

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## “Yellow Blue Bus”

By Toya Aultman

As I've watched the news unfold over the past few weeks, one phrase kept coming to mind — “Yellow Blue Bus!” “Yellow Blue Bus?” you may ask yourself. Let me explain. My son went to UCA Child Study Center in Conway for a year of preschool. While he was there, his teacher, Cindy Williams, went on a mission trip to the Ukraine. She taught them by saying “yellow blue bus” in English, to Ukrainian ears, it sounds like “I love you.”

I can't imagine what the mothers in the Ukraine are thinking now as they care for their young children, but I'd love to tell them “yellow blue bus.” The men that stayed behind to fight for their country? “Yellow blue bus.” Those pastors who still gather their people together in worship then go back to basements to sleep? “Yellow blue bus.” The missionaries and people from neighboring countries taking refugees into their own homes and apartments? “Yellow blue bus.” Those organizations on the ground trying to provide basic needs? “Yellow blue bus.”

Even now as I type these words, it's dark on that side of the world. The other side of the world that has been turned upside down. While they may be thousands of miles away from us, we can still pray and help where we can. Today, let's not worry over the cost of gas over human life. Let us not be more concerned about the stock market, than the toll it is taking on marriages and families. Let's forget about the price of groceries and think about the children huddled in subway stations. Let's love



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## MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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

Aaron Maxwell has accepted the pastorate of Sunnyside Baptist Church in DeWitt.

Billy Chris Langston, pastor at New Liberty Baptist Church in Emmett, will be ordained April 24 at 2 p.m. at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Emmett.

Rodger Dunham recently surrendered to preach and is available for preaching appointments. Contact him at (870) 397-3070.

Bald Knob Baptist Church in Plumerville is seeking a piano player for Sunday services. Contact Tammie Darter at [tammiedarter@yahoo.com](mailto:tammiedarter@yahoo.com) or (501) 208-2609 (after 5 p.m.).

Lone Oak Baptist Church in Mississippi County is seeking a full-time pastor. For information, call Glenn Moody at (870) 740-2532 or visit [loneoakbaptistchurch.com](http://loneoakbaptistchurch.com). Resumes may be sent to [glenn.farmers1st@att.net](mailto:glenn.farmers1st@att.net).

Franklin Street Baptist Church in Farmerville, La. is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to Search Committee, P.O. Box 268, Farmerville, La. 71241.

one another and pray. Pray. Pray!

Jesus commanded us in John 15:12 to love one another as He loves us. And if you didn't know it, He loved us enough to die for us, so we can live for Him and love each other.

Let's show Ukraine we love them, and we are praying for them! Buy a “Yellow Blue Bus, Ukraine!” shirt at [stores.inksoft.com/yellow\\_blue\\_bus\\_ukraine](http://stores.inksoft.com/yellow_blue_bus_ukraine). 100% of proceeds will go to the BMAA Missions Ukrainian Relief fund! “Yellow blue bus!”



Scan the QR code above to visit the store where you can order your “Yellow Blue Bus” shirts.

## Thoughts About Ministry in 2022

By Allan Eakin, Associate Editor

In February 2021, the *Baptist Trumpet* published an article titled, “Thoughts About Ministry in 2021” based on a webinar presented by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. With attendance patterns shifting dramatically and most desperately wanting things to return to a pre-pandemic normal, church leaders were struggling and seeking insight. Brotherhood Mutual's webinar was beneficial. The take-aways from that webinar were:

- Nothing takes the place of in-person worship.
- Embrace digital based ministry, it's here to stay.
- Digital ministry doesn't need to be a high-end production to be effective.

In recent weeks, pandemic restrictions have officially been relaxed. The reality is that many churches have been moving back to “normal” for some time. People are ready to see COVID-19 in the rearview mirror. It is time to review and reassess church ministry for 2022.

Here are a few thoughts. The list is not exhaustive, but could be a good starting point:

- Don't return to pre-pandemic norms without good reasoning. For the last two years, people have longed for things to “return to normal.” Unfortunately, normal from two years ago has been completely erased for some churches. Therefore, resist the tendency to reconstitute past activities or programs just because you had them prior to the pandemic. In some ways, the American church was pruned. Pruning, done correctly, can be a good thing. Evaluate everything and resume only what is truly beneficial to the mission of your church.

- Weaknesses in ministry were exposed, therefore, address them. Several years

See THOUGHTS, Page 3

## Six Preaching Methods Jesus Used That You Should Too

By Aaron Earls

I think we can all agree that Jesus is the greatest preacher to ever walk the face of the Earth. If there is anyone you should emulate in your preaching, it's Jesus. So how did Jesus teach? Here are six of Jesus' preaching methods we can all learn from:

- Jesus told stories. Jesus told countless parables (Mark 4:34). He pulled spiritual truth from everyday life. Not only did these stories make Jesus' preaching more memorable, they also connected in a much more profound way.

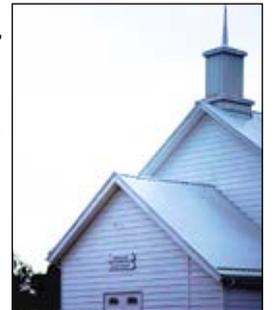
Think about the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus could have proclaimed, “God loves you so much that He will welcome you back to Him no matter how far you have wandered away.” That is definitely true. However, Jesus instead chose to tell the story of a boy who disowned his family, partied away his inheritance, came home to beg for mercy, but was surprisingly welcomed with open arms by his father who waited daily for his return. Which is more powerful? If you want to preach like Jesus, tell stories. Lots of them. Use examples from everyday life to teach spiritual truth.

- Jesus shocked people. Jesus often used hyperbole. He taught using outrageous examples, exaggerations or shocking statements that got people's attention. These statements were not all meant to be taken literally, but they got the point across.

For example, Jesus didn't really mean we have to rip out our eyes and amputate our hands for causing us to sin (Matt. 5:29-30), or else all Christians would be blind amputees. He also didn't mean that the people He spoke to literally had logs in their eyes (Matt. 7:3-5). Jesus was simply making a very clear point. Jesus said things that shocked people and exaggerated the truth to emphasize His point.

If you want to preach like Jesus, shock people. Exaggerate a little with your questions. Say outrageous things that aren't meant to be literal, but grab attention

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— Photo by Don Burke (Trumpet Photography Club)




## CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

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

Terry Kimbrow  
President

## Adult & Online Registration

Working adults looking for a convenient and flexible college option have another opportunity to enroll in the fourth five-week course of the spring semester in the PACE degree program. Classes are offered in-person, online or in a hybrid option. The deadline for new student applications is Monday, April 25.

With eight enrollment periods per year and five-week courses, busy working adults always have an opportunity to get started. Take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant (for all students who attend a BMAA church), the Ministry Tuition Grant, student referral grant or the Veterans Tuition Grant.

The enrollment process begins by applying or scheduling a virtual meeting with one of our enrollment counselors. Visit [online.cbc.edu](http://online.cbc.edu) to apply or learn what PACE can do for you. If you have questions, contact the Admissions Office at [pace@cbc.edu](mailto:pace@cbc.edu) or (800) 441-5106.

### Fall 2022 Registration & Connect Days

Fall registration is right around the corner. Monday, April 4, our current students will be able to meet with their faculty advisors and set their Fall 2022 schedule.

Our new student orientation days, called Connect Days, are also available to schedule once the admissions process is complete. Connect Days are vital to the success of our new students. They will register for classes, set up payment arrangements, connect with current students and have fun on campus so that they are ready to start in the fall semester. Students can choose one of the following dates to attend: April 26, May 24, June 21, or July 19, Aug. 2, 22 or 23. To learn more about Connect Days visit [cbc.edu/orientation](http://cbc.edu/orientation).

High school seniors who have not started the enrollment process, there is still time to apply! Visit [cbc.edu/apply](http://cbc.edu/apply) to start the application process. Contact Admissions at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or (501) 329-6873 with any questions.

### Third Annual Scholarship Gala 2022

CBC's Third Annual Scholarship Gala will take place on Saturday, April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Conway Expo Center. The black-tie optional event will be catered by CBC Dining Services under the direction of Chef Jill McCollum. The night will be a celebration of "Courageous Faith" and will feature Keynote Speaker Alex Kendrick.

Kendrick is known for his work in the movies "Overcomer," "War Room," "Courageous," "Fireproof," "Facing the Giants" and "Flywheel." The proceeds from the event will benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally-funded scholarships.

Tickets are now available! To purchase your tickets, visit [cbc.edu/gala](http://cbc.edu/gala). For sponsorship information or if you need additional information, contact Amy Reed at [areed@cbc.edu](mailto:areed@cbc.edu).



## Sports News

By Erik Holth

### Softball

• **Conway, March 8** — Returning home for the first time since Feb. 19, CBC hosted the Eagles of the University of the Ozarks. CBC (9-9) earned a sweep, pounding out 29 hits and 20 runs in a sweep of U of O (1-11) by scores of 7-4 and 13-5.

### Baseball

• **North Little Rock, March 8** — Looking to continue their winning streak, CBC hosted the Tigers of Iowa Wesleyan University at Burns Park. CBC (8-9) split with IWU (5-15), dropping game one 6-3 before

winning game two 5-4.

• **Conway, March 11** — Playing at Victory Field on the Conway Christian School campus for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Patriots of Baptist Bible College (BBC) in a doubleheader. CBC (10-9) swept the two games over BBC (2-23), winning 14-3 in game one and 4-0 in a shortened game two due to snow. **Head Coach Dr. Aaron Brister** made history with his 400<sup>th</sup> career victory in game two. Brister needs one more win this season to hit 250 as the head coach of CBC.

• **Conway, March 12** — With inclement weather happening in Arkansas on Friday night, CBC returned to Victory Field after delaying the scheduled start by two hours to face the Patriots of Baptist Bible College. CBC (12-9) finished off the series sweep, outscoring

BBC (2-25) 5-1 in game one and 18-5 in game two. CBC drew 13 walks in game two, which was nearly a single game record, just one off the record and tying for second place for the second time this season. **Jay French** also made history again, tying the doubles record in game one and then moving into third place all-time in hits with 179.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 14** — For the first time in the 2022 season, CBC has earned the American Midwest Conference's pitcher of the week. **Andrew Killough** earned the honor after his performance against Baptist Bible on Friday. Killough, in a game that was shortened because of snow, threw a five-inning complete game, allowing just two hits to pick up the win in a 4-0 shutout of the Patriots. He struck out a season-high 8 in his start and now has 99 career strikeouts for the Mustangs.

### Track & Field

• **Conway, March 12** — Competing in their first outdoor meet of the season, CBC was at Young-Wise Memorial Stadium for the 2022 Hendrix Alumni Open. Two Mustangs combined to win three events while another placed on the podium in his event. **Ally Swaim** and **Jadon Price** were the winners of their events, with Swaim placing first in both the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.01 and the 200 meters with a time of 27.20. **Price** was the winner in the shot put with a throw of 11.23 meters. **Isaiah Stiger** finished in third place in the long jump with a jump of 5.74 meters, while teammate **Isaiah Patterson** placed fifth in the same event with a jump of 5.44 meters.

### Women's Golf

• **Maumelle, March 14** — Teeing off their spring season, CBC opened the 2022 portion of their schedule with the CBC Mustang Invitational at the Country Club of Arkansas. CBC finished third of the five teams in the competition, shooting an opening round 362 to sit 22 shots behind the leaders, Briar Cliff. Individually, **Alyssa Hagewood** is tied for fourth after one round, opening with an 83, two shots behind the individual leader. **Keeley Bulza** shot an opening round 87 to sit in a tie for eighth while **Brooklyn Adcock** shot a 95 and **Abby Kirby** posted a 97 in the first round.

### Men's Golf

• **Maumelle, March 14** — Opening their spring season, CBC teed off at the Country Club of Arkansas for the 2022 CBC Mustang Invitational. CBC finished the first round in a tie for eighth place after shooting an opening round 320, 20 shots behind the leaders, Williams Baptist. Individually, **Surapat Pareepat** leads after shooting a 71 (-1) by one shot over two players. **Jakub Slapal** finished with an eight-over 80, **Ethan Williamson** shot an 83 and both **Travis Toebben** and **Anupon Wandee** shot an 86 in the first round. **Emmanuel LaBeur** and **Thomas Bray** both competed as individuals with LaBeur shooting an 88 and Bray posting a 102.



## Student Ministry Matters

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



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



★ ★ ★  
EPISODE 106:  
**Student Ministry & Lifeword Media Ministries with Donny Parrish**



**Donny Parrish,**  
Executive Director

[Lifeword.org](http://Lifeword.org)

## Foundations of Student Ministry

As we think about all the change of the last several years, it is important to note that some things remain the same. That became the focus of our conversation with Donny Parrish, executive director of Lifeword, on a recent episode of the Student Ministry Matters podcast. Donny has been involved with and an advocate for student ministry for nearly 50 years. Donny shared with us four foundational items to good youth ministry:

• **Student ministry workers need to be communicators.** We have the greatest story of all to tell, the story of Jesus. It is important that we actively work to be better communicators. There are lots of ways to learn, but perhaps one of the most important things is to lean into your creativity. God has given us imaginations, so let's us them.

• **Student ministry workers need to be relationship builders.** One of the best things you can do as a student ministry worker is to invest in the people that God has placed you with to serve. Spend time learning what your students love and are passionate about. Create opportunities where your students will know they are loved.

• **Student ministry workers need to invest in parent ministry.** That is going to look different in every situation, but it ultimately means that we should help our parents navigate discipling their students. We must stand ready to assist and realize that we are not their parents. We are there to help and equip.

• **Student ministry is not the church. It is a part of the church.** We must embrace this truth. Our student ministry may be active and strong, but it is not a stand-alone entity. Our goal should be to help our students embrace the life of the church. We should also work to help our more mature members embrace our students. When cross-generational ministry happens, long-term impact can be felt.

Student ministry methods will continue to change as the culture changes, but there are some things that are unchanging. These foundational issues will give us direction as we determine how to fulfill the ministry God has placed in front of us. Be sure to check out the rest of our conversation at [studentministrymatters.com](http://studentministrymatters.com).



## Revivals

**First, McNeil,** April 10-13; 10 a.m. Sunday - Mickeal and Sharon Quillman; 6 p.m. Sunday - Rocky Goodwin; 7 p.m. Monday - Eric Goble; 7 p.m. Tuesday - Ron Owen; 7 p.m. Wednesday - Dustin Wisely; Ken Williams, pastor.

**Faustina, Hampton,** May 15-18; 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun.; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Dwayne Williams, evangelist; Gene Boyette, pastor.



## Opportunities For Service

**Hillcrest Baptist Church in Texarkana** is seeking a bi-vocational music director. For more information, contact Pastor Kelly Owens at [hbtexarkana@gmail.com](mailto:hbtexarkana@gmail.com).

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



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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

LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America  
BMA of America Missions Department  
healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



## It Is Time to Choose

Deuteronomy 30 makes it very clear that choices must be made. In verse 15 Moses says, “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.” In verse 19 he continues, “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses.” Then he concludes the chapter with this in verse 20, “You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to life.” Our first responsibility in our relationship with Him is to choose to love Him by demonstrating that love by walking in His ways.

Dr. Crawford Loritts challenges us that whether we are disappointed, discouraged or even depressed, there are some things we must choose — truth, joy, faith, community and service. Today, I am asking you to choose to dream again. Always begin by choosing truth and then, out of that truth, be willing to embrace Holy Spirit-led risk faith. Reject spiritual warfare’s lie that God is through with you and that He does not have a visionary plan for your life and for your ministry. Choosing truth means that you choose His Word over how you feel, public opinion or overwhelming circumstances that are draining and dragging you down.

Choose to believe. Choose to dream again and ask God to give you a clear vision of where He desires to take you. Many visions are built on where you want to be in 1 year, 5 years or 10 years, but a much better vision is to determine where God is taking you. It is not where you want to go, nor where does your church want to go, but what does God want to do next? That process requires time alone with the Lord, seeking His face, total surrender to His plan and obedience without hesitation. God is not trying to hide His will. If you are not sure what to do next keep obeying what He has already revealed to you.

Where do you begin? In your re-

lationship with the Lord. J. Oswald Sanders says, “Both scripture and experience teach that it is we, not God, who determine the degree of intimacy with Him that we enjoy. We are, at this moment, as close to God as we really choose to be. True, there are times when we would like to know a deeper intimacy, but when the time comes to the point, we are not prepared to pay the price involved. Everything in our Christian life and service flows from our relationship with God!” This quote is quite convicting and should cause you to choose to pay whatever price necessary.

Jesus called the 12 disciples in Mark 3:14 and He called them “to be with Him.” Jesus’ heartbeat for ministry with His disciples was about spending time with them and building relationships. God’s plan is to reside in us (and He does) and for us to make our home in Him. Our first and highest task is to be in fellowship with Jesus. Jesus’ ministry to His disciples began and was sustained by His presence. Does your faith and has your spiritual formation adequately prepared you for what you are experiencing in ministry? Nothing can replace your personal daily intimacy with the Lord. Choose to abide in Him.

• **You must realize that rest and mission are not antithetical.** The two actually complement one another and are symbiotic. One definition of Sabbath is, “to catch one’s breath.” Just as you need physical breath to survive physically, you need spiritual breath to thrive spiritually. As you live on mission continuously you must find a time to rest to inhale His truth, presence and guidance because serving Him without abiding in Him is dangerous. We spend all of our time exhaling in ministry and mission, but not enough time inhaling in prayer and in His presence. The only way to become more like Him is to spend time with Him.

In their book, *Worship and Mission*

*After Christendom*, Alan and Eleanor Kreider say, “The Church needs to both inhale in worship and exhale by going into the world and sharing the good news... In missional spirituality, ‘inhaling’ and ‘exhaling’ are two essential and interconnected movements of living the way of Jesus in the world.” Our spiritual formation should always lead us into missional engagement and our missional engagement will drive us back to our spiritual formation. The ultimate fruit of spiritual formation is not retreat from the world but missional engagement with the world. Choose both.

• **Refuse to become overly focused on pragmatic church growth techniques more than your spiritual health and your church’s.** In *God Dreams* Will Mancini says, “True freedom is not doing anything you want to do but giving all of yourself to do what God has called you to do.” He gives these excellent visionary questions: What is God prompting you and showing you? What hope is He providing? What picture of the future is He giving you? Pain reminds us that it was not meant to be this way. Hope reminds us that it will not always be this way. Choose hope.

In the midst of ministry that is full of serving, multiple functions and chaos, Jesus in Mark 6:31 tells His disciples, “Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” Jesus’ secret to ministry is found in the balance of worship, prayer and mission by making sure you are not only exhaling but also inhaling. Henri Nouwen offers the following meditation on the balance of the spiritual life and ministry of Jesus: “In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. In the center of breathless activities, we hear a restful breathing.” It is time to choose to abide in Him!

## THOUGHTS (Continued From Page 1)

ago, during a Multiplication Workshop, Dave DeVries presented a wonderful analogy between the American church and a chess game. In chess, the queen is the most powerful piece. However, skilled chess players learn to play the game without relying on the queen so much. DeVries compared the Sunday morning gathering of most churches to the queen in a chess game. Churches were depending on Sunday morning to accomplish the majority of her ministry. For a while, many churches had to learn to function without their queen (Sunday morning gatherings). The absence of the queen exposed many areas that need strengthening in local churches. Make plans to address those weaknesses in ministry.

• **Be intentional about evangelism.** To draw on a baseball analogy, when a team is beat handily, the coach will often refocus on the fundamentals of the game. Evangelism should be the fundamental

## Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## Things We Say (Part Two)

I was just thinking about a few more things we say that are not really accurate.

### “He Got His Angel Wings”

This is often said when a believer dies — especially a child. This concept of a believer’s transformation from Earth to Heaven has been promoted for centuries, but it is just not true.

Angels are God’s messengers. (That is the actual meaning of the word.) Angels are created beings — they are not former humans. God’s Word says that humans have been created a little lower than the angels for life on this planet. But on the New Earth, because we are children of God and co-heirs with Christ, we will be above the angels.

Paul addressed the church at Corinth with this: “Do you not know that we will judge angels?” (I Cor. 6:3). It is much better to say that our loved ones are in the presence of the Lord than to say that they have received their angel wings.

### “God Will Never Give You More Than You Can Handle”

My, that is reassuring, isn’t it? But that is not what Scripture says. “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (I Cor. 10:13).

Note that it does not say one will not have unbearable heartaches, serious illnesses or the loss of jobs. What the Bible says refers to humans and the temptation to sin. The Lord has given believers the ability to walk away and to resist the devil. How does God provide a way from that temptation? He says the devil will then flee from the one who resists him.

Here is how the Lord provides real help in the face of terrible temptation: He has given us His Holy Spirit Who aids us when tempted and prays for us when we don’t know how to pray or what to pray. But be certain of this: temptation does not come from God — He is not putting that on any of us.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1:12-13).

Have a great rest of the week! Worship the Lord this Sunday!

aspect of all churches. Let’s be more intentional about evangelism.

### • **The importance of small groups.**

Over the last year, pastors heard people say repeatedly, “I sure miss being with my Sunday School class!” or “I can’t wait for my small group to start meeting in person again.” Larger in-person gatherings are certainly vital and necessary to the body-life of any congregation, but small groups are vital and necessary also. In those small group settings, real discipleship and ministry takes place, community is built and life-long relationships are forged. More than ever, the last two years should have galvanized a church’s commitment to smaller gatherings, whether that be Sunday School classes or community groups.

• **Relationships, not activity, is real ministry.** During the pandemic, people seemed to check on others more often than prior to the pandemic. Pastors and churches became creative in how they cared for one another. Short, but meaningful videos abounded. Zoom video conferences



were abundant. Social media served a positive role. Old-fashioned phone calls were regular activities.

Church members were more intentional about checking on other church members. Family checked on family. Friends reached out regularly to friends. Keep it up! That relationship building was wonderful. Add in-person relationship building to the mix and you will have a much healthier church.

• **Accept that some church attenders will not return.** Churches must stop obsessing over the people that are not returning. No church wanted to lose attenders. No church leader liked having attendance drop. The challenge is **not** to stop caring, but to stop obsessing over lost attenders. If churches continue to obsess over lost attenders, they will continue to lose more.

What conclusions have you reached about ministry post-pandemic? What change is your church making? I would love to hear from you. (associateditor@baptisttrumpet.com)



By Executive Editor  
Jeff Herring

## Let Us Know What You Think

I hope you have had a chance to visit the new BaptistTrumpet.com. We are excited to be able to bring this resource to you. Our mission to inform and inspire now goes beyond just the print and digital versions of the *Trumpet*. There is so much available to you at the new website. (See the article in the March 9 issue.) Please go check it out and then take a few minutes to let us know what you think — is there something that you really liked, something that could be improved or maybe something that doesn't appear to be working correctly. Email me at editor@baptisttrumpet.com or give us a call at the office, (501) 565-4601.

### Northeast Arkansas Deliveries

One ongoing problem we have been battling for many years is late delivery of the *Trumpet* to those in the Northeast part of the state. This is a problem that we are told traces back to the closure of a USPS hub in Jonesboro. Last fall, we met with a USPS representative that shared some exciting news. She said they were making plans to reopen the hub in Jonesboro in order to better serve the Northeast area. The hope is this will streamline the delivery of mail (including the *Trumpet*) because mail could be handled more locally rather than going to the Memphis hub to be sorted and then back to be delivered.

If you are having problems receiving your *Trumpet* and you are in the Northeast portion of the state, please let us know. Until this is working more efficiently, we would love to offer you a free digital subscription so you can receive the weekly issue in your email on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. when it goes out to the printer. Simply email Associate Editor Allan Eakin (associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com) or me (editor@baptisttrumpet.com) and let us know the details. You can also give us a call at the office, (501) 565-4601.

### Special Emphasis Update

We are a few weeks into our time of Special Emphasis for the year. Our goal of \$45,000 is not just an arbitrary number, but it is what we must have to move this ministry forward and carry out our mission to inform and inspire our readers. We are making every effort to be efficient in our operations, while at the same time making plans for the future ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

Will you commit during this time to set aside April 24 (or another day of your choosing) as *Baptist Trumpet* Day? We would ask you on this day to primarily commit to pray for this ministry as we seek God's direction and guidance and, if possible, take up a special offering to help us meet our goal.

I am so thankful for those that have already given. Thank you for helping us. Find more resources and updates by visiting BaptistTrumpet.com/SE2022.

#### 2022 Special Emphasis • Goal - \$45,000

Donor	Amount
Anonymous	\$1,000
Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier	\$1,100
Pat & Diane Spriggs	\$300
Nancy Stevens	\$468
Friendship Baptist Church, Greenbrier	\$100
Immanuel Baptist Church, Greenbrier	\$291.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,259.03</b>



### Western Grove Unanimously Passes Pro-Life Resolution

On March 1, the city council in Western Grove, Ark. unanimously passed a resolution affirming that Western Grove is a Pro-Life City. Western Grove is in Newton County; the Newton County Quorum Court passed a similar Pro-Life resolution in February.

In 2021, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 392 of 2021 by Rep. Kendon Underwood (R/Cave Springs) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch). This law affirms that cities and counties can designate themselves as Pro-Life. Act 392 also says that Pro-Life Communities can install signs or banners announcing that they are Pro-Life. To date, 18 counties and nine cities and

towns — including Western Grove — have passed resolutions recognizing unborn children and affirming that they are Pro-Life.

Benton, Washington, Crawford, Cleburne, Pope, Jackson, Saline, Faulkner, Perry, Sebastian, Lee, White, Prairie, Searcy, Carrol, Newton, Boone and Hot Spring counties have adopted Pro-Life resolutions — and so have the cities and towns of Marianna, Russellville, Springdale, LaGrange, Moro, Aubrey, Haynes and Marshall.

Public opinion polling shows that most Arkansans believe abortion ought to be either completely illegal or permitted only under certain circumstances, and Arkansas' pro-life laws are among the best in the nation. With that in mind, it makes sense that so many communities in Arkansas would vote to affirm that they are Pro-Life. (familycouncil.org)

### Christian Millennials Give More Than Non-religious Counterparts

A new survey reveals that Christian young adults are three times more likely than their non-Christian counterparts to give money to both religious and non-religious charities. A survey published by Lifeway Research on March 9 asked 905 young adults between the ages of 25 and 40 years old (millennials) about their money management habits. The respondents in the study, conducted in partnership with the Christian financial institution AdelFi, between Jan. 18–22, included a subset of 495 Christians.

In a statement announcing the survey's results, Lifeway Research CEO Scott McConnell explained that "AdelFi was interested in understanding what differences exist in how younger Christians handle their money compared to non-Christians." Based on the results of the study, McConnell concluded that "Christians are much more active in donating their finances and no less active in trying to do good with their spending."

Lifeway Research indicated that "the typical Christian young adult donates more than three times as much as non-Christians over a year (\$1,820 vs \$556)." Additionally, Christian young adults were more likely to give to a local church (37%) than their non-Christian peers (8%). While 28% of Christian young adults donate to religious organizations, 11% of non-Christians do the same.

When measuring total donations overall, Christian young adults were more likely (45%) than non-Christian young adults (30%) to say they donated to any kind of charity, religious or non-religious. Participants in the survey also weighed in on how they spent their money.

A majority (59%) of Christian young adults said they tried to purchase from companies that act in ways that honor Christ. Most Christians (56%) cited tithing to their local church as a biblical commandment that still applies today.

Reacting to the role their faith plays in the financial decisions of Christian young adults, McConnell said, "Young adults are very conscious about trying to make a difference in society with their purchases," adding, "Christian young adults are no exception." (christianpost.com)

### Courts Carry Heartbeat Law to Term

Unborn babies just won another Texas-sized legal victory. On March 11, the Texas Supreme Court unanimously ended the abortion industry's challenge to the state's six-week abortion ban because of its unique enforcement mechanism through private legal action. "Texas law does not authorize the state-agency executives to enforce the Act's requirements, either directly or indirectly," said the court, so abortion groups could not invalidate the law by suing them. The law has already deterred Texas abortion businesses, saving the lives of 100 babies a day.

The Texas Heartbeat Act has ricocheted around America's legal system since it passed into law last year. Abortion interests immediately filed a lawsuit against state officials to block enforcement of the law, as they always do.

The Supreme Court heard arguments in November and returned the case to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in December with a complex decision determining that the lawsuit could proceed against state licensing officials, but not other state officials. The Fifth Circuit, in turn, sent the case to the Texas Supreme Court to determine whether licensing officials have authority, under Texas law, to enforce

the act. The Texas Supreme Court answered in the negative. In Friday's decision, they pointed to "emphatic, unambiguous and repeated provisions" in the act declaring private lawsuits are the "exclusive means of enforcement. For those who objected to their ruling, they offered this explanation, "we cannot rewrite the statute."

Pro-life bills using private enforcement mechanisms to avoid legal defeats have been introduced in at least nine other states, including Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Oklahoma. (frc.com)

### U.S. Leads World In Single-Parent Households

According to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. has the world's highest rate of children living in single-parent households. Almost a quarter of U.S. children under 18 live with one parent.

Of course, there are many heroic single parents courageously committed to raising their children. Still, decades of research show how costly it is for so many. Children of unmarried parents, on average, do worse in school, have poorer emotional and physical health, are more likely to commit crimes and are more likely to have children out of wedlock themselves.

The sexual revolution decoupled sex from marriage while insisting "the kids will be fine." Well, they're not. Christians must speak into this issue with truth and love, especially in a society that fosters adults to seek happiness at the expense of kids. Redefining and reinventing family structures, parenting and marriage are having horrible consequences. (familycouncil.org)

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## WE ARE THE SCAFFOLDING, NOT THE EDIFICE

BY: Dr. John David Smith  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

One of the potential pitfalls we all deal with is the tendency to judge all things according to MY current reality. This causes us to ignore the lessons of history and the importance of differing cultural contexts to the point where we assume the way we do things is the ONLY way. In missions practice, this can lead to some precarious conclusions such as distorted theological positions and practices.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the attempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In Jesus' efforts to convey a message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to God's mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate His message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. Obviously, these are taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow Him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers. Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things Jesus did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of His day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles that continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the "Three-self" model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church to be self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . ALL without outside interference or help.

This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the "self" part and creates isolation. Another criticism says that it was incomplete, so two more "selves" were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing, which means the local church itself must "look like" an indigenous one in that culture in architecture, worship, communication, and leadership selection styles. Self-theologizing does not mean the creation of some special system of theology. It means missionaries must build and apply biblical theology

to local themes we simply do not see very often in the West such as polygamy and animism.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that, "missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice." Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms allowing the development of local leaders in local systems that carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.

Two primary ways BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the "principle of the thirds." Both efforts have the goal of partnering without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the "self" part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church-planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person. It is not open-ended but intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is meant to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they want to make a major purchase or build a building, etc. they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest-free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate, we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us in finances, decision-making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship but merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful for many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enabling and dependency must come down.

## BMA BROTHER IN THE BRONX

BY: David Dickson  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

The last several years have been characterized by the influx of an increasing number of immigrants to the United States, in large part from Mexico and the countries of Central America. Among those who immigrated from Central America are the Garifuna people group who represent a small percentage of the populations of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize. Garifunas are descendants of Africans forcibly transported to the Americas and the Arawak Indians of St. Vincent.

Although Garifunas speak the language of the country where they live (Spanish or English), their heart language remains their own unique language. Those who have immigrated to the U.S. tend to end up living in larger cities of the country in close proximity to other recent immigrants who share their language and culture.

Bro. Cherry Gamboa, former co-pastor of a BMAA Garifuna language congregation in San Juan, Honduras, recently immigrated with his family to the Bronx, New York. He was immediately able to connect with a number of folks who had attended our churches in Honduras before



moving to the U.S. The problem they all mentioned to him was that there are no Garifuna-language Baptist churches in the area . . . at all. (Actually, none in the U.S.) Although there are a handful of Garifuna congregations in the U.S., none are Baptist.

With the authorization and support of the church in San Juan, Bro. Cherry has begun holding services in the basement of a dwelling in the Bronx and is already packing their small meeting area to its maximum capacity. Bro. Cherry supports himself and his family with a secular job, and receives no salary as a missionary/pastor, but that has not slowed him down. With the participation of his family in leadership roles, services are conducted in Garifuna/Spanish, and the Lord has already blessed with professions of faith.

Several of those who attend are “transplants” from BMAA Garifuna churches in Honduras and were active in their congregation before they immigrated to the U.S. They are overjoyed to find a church that is doctrinally sound and preaches the same doctrine as the churches they left in Honduras.

Of course, the pressing problem is finding a larger building for their meetings. Because most of those attendees work in low-paying jobs, locating a meeting place they can afford is a daunting task. But as you would expect, Brother Cherry is optimistic that God will soon provide for them a new meeting place, adequate for his growing congregation.

Keep this missions effort in your prayers: the first and only Baptist church plant among the Garifuna people in our country.

# mission:world

NEWS

## INSTEAD OF SHUTTING THE DOOR, OPEN THE BIBLE

BY: Gavin Roberts  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

Utah is known for the “Greatest Snow on Earth.” The state is home to some of the greatest skiing in the world. The southern part of the state boasts the “Mighty Five” national parks that attract tourists from around the globe. Within an hour’s drive from where my family and I live you can see snowy mountains or red rock desert. It is a beautiful place!

Depending on where your data comes from, Utah is also the least reached state in the U.S. with the gospel, including a number of areas with significant populations but little to no evangelical presence. This is why my family and I packed up and headed west!

We minister in Morgan, Utah, an incredibly picturesque mountain town. Snowcapped mountains sit above the town on all sides while the Weber River runs through the valley floor and keeps everything green. Morgan is a town of roughly 5,000 residents and the largest city in Morgan County, which has a total population of around 13,000. Geographically, it is the smallest county in the state. My brother, Chase Roberts, and I pastor Morgan Grace Church, the only evangelical church in the city of Morgan and one of only two in the county.

While evangelical churches are few, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints thrives. Utah is the home of the Mormon Church. Many in our BMA family know Mormons from their missionary uniforms. You’ve likely had Mormon missionaries visit your home. Growing up in rural Arkansas this was about the extent of my knowledge of the LDS church. So how does one minister to Mormons? How do we share the gospel with LDS friends?

It is not uncommon for folks in Utah to only know Christians from the South as the people who eat fried food, drink sweet tea, and slam the door in their faces while they’re on their two-year mission with the church. Instead of politely telling missionaries you are a Christian and do not wish

to hear their spiel, I would ask that you prayerfully consider a different approach: Invite them in. Offer them something to drink. Listen to them. Talk with them. Ask them questions. Love them. They are real people just like you.

Our Mormon friends are professional evangelists. We have found that they are generally open to religious conversations. However, debating is often not the best approach. Instead of attacking the LDS faith, ask questions that cause both parties in the conversation to think critically about their faith. When people have only known one faith from birth, they may never have looked at God in a different light.

So ask good questions like, “Who do you think the Bible tells us that Jesus is?” or “What is the authority for how we are to live our lives and receive forgiveness of our sins?” Questions like these allow them to share their beliefs and allow you to share your own. Encourage your Mormon friends to read the Bible. Let God do what God does. He speaks through His Word. He brings life through His Word. God saves sinful people in need of his grace! Just like those of you reading this article.

Ministering to Mormons is about listening and loving. It is something that happens via relationships that take time. We are all broken people, so instead of shutting them out, open the door and open your ears. Win a hearing. Love them. Jesus says in John 6:63, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Listen intently. Show grace. God’s Word brings life. Trust God to do what He has promised to do: build His church.

Pray for Utah! Pray for us. Listen to the next Mormon missionaries you meet. Love them. Maybe God will call some of you reading this to be a part of what He is doing in Utah.



## THE FORGOTTEN AND ABANDONED

BY: Holly Meriweather  
Lifeword  
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### From Bolivia to Paraguay and Back

“When I was seventeen years old and in high school a friend told me about Jesus. He shared the gospel and I trusted Jesus as my Savior. Like any young person, I was very excited about my new life and very happy to know Jesus. Soon, however, problems arose that drew me away from a deep relationship with Him. I went through some very bitter times before I learned that the love of Christ has no limits.”

Bolivian Ivan Filippini loves to share his salvation story. A church planter in both Paraguay and Bolivia, he is also a Lifeword global partner and shares the gospel to the Americas through media.

Brother Ivan continues his story, explaining that, “As I reached rock bottom I found the sweet grace that transformed my life. I begged God to forgive me and I rejoice that His perfect peace became mine. After this, I had only one desire, to serve Christ with all my being! I began trying to tell everybody about Christ and His forgiveness of sin.”

His enthusiasm for God’s mission led to his ministry calling, and In 2015 Brother Ivan met Regino Acuña, who disciplined him, teaching him biblical principles and other aspects of ministry that, as Ivan puts it, “have been a true blessing to me and drastically changed my life forever.”

Brother Acuña continued to be a great influence on Brother Ivan’s life and introduced him to the BMA (Baptist Missionary Association). The two men began working together pastoring and planting churches in both Bolivia and Paraguay, and in 2019 Brother Ivan planted the first BMA church in Paraguay and now visits churches there to sure make sure they are thriving and multiplying.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, church members in one area fell victim to people with ulterior motives.

### Fighting Back For Lost Souls

It’s called “the forgotten, or abandoned, place.” Tapuinkue is an indigenous community in Paraguay where the Guarani language is spoken. Completely cut off from access to the Internet, the Guarani live far from civilization but not far enough away from groups who preach false doctrine and take advantage of them.

Before Covid hit, there were 45 candidates for baptism among the Guarani, but Brothers Acuña and Philippini were not allowed to travel for five months, so they could not stay in touch with believers there. During that time a group of charismatics entered the community, telling the Guarani their beliefs were the same doctrinally. Unfortunately, much of the work there was destroyed.

When Director of Operations Luis Ortega heard what happened in Tapuinkue, he asked Pastor Ivan Philippini, Lifeword’s Guarani-language speaker, if there was any way the Lifeword team could help. Efforts

were already underway to build back the churches’ pre-pandemic numbers, and the result of that conversation led to a technology solution: Brother Ivan would record Bible, discipleship, and teaching content in the Guarani language, then load it onto memory cards for people’s phones so new believers could hear and understand truths from Scripture in an area with limited internet access.

Once a month, Brother Ivan and Brother Regino conduct house-to-house evangelism, preaching, and worship services in Tapuinkue and 60 people recently accepted Christ. The Lifeword team is honored to be part of this initiative.

Please pray that the lives of Guarani in this forgotten and abandoned area will be transformed in the same way as Brother Ivan’s life was long ago.



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## Deconstructing Your Christianity

By Stephen Castleberry, Experience Pastor • Antioch, Georgetown, Texas

You may not have heard this, but many well-known Christians have publicly walked away from their faith — Marty Sampson (songwriter for Hillsong United), Josh Harris (pastor and author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*), Jon Steingard (from Hawk Nelson), Kevin Max (from DC Talk) and other pastors and church leaders.

When I first heard about it, I was very troubled. It's not like it doesn't still bother me, but after the initial shock and media sensationalization of these stories I have perspective on what's actually going on:

• **The sky is not falling.** News sites and social media have hyped these stories, but they had to be hyped to get any traction. Stories about prominent Christians leaving their faith are pushed like that because they are few and far between.

• **The more time goes by, the more details we get on each story.** Initial announcements made it seem like they went on a journey to seek the truth and after unbiased research and logical reasoning, they concluded that historical Christianity and the Bible are false. But that's not true.

• **As more details emerge, the underlying cause of their loss of faith becomes apparent — they prefer sin over the life God is calling them to live.** No one can embrace sin and believe there is a God who will one day hold us accountable. The choice is this: abandon the sin you love or abandon the faith you profess.

All the people mentioned earlier have openly said the Bible is wrong about what Scripture clearly says is sin. They prefer having favor with culture than with God. Some had major moral failings in their lives and were tired of hiding them — like Josh Harris and a few other pastors. Intellectual reasoning didn't make them hang up their faith — it was sin. They needed an excuse for walking away, so they

found a way to hide their true motives.

• **There is a movement encouraging this behavior.** (This may sound like a contradiction of “The sky is not falling,” but it's not.) Alisa Childers, former member of the Christian band ZOE-girl, wrote an excellent book, *Another Gospel*, on her story of this movement, how she was sucked into it and what we need to do about it. (Five out of five stars — I would highly recommend it.) Her book describes how a pastor at her Nashville church invited her to a private Bible study to make her doubt, and ultimately deconstruct, her faith. Yes, her pastor — not a stereotypical atheist professor or a Redditor with a neck beard. She says he specifically targeted high-profile believers (like her in the Christian music capital of Nashville) to join his “Bible study.”

There is a movement afoot to undermine the Christian faith, and it's targeting those who cause the most people to stumble. Josh Harris will even send materials to help you deconstruct your faith for the low price of \$275.

But we should not be surprised by this. We were plainly told this would happen. Jesus said of the last days: “Many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold” (Matt. 24:10-12 NLT).

Paul echoes the same thing to the church at Thessalonika: “... Let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God... this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way” (II Thess. 2:1, 3, 7).

In verse three, the Greek word used is “ap-os-tas-ee'-ah.” Some translations use the English terms apostasy, falling away or rebellion, which all mean the same thing: In the last days there will

be a movement of professing Christians who forsake their faith. Apostates have been around from the very beginning, and like other signs of the last days, apostasy rates will increase like birth pains increase as the moment draws near. So when you see news stories of high profile Christians or people you know walking away from their faith, yes, be heartbroken; yes, seek to restore them; yes pray for them; but don't be surprised. Jesus and Paul warned us.

Today, apostasy goes by a lot of different names:

- Evangelical (“Evangelical” with an “x” to make it past tense)
- Deconstruction (tearing down your faith)
- Progressive Christianity (moving beyond — “progressing from” — historical, orthodox Christian beliefs)

These are all modern sugar coatings for the same lie Satan has told from the beginning. His first four words recorded in the Bible are, “Did God really say?” That's the original seed of doubt and the question at the core of all of this, whatever you call it.

I pray that these men and others would come home, and that those who have discarded everything they once held true will come home. Some have done so, some are slowly walking that way, but some are enjoying the prodigal life.

Here are two warnings:

• **Stay Alert.** “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith” (I Peter 5:8-9). You need to have deep roots and a strong foundation in God's Word.

• **Guard yourself from false teachers.** Jesus warned, “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act” (Matt. 7:15-16). For the two pastors who rejected their faith, one preached and wrote one way but lived his life very differently, and another lived a double life of adultery. Test your leaders — not faultfinding and nitpicking but looking at the fruit of their lives like the Bereans of Acts 17 who compared Paul's words with Scripture to see if they matched up.

I hope you learned something. If you did, consider sharing it and find more information like this by visiting and subscribing to my YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/stephen-castleberry](http://youtube.com/c/stephen-castleberry). I share a new Bible Tidbits video every Thursday. A special thanks to Lifeword for sponsoring this video — check them out at [Lifeword.org](http://Lifeword.org).

See you next time — grace and peace.  
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## Reconstructing Faith In A Deconstructing Culture

By Charles Holmes

It seems like everyone is talking about “deconstruction” these days. There's an increasing number of young people deconstructing their faith and leaving the church.

The subject of deconstruction is occupying social media feeds, where many are getting information about faith, church and Christianity from short, creative viral videos made by people who refer to themselves as “evangelicals.”

One of the reasons young people inside and outside of the church are being driven toward these public documentations of deconstruction is their frustration and disillusionment with the current state of the church. Some of their frustrations and accusations are misguided and need to be corrected. However, many of the concerns they raise need to be honestly addressed.

### A Time to Listen

To gain a full understanding of what we're dealing with, let's look at some pretty revealing data when it comes to young people's relationship with the church. Two-thirds (66%) of American young adults who attended a Protestant church on a regular basis as a teenager say they dropped out for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22, according to Lifeway Research.

Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research writes, “The reality is that Protestant churches continue to see the new generation walk away as young adults. Regardless of any external factors, the Protestant church is slowly shrinking from within.” He notes, “As those teenagers reach their late teen years, even those with a history of regular church attendance are pulled away as they get increased independence, a driver's license or a job.”

What's keeping many of these teens is their state of dependence; and when that changes, they start to drift. Two of the biggest reasons for them leaving and deconstructing are issues of racial justice and sexuality. For example, one in six adults in Generation Z identifies as LGBT according to a Gallup poll.

In June 2020, Yubo (a “social video live-streaming app”) polled 38,919 young people in Gen Z and found that 88% believe that black Americans are treated differently than others. Barna recently found that over half of Gen Z says that our country “definitely” has a race problem. Most in the next generation would say the church absolutely has a responsibility to address the race and justice issues going on around us in our culture and in the church.

We understand that the church is much bigger than overgeneralizations. However, many young adults perceive that the church has lagged behind the culture when it comes to issues of justice. There is the perception, even among churchgoers, that more pastors have

skeletons in the closet when it comes to sexual sin. In the eyes of many, the church doesn't have any moral ground to stand on. So, what do we do with all the deconstruction going on?



### Good Deconstruction

One of the trends I've noticed when it comes to matters of faith deconstruction is that many of those who talk about their deconstructions have deconstructed from the worst parts of Christian subculture, and rightfully so. There's a need for healthy forms of deconstruction, some of which we see in the Scriptures through the prophets and the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus Himself made radical critiques of the religious leaders of His day, bringing correction to their abusive and harmful religious practices.

This kind of good deconstruction continues as we survey church history. Many of the reformers died at the hands of corrupt religious leaders and systems that sought to silence the voices of common people and limit their ability to read and learn the Scriptures for themselves.

We see a good type of deconstruction during the abolitionist and Civil Rights movements where key Christian leaders called out the hypocrisy of those who wrongfully married Christianity with racism and power. Many in these movements lost their lives for calling the church back to the teachings and centrality of the Scriptures.

Many young people are deconstructing the harmful church culture they grew up in. This makes me excited because I believe God is giving His church the opportunity to live up to Jesus's teachings. I also believe God is giving us the opportunity to no longer lead out of our charisma and power, but out of our weakness and repentance. As people deconstruct racism, injustice and abuse out of our church culture, may we respond with repentance and humility.

The prophet Isaiah wrote this about the character of God, “For the High and Exalted One, who lives forever, whose name is holy, says this: I live in a high and holy place, and with the oppressed and lowly of spirit...” (Isa. 57:15 HCSB). This text teaches us that God is holy and highly exalted above all names and peoples, has ultimate power and authority, yet dwells and identifies with the lowly, working on their behalf. Our greatest apologetic right now to those who are doubting and pointing their fingers at the church may be our humility, repentance and prioritization of the lowly.

### Bad Deconstruction

As young people deconstruct  
**See FAITH, Page 12**

**STAND FIRM & LIVE EPIC**  
 HELPING YOU NAVIGATE SUCH A TIME AS THIS  
 By Jake McCandless  
 jake@standfirmministries.com www.standfirmministries.com



## It's About Trajectory Not the End Times

Through Stand Firm and my writing, I talk a lot about the end of the age, but it's not so much about saying we're at the end of the age, rather it's about letting the end help us see the trajectory of the current and coming challenges to the faith.

One of the major lessons I remember from Sunday School at Central Baptist Church in Ashdown was that a maze was more easily done by starting at the end and working to the beginning. At that time, I didn't realize that was such

a biblical concept but thought it was more about cheating the system.

When it comes to life, we believers, can cheat the system because we know the end of the maze. We know how this age ends, so shouldn't we be able to follow Mrs. Miller's Sunday School maze advice and start at the end and work our way to where we are now? Studying the end of the age is more about learning the trajectory of this world than the end-time events themselves.

My grandfather passed away this summer. Several months before he went downhill, he bought each of his grandkids a gun to remember him and, most of all, to continue his hunting legacy. My daughters each got .243 rifles. The guns are a little too big for them now, but after his passing, they were determined to hunt with them so we did lots of shooting.

My daughter could not understand why I was telling her that the group of holes dead center, but an inch and a quarter above the bullseye, was perfect. She replied, "But Daddy it's not in the bullseye." I added to the confusion by telling her that she would have been off if she had hit the bullseye at the 100 yards away from where we were shooting. She was puzzled.

I get it because I'm terrible at math and science, but I had printed off a trajectory chart for a 90 grain .243

caliber round. The goal was to be dead on at 200 yards. Since bullets don't continue in an endless flat plain, but rather rise and drop, we had to be 1.26" inches high at 100 yards. Then, we had to keep in mind if we were going to shoot further, that the bullets would drop. It dropped 6 inches at 300 yards, 17 inches at 400 yards and a whopping 36 inches at 500 yards. Yeah, I think we will stay under 300 yards!

We knew how to sight in the rifle because we knew the trajectory the bullet would travel. That's the case with end times prophecy. Regardless of what many say, I am convinced if we throw off our presuppositions and read Scripture for what it says, we can get a clear picture of the end of the age. One image — found in Ezekiel 38, Zechariah 14, Psalm 2, Revelation 16 and Revelation 19 — points to the final event of this age. From that one picture, we can know where everything is headed geopolitically. From Gen. 3:15 and Revelation 12, we can see where things are headed in the unseen realm. From Matthew 24 and II Tim. 3:1-5, we can see where things are headed morally and regarding faith.

The prophesied end-time events do precisely matter ultimately to one generation — this age's final generation — but the trajectory of those events matter to all generations.

The trajectory matters to us. It's be-

cause of the trajectory we can learn from the end of the age that I spend so much time talking about Bible prophecy. It's because of this miraculous aspect of Scripture that we can be motivated to hold on and know how to stand firm. It's because Bible prophecy is the end of the maze that I am working hard to mine it out to you and others.

If we know the trajectory of the challenges to our faith, then we can much more easily navigate this life faithfully.

Jake is available for revivals and preaching learn more at [standfirmministries.com](http://standfirmministries.com).

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Mt. Vernon District WMA**, April 2, 10 a.m.; Rondo, Lexa; Diane Spriggs, speaker.

**Southwest District Brotherhood**, April 4, 6 p.m.; Mount Vernon, Waldo.

**Central Ark. District WMA**, April 9, 10 a.m.; Landmark, England.

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 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984  
 Clinton Morris, The Table, Springdale; (870) 316-1519  
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton-Hot Springs; (501) 912-7476  
 Roberto Marcelletti, Northwest Arkansas; (936) 202-7988

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**PAUL WHITE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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## Is Jealousy a Sin?

Once a missionary always a missionary. I had the privilege and honor to preach at Faith Chapel Mission in Flippin as they were celebrating their second anniversary. To be in that mission environment and to hear the songs and see the excitement almost made me jealous of Johnny, almost that is. They had 27 in attendance and, at the close of the service, 3 joined. After nearly two years dealing with COVID, it appears that God is blessing their faithfulness and endurance.

Please continue to pray for all seven of your missionaries.

### Meeting

On March 28, the Advisory Committee and I will be having our spring meeting with each of our missionaries. This meeting will take place at the BMA of Arkansas Building in Little Rock. I am looking forward to our time together.

## From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Tuesday, we started the Biblical Study Methods and Rules of Interpretation Course, Book 1 of the Bible Training Center for Pastors. Five men signed up — Oscar Gomez, Jamin Navarro, Oscar Lopez, Fernando Rivera and Jose Luis Galeano. The goal is to study four hours per week and finish the training in two and a half years. I thank God for them and ask for your prayers for each of them and their families. God is providing workers for His work."

"On Saturday, we had a youth meeting. We played games, ate pizza and talked about the influence of music in our lives."

"In our Sunday meeting, Marlon (a 22-year-old young man) made his profession of faith. We thank God for his life and the opportunity to guide him spiritually."

"Thank you for keeping us in your prayers."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "It was a week of blessings in the Berean Groups (small groups in homes) as some groups advanced in the discipleship that we are making of seven volumes. This week, Bryant's newest group finished the first volume. This Wednesday, we will meet just to fellowship and celebrate."

"For the second time, Uriel (the 22-year-old young man) visited us. Pray for his salvation, so that the gospel reaches his life. He has his family; they still are not married but we are praying for them."

"Next Saturday, our youth will meet again. Please pray that God will bring more young people to listen to His Word. The youth meeting is two times a month, so we must take advantage of every minute we have with them."

"Thank you for your support in prayer. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "O what a wonderful week at Faith Chapel! We celebrated the second anniversary of our first service in Flippin and the Lord blessed us richly. Paul White came to celebrate with us and brought the message, and the Spirit moved in our service."

"We had two first-time visitors, many return visitors and three joined our mission to serve here in Flippin with us. Praise God!"

"After the service, we had a great BBQ meal, some delicious desserts and a joyous time of fellowship with Bro. Hershel and a few other members of our mother church joining us."

"At the Sunday evening service, we had so much BBQ left we enjoyed another meal, and we had five more first-time visitors who said they will be back! Praise God! All in all, we had a

wonderful and memorable anniversary. It is not only encouraging, but rejuvenating to our ministry and mission.

"We thank you for your prayers, please continue. God is hearing and answering them."

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "It seems crazy to still be talking about the weather and its effects on ministry, but this last week was made harder because of the snow coverage. We were still able to have a few of the meetings that were normal."

"Sunday was quieter this week because of midterms. The time change, crazily enough, had some effects on our people this week, too."

"Because I had some free time, I was able to focus on some of my office work, and realized I need a better system. So I redesigned how I will be doing things in the near future. These changes will help to relieve personal anxiety. Sometimes a change of pace and a change of place will create a new perspective."

**Faith Journey, Benton/Saline County:** Bryan Clay writes, "We had an exciting week at Faith Journey Mission! God has been busy opening doors and making opportunities for us with every step we take to plant this church."

"This week, we were able to reach 14 potential families about our vision for Faith Journey in the Saline County area. Of those families, three committed to coming when we start weekly services."

"We are still searching for potential meeting places in the area. We have a few good sites that we will be contacting this week to see if they would be available and within our budget. Pray that God will lead us in the right direction and open doors to Faith Journey to be able find a meeting place."

"We were also able to take care of some mission business this week by acquiring an email for the mission and will be looking forward to being able to give people who are interested in our mission another way to communicate with us. Our email is faithjourneybaptist@gmail.com."

"Please continue to pray for specific needs this upcoming week. First, making contacts with people in the community that would be committed to coming to Faith Journey. Second, pray that God will send people to meet certain needs for the mission, such as, praise/worship leaders, musicians and people who have the heart for teaching children."

"Thank you for your continued prayers and support."

# Combining Two Addictions

By Larry Page, Executive Director • Ark. Faith & Ethics Council (arfaith.org)

*Executive Editor's Note: Voters passed Amendment 100 in 2018 that authorized casino gambling at certain locations in Arkansas. On Feb. 22, the Arkansas Legislature's Joint Budget Committee approved a state rule change that permits sports betting online via mobile devices. Under this new rule, gamblers will be able to bet on sporting events online via a computer, smart phone or other mobile device from anywhere in Arkansas.*

Immersing ourselves in our iPhones can be unhealthy, or even addictive. Now something we already know is potentially addictive — sports betting — is available on those phones. It seems obvious that making gambling easily available to anyone with a phone and debit card, with few to no restrictions and a ton of advertising encouraging you to place your bets, is going to lead to problems for some people.

"It is an epidemic in the making," said Felicia Grondin, the executive director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, where online sports betting has been legal since 2018. Since then, she says, it has been easy to understand the impact. Before the summer of 2018, about 3% of the calls to her organization's helpline for problem gamblers were from people who said they had sports betting problems. Now that number is around 17%.

There's a lot of money to be made: In the first six weeks that legal online sports betting was available in New York, residents wagered \$2.5 billion, which includes nearly \$500 million worth of Super Bowl bets. This week's March Madness college basketball tournament will probably spike those numbers again.

Grondin said she thinks people with sports gambling problems are trickier to detect than, say, someone struggling with substances. "It's a hidden addiction," she said. "You don't smell it on someone's breath; you can't see it in their behavior until it's way too late."

It's certainly easy enough to get in trouble with this stuff. Ask Calvin Ridley, the Atlanta Falcons player who bet \$1,500 on three NFL games last fall and has now been suspended for at least a year because league rules prohibit players from betting on league games. Ridley's bets will reportedly end up costing him more than \$11 million in lost wages.

It seems obvious that someone, eventually — maybe federal or state regulators, maybe the phone platforms — will want to take a step back and ask, "What have we done and how can we fix it?" I'd bet on it. (Excerpts from an article by Peter Kafka)



**Bradford, Bradford** gained three by baptism and two by letter; Dal Hogan, pastor.

**Bridge, Mountain Home** added one by letter; Hershel Conley, pastor.

**Church at Willow Beach, North Little Rock** witnessed two by letter; Roy Tilley, pastor.

**Kingsland, Kingsland** received one by letter; Rick Bolin, pastor.

**New Liberty, Emmett** welcomed one by letter; Billy Chris Langston, pastor.

**North View, NLR** reports two by letter; Mike Cantrell, pastor.

**Park Place, Bryant** rejoices over one by baptism, one by statement, and four by letter; Gary Lambright, pastor.

**Zion, Fordyce** gained one by letter; Scott Smith, pastor.



**Danny Paul Mitchell**, 68 of Kingsland, passed away March 11. He was a member of Kingsland Baptist Church.

**Pauline V. Smith**, 83 of Sheridan, passed away March 11. She was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

**Earl Wesley Ezell**, 75 of Springfield, passed away March 8. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Plumerville.

**Nancy Ann Hodges**, 88 of Elizabeth, passed away Feb. 24. She was a member of Landmark Baptist Church.



**Clothing Closet Launch**, March 18, 9-11:30 a.m.; Friendship, Greenbrier.

**CBC Annual Scholarship Gala**, April 2, 6 p.m.; Conway Expo Center.

**Mt. Vernon District WMA**, April 2, 10 a.m.; Rondo, Lexa; Diane Spriggs, speaker.

**Southwest District Brotherhood**, April 4, 6 p.m.; Mount Vernon, Waldo.

**Central Ark. District WMA**, April 9, 10 a.m.; Landmark, England.

**BMA of America**, April 18-20; Springfield, Mo.

**National WMA Meeting**, April 19; 8:30 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. meeting; Grandview, Springfield Mo.

**Baptist Trumpet Day**, April 24.  
**Hot Dogs and Hot Rods**, May 21; proceeds benefit Water for Christ; Lifesong, Greenbrier.

**SOAR Student Conference**, June 29 – July 1; Hilton-Anatole, Dallas.

**CBC Day 2022**, Sept. 11.

**Student Ministry Workers Retreat**, Sept. 17; Central Baptist College, Conway.

**RE:CHARGE Leader's Oasis**, Sept. 27-29; Hot Springs Hotel, Hot Springs.

**Lifeword Sunday**, Oct. 23.

**BMA of Arkansas**, Nov. 3-4; Central Baptist College, Conway.

**National Senior Adult Conference**, Nov. 15-17; Chateau on the Lake, Branson.

## METHODS (Continued From Page 1)

and communicate the point clearly.

• **Jesus crafted memorable sayings.** Jesus spoke poetically. He often used catchy sayings and plays on words. This isn't always apparent in English translations. However, in the original language, Jesus made it much easier for His listeners to remember what He said.

For example, Jesus memorably said, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:37-38 ESV). Another great example is the Golden Rule (Luke 6:31).

If you want to preach like Jesus, craft memorable statements. Make the main point easy to remember. If your people remember the message, they will be able to take it with them wherever they go.

• **Jesus asked questions.** Rather than tell everyone the answer right away, Jesus used the Socratic Method. He led His audience to conclusions by asking a lot of questions. For examples check out Matt. 16:26 or 22:20-21. You can also find more about the questions Jesus in the Zondervan produced resource, "173 Questions Jesus Asked." (Download it at [BaptistTrumpet.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/173questionsjesusasked.pdf](http://BaptistTrumpet.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/173questionsjesusasked.pdf).)

Questions are a powerful teaching method, especially when teaching a hostile crowd (like unbelievers). Questions stimulate critical thinking.

Asking good questions makes the audience hungry to find the answers.

If you want to preach like Jesus, ask a lot of questions. Do not reveal the answer immediately. Help your audience use their own brains.

• **Jesus used object lessons.** Jesus often used object lessons to communicate to His audience. He washed the feet of the disciples to teach servant leadership (John 13:3-17). He called a little child to Him to discuss childlike faith (Matt. 18:1-4). He described unselfish giving after watching a widow drop two small coins into the temple offering (Mark 12:41-44).

When He told the parable of the sower, there is a good chance He was standing near a field. A truth that is communicated verbally as well as visually can be far more powerful than a truth that is merely stated. If you want to preach like Jesus, use objects lessons. Block out time in your sermon preparation to be creative. Think of ways to communicate your message visually.

• **Jesus used repetition.** Jesus helped His audience learn His lessons by frequently repeating Himself. He taught the same major themes again and again. For example, Jesus spoke of His death and resurrection over and over again (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), and the disciples still didn't get it.

Sometimes people need to hear something many times over before it fully sinks in. In addition, teachings that get repeated get remembered. If you want to preach like Jesus, repeat.

Find the main point of your message and say it again and again, and don't be afraid to preach on important subjects more than once a year.

If you want to be a better preacher, look no further than Jesus. Tell stories, be shocking, craft memorable statements, use object lessons and repeat.

— Aaron Earls is online editor for *LifewayResearch.com*. The article is shared with permission and was originally published at [research.lifeway.com/2014/03/10/6-preaching-methods-jesus-used-that-you-should-too](http://research.lifeway.com/2014/03/10/6-preaching-methods-jesus-used-that-you-should-too).

## FAITH

### (Continued From Page 9)

unhelpful church culture, it's vital that we help them reconstruct their faith around the person, words and life of Jesus. We must ask ourselves and young people if it's fair to define the Christian faith by its worst examples and expressions.

The church may fail in certain moments, but the church never ceases to be the bride of Christ and loved by Him. Jesus has promised the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. As leaders, we must warn young people of the dark side of deconstruction. We must help them be mindful of when frustrations with church culture bleed into discontentment with parts of the Bible that challenge us or go against our personal preferences. We can set ourselves up as judge over those Scriptures and then defend that move using the resentment we may have toward

unhealthy church culture.

For young people to reconstruct their faith, we must model both sound orthodoxy (beliefs) and healthy orthopraxy (practice). To do this, we must place sound doctrine and orthodoxy in its rightful context and historical location.

### Orthodoxy is for the Lowly

Many of the voices who are leading in the deconstruction movement represent the majority context. Deconstruction can be a form of privilege.

It's no accident that people in the Western part of the world are deconstructing the faith that has given many marginalized, persecuted and oppressed people hope for hundreds of years. To be able to pick and choose parts of the Bible we obey and listen to is a privileged behavior. This has happened all throughout American history.

For example, slave owners kept parts of the Bible that seemingly taught slaves to obey their masters while removing sections that demonstrate God was actually for the slaves' physical freedom. Selecting which portions of Scripture to obey based on how they coincide with our cultural perspective is not the path to liberty for the oppressed. It wasn't the Bible that led to abuse and harm; it was a deconstructed message that opened the door to the horrors of slavery and abuse.

### A Path to Reconstruction

People will often accuse orthodoxy

of supporting evils like white supremacy, injustice and abuse. However, if we take a close look at the Scriptures and church history, it has been orthodoxy and the gospel that has brought hope to marginalized groups and communities. For example, the Black church has rooted herself in the gospel and the Bible for hope and strength as a response to white supremacy and injustice since her birth.

If we're going to move toward reconstruction, we need to prioritize the whole counsel of God. As we've seen throughout history, injustice, abuse and other horrid things have come not because we have taught the Bible too much, but because we haven't taught and believed the Bible enough.

We must help young people who have serious concerns, doubts, and questions about the Christian faith by centering reconstruction around the person, work and words of Jesus Christ. Using the Scriptures, we must help them tear down harmful church culture, and then help them reconstruct their faith around the same Scriptures that have given people hope and strength to fight against the very things that are leading many of our young people away from the faith.

— Charles Holmes leads college ministry at *The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.* This article was shared with permission and was originally published at [research.lifeway.com/2021/03/19/reconstruct-faith-in-a-deconstructing-culture](http://research.lifeway.com/2021/03/19/reconstruct-faith-in-a-deconstructing-culture)

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