarter-pound piece of raw liver without chewing. The meat lodged in Swanson's throat, he began choking and died two hours later.

Had we been told immediately that the young man was choking on liver, the ambulance crew at the scene probably could've saved him. How foolish!

During my time with the L.A. Police Department, I saw and dealt with many cases of deaths resulting from foolishness, but Richard Swanson's death was one of the most tragic. He had a full life ahead of him.

This year (2018), he would have been 80 years old had he not been murdered 59 years ago. He was preparing to be a doctor. Who knows what he might have accomplished in the remainder of his life? A young man's life ended as a result of stupidity.

I am grieved each time I think of Richard Swanson, but my greatest regret in this matter is that I have no idea of his personal relationship with Jesus Christ when he departed this life back in 1959. Regardless of the position and wealth of his parents, his enrollment in the prestigious USC, being a pledge for the elite Kappa Sigma fraternity, and even the tragic way he died, none fulfilled the requirement of his personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

If he had that relationship, it's the one and only reason Richard would be in Heaven today. If he didn't know Jesus Christ as his Savior, he isn't there because nothing can replace Jesus as "the way, the truth and the life" into Heaven.

emotional and financial problems, such as stress-related illness (e.g., headaches, high blood pressure, anxiety, depression), loss of trust, neglect, domestic violence, severe financial hardship, separation and divorce.

Research has shown that children with parents who have gambling problems are up to 10 times more likely to develop gambling problems themselves than children with non-gambling parents. They are also more likely to use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs; be neglected and abused; and have psychological problems, educational challenges and emotional disorders.

Cost to Society

Problem gambling impacts individuals and their family members first and foremost. But it also has considerable effects on the broader community through job loss and reduced work productivity; unemployment and welfare benefits; health-

CHURCH

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God recognizes the vital importance of unity, yet it seems the church is the first place we feel most comfortable in attacking others. We will allow dissension and disharmony within our midst far too easily. Christians today seem to have no problem leaving one church for another. There just seems to be no sense of belonging, of community.

This is the place where the outside world watches and waits for us to fold. It is this loose strand they so simply tug on and watch the message of God violently unravel.

And yet, Jesus prayed that we would be "one," just like He and God are one. Loving relationships, forgiving relationships, banded together at all costs. That's God's way, living a life at peace with one another.

Am I saying we should always keep our mouths shut and never disagree? Of course not! But, we can disagree in a manner befitting righteousness.

We can reach out with open hands, not clenched fists.

We can reprove privately, not reprimand publicly.

We can struggle to live in peace, not hack each other to pieces.

Unity, togetherness, harmony, peace, support, encouragement, exaltation, brotherly love, kindness — these qualities should at least be found in the church of Jesus Christ, and in the hearts of His followers.

The
Oklahoma
Baptist
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care costs; bankruptcy; loan defaults; crime and policing; and court costs and legal fees, among other problems.

Even churches and charities, as well as domestic violence and homeless shelters, have reported being significantly burdened by the problems created by individuals directly and indirectly affected by problem gambling. Some researchers estimate that the annual cost associated with a person who has a gambling problem ranges from \$20,000 to \$56,000, including loss of work, court and treatment costs.

BMA
Of Arkansas
State Meeting
Nov. 1-2
CBC, Conway

God's Passion is People

By Mike McEuen, Pastor
New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!" (Amos 6:1)
The charge Amos brought against the nation of Israel was apathy. Israel was unconcerned. They were insensitive. They were content to go through the motions while only caring for themselves.

I fear that Christianity has become an intellectual thing for too many of us. We consider the claims of Jesus Christ and the commandments of God, but we do not take them seriously; so, we are lulled to sleep!

Sometimes churches are shaky about what they believe. But a far greater problem is that too many Christians are simply not shaken by what we believe! In Amos' day this charge meant that Israel was unconcerned about the fate of their own brethren, their own countrymen.

God is concerned! His heart is broken. But their heart was unmoved because they were out of touch with the heart of God.

Let's bring this point home. Are our hearts in "tune" with the heart of God? Are we moved by the things that move Him? Are we people who care about the things God cares about? Is our passion His passion?

Bottom line is that God's passion is people! God reached out to us when we were without hope and poured out His grace upon us. That is why Jesus came, lived and died!

We must grasp the truth that true fulfillment does not come when we receive Jesus Christ. That settles our eternity, but it is just the starting place! True fulfillment only comes when we live like Jesus Christ!

It is so easy to become content in just going through the motions and taking things for granted. Sometimes we need a wake up call like the one Amos gave to Israel.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

This is the call to us as believers, my friend. This is a call to wake up and become people who care enough to do something to touch the lives of people all around us who need to know the Lord.

The world is lost in the darkness, and we must not allow ourselves to be at ease. We have a Savior to love, live for and share with others!

Mt. Vernon YIH Meets

The Mt. Vernon BMA Youth in the Harvest meets monthly. The officers for the 2018-2019 are: President Noah Norwood, Vice President Devan Caruth, Secretary Cheyenne Cantwell, Assistant Secretary Hannah Brock, Song Leader Cheyenne Cantwell, Pianist Frank Hankinson and Assistant Pianist Vickie Lewis.

Their Sept. 17 meeting was at Grace Baptist Church in Wynne, with 64 in attendance, representing 8 churches. The attendance banner was presented to County Line Baptist Church in Marvell, and the percentage banner was presented to Rondo Baptist Church at Lexa.

The next meeting will be held at County Line Baptist Church on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. If weather permits, there will be a hayride after the worship and business. (Barbara Belew, reporter)

NOTES

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wake of Life Legal's challenge to California's End of Life Option Act. California is following other forced death jurisdictions like Canada, Belgium and the Netherlands, which garnered support for assisted suicide before legalizing voluntary and involuntary euthanasia. (lifeneews.com)

Ark. Term Limits Ballot Issue Rejected

"A proposal to shorten legislative term limits lacks the signatures to remain on the ballot, but an initiated act on minimum wage increases should stay there, according to reports issued Monday by special masters," said Michael R. Wickline in a Sept. 25 *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* report.

Special Master Mark Hewett found that the sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment that

would shorten the number of years that state lawmakers may serve failed to submit enough valid signatures to qualify the proposal for the Nov. 6 general election ballot. He said the secretary of state's office, which checks petitions, erroneously included more than 14,000 signatures of registered voters in its final count.

Meanwhile, Special Master Sam Bird concluded that the Secretary of State's office erroneously discarded some signatures when it certified the proposed initiated act to raise the state's minimum wage by \$2.50 an hour to \$11 per hour by 2021.

Now the state Supreme Court will consider the findings of Hewett and Bird, who were appointed this month to review legal challenges to the ballot proposals. The challenges were led by Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce President Randy Zook. Both special masters held hearings last week. (arkansasonline.com)



Antioch, Conway, welcomed seven new members and one by baptism. Dr. Jason Aultman, pastor.

Bald Knob, Plumerville, gained one by letter. Joe Hogan, pastor.

Brister, Emerson, added three by letter. Dr. Eric Goble, pastor; Becky Fitzpatrick, reporter.

Calvary, Warren, witnessed six professions of faith and gained four by baptism. Reuel Cruce, pastor; Aimee Morgan, reporter.

Unity, Hope, welcomed one by baptism. Glen E. Tropp, pastor; Penny Ehrhardt, reporter.

Church Without Walls, Cayey, PR, witnessed five professions of faith. Dr. Freddy Didier, pastor.

Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, Ky., gained two by statement. Cory McCaig, pastor; Regina Goodman, reporter.

Homecomings

50th Anniversary and Homecoming, Eastside, Conway, Sept. 29-30; 6 p.m. (Sat.) Old-Time Gospel Singing and Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. (Sun.) Worship Service; lunch at the church. Dr. Thom South, pastor.

19th Anniversary and Homecoming, Highland Hills, Highland, Sept. 30, 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. preaching; Paul Vincent, pastor.

81st Anniversary and Homecoming, Central, Trumann, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Singing by the Bonham Family; 11 a.m. message by Kenneth Bobo; lunch at the church; no evening service; Joel McMasters, pastor.

100th Anniversary and Homecoming, Holly Grove, Grannis, Oct. 6-7, 7 p.m. (Sat.); 10 a.m. (Sun.); The Tribute Quartet in concert Sat., Mercy River Boys in concert during morning service Sun.; potluck lunch at the church, followed by singing in the afternoon. John Gilbert, pastor.

65th Anniversary and Homecoming, Victory, Gentry, Oct. 21; Bill Sheffield, pastor.



New Home, Quitman, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 5 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Wed.); James Ray Raines, evan.; Don Betts, pastor.

Youth Revival, New Liberty, Emmet, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 5 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Tues.); Park Hill Praise and Worship, special music Sun. night; Rhett Womack, evan. (Sun.); Jason Prewitt, evan. (Mon.); Billy Sheets, evan. (Tues.); James Cox, pastor.

Bethany, Dierks, Oct. 1-3, 7 p.m.; Bobby Neal, evan. (Mon.); Archie (Chief) Phillips, evan. (Tues.); Ronald Gilbert, evan. (Wed.); Larry Eason, pastor.

Missions Revival, Fairview, Blytheville, Oct. 7-10; Eric Johnson, evan.; Mike Silvey, pastor.

Westside, Jacksonville, Oct. 7-10; Jamie Coulter, evan.; Ronnie Johnson,

Boy's Miraculous Survival Prompts Gospel Witness

By David Roach • Baptist Press

Xavier Cunningham, 10, was climbing into a treehouse when he encountered a massive wasp nest. As he tried to swat a wasp away, he lost his balance, fell to the ground face-first and impaled his head on a foot-long meat skewer he and his friends had found and stuck in the ground. The next two days brought brushes with death and a survival story one neurosurgeon called "miraculous."

The rural congregation where Cunningham and his family worship



— The Church at Pleasant Ridge in Harrisonville, Mo. — says God's supernatural protection and the international media coverage it drew spawned opportunities for worship and evangelism.

A "Miracle Sunday" service at the church Sept. 23 drew nearly 150 attendees for a Gospel presentation and testimonies by Cunningham's family. At least two dozen people prayed at the altar for the miracle of a loved one's salvation. The service also included a written message from Missouri Gov. Mike Parson celebrating God's work to save Cunningham's life. (bpnews.net)



Central Ark., Sept. 20 at 9 a.m.; Celebration, Haskell.

Clark, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.; Cornerstone, Arkadelphia.

Columbia, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m.; First, McNeil.

Union, Oct. 7; 3:30 p.m., meeting; 6 p.m., worship service; Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw.

BMA of the Ozarks Missions Rally, Oct. 8; Round Mountain, Fayetteville.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Oct. 9, Lorado, Jonesboro.

Southwest WMA, Oct. 9; Spring Lake, Texarkana.

Central District WMA, Oct. 13; Project: We Are FREE; South City, Little Rock.

Judson, Oct. 13 at 9 a.m.; Faustina, Hampton (8011 Calhoun 35, Hampton)

Jonesboro District WMA, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.; Walnut Grove, Lake City.

Mt. Vernon WMA, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.; Harmony, West Helena.

Greenbrier, Oct. 14; 3:30 p.m., Missionary Committee; 4 p.m., general session; 6 p.m., message; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Harmony, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.; Hillcrest, Texarkana.

Central Brotherhood, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m.; Landmark, England.

Greenbrier District WMA, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.; lunch to follow; New Home, Quitman.

Jonesboro, Oct. 19-20; 7 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. Saturday; Oak Grove, Jonesboro.

Ark. Prairie, Oct. 26-27 at 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday; Forks LaGrue, DeWitt.

Howard, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m.; Unity, Nashville.

pastor.

Barney, Enola, Oct. 10-13, 7 p.m.; Myron Milholland, evan. (Wed. & Sat.); Cliff Burroughs, evan. (Thurs.-Fri.); James Willis, pastor.

Chapel Hill, New Edinburg, Oct. 11-13, 7 p.m.; Nick Flowers, evan.; Dwayne Ashcraft, pastor.

Victory, Gentry, Oct. 17-21, 6:30 p.m.; Randy Burke, evan.; Bill Sheffield, pastor.

Youth Revival, New Hope, Wynne, Oct. 19-20, 7 p.m. (Fri.); 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. (Sat.); cookout with hotdogs, bouncy houses and games following



Ramsey Heights Baptist Church in Batesville is seeking a pastor. Resumes may be sent to the church at 449 Heber Springs Rd., Batesville, Ark. 72501. For more information, call (870) 307-3724 or (807) 612-2782.



Eugene Batson Martin, 87 of Conway, died Sept. 23. He was a deacon at Antioch Baptist Church.

James L. Skinner, 82 of Waldo, died Sept. 21. He was a member of Antioch West Baptist Church of Magnolia for 70 years, where he served as deacon for 57 years, treasurer and Sunday School teacher for over 50 years.

Gene Boatman, 71, died Sept. 18. He was a member of Milligan Ridge Baptist Church of Manila.

Sherry Gammel, 51, died Sept. 17. She was a member of Beech Street Baptist Church of Crossett.

Erajauna Moore, of Greenbrier, died Sept. 13. She was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

the Saturday morning services; Phillip Burrows, evan.; Drew Hibbits, pastor.

Corinth, Rosston, Oct. 22-25, 7 p.m.; Mike Goodwin, evan.; Petie Ward, pastor.

Cross Roads, Warren, Oct. 22-24, 7 p.m. (Singing); 7:30 p.m. (Preaching); Eddie Raines, evan.; Sidney McGraw, pastor.

Woodberry, Hampton, Oct. 22-24, 7 p.m.; Ruben Weaver, evan.; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

Fellowship, Bella Vista, Nov. 16-18; Eddie Kelso, evan.; Kenneth Strickland, pastor.