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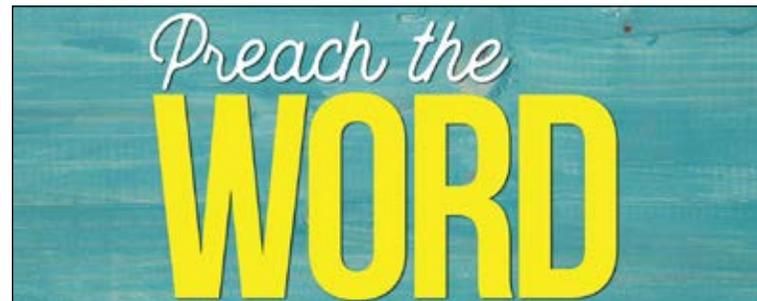
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Recommendations For BMAA Meeting

By Jeff Herring, Executive Director

The following recommendations — which will be considered at this year's BMAA meeting on April 18-20 in Springfield, Mo. — are listed below in the order they are included in the 2022 Annual Reports and Recommendations Booklet, *Preach the Word: 2022 BMA National Meeting*. A copy of the entire booklet, including reports from the various directors, budgets, etc. can be found at BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2022.

Executive Editor's Note: The Coordinating Council report to the Churches of the BMA of America along with their recommendations and the proposed changes to the BMAA Statement of Principles of Cooperation were printed in the March 9 issue.



- That the Fiscal 2023 proposed budget be approved.
- That Dr. Steve Crawley stand as nominee as executive director of the BMA Foundation.
- That the executive director's annual salary be maintained at \$7,200.
- That individuals within the BMA churches prayerfully consider including the BMA Foundation in their estate plans. An undesignated bequest will benefit all BMA of America departments or individuals may designate their bequests as desired.



Resolution #1 — Reaffirmation of God's Plan for Marriage: One man and one woman

Whereas the ongoing battle is to dissolve the institution of holy marriage, and

Whereas the media, liberal press,

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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

Scott McDonald is the new lead pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Morrilton.

Friendship Baptist Church in Greenbrier is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to 170 Cash Springs Road, Greenbrier, Ark. 72058.

social progressives and liberal churches seek to diminish the importance of true marriage, and

Whereas Christians affirm God's plan for marriage and sexual intimacy as one man and one woman legally married for life; and

Whereas any other relationship that involves sexual intimacy is considered outside the bounds of God's law;

Be it therefore resolved that we promote Godly marriages and urge the churches and messengers of the BMA of America meeting in Springfield, Mo., April 2022, to recognize the importance of the institution of marriage.

Resolution #2 — Resolution to Stand for the longevity of Life and against Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide

Whereas believers in Christ do not believe in the elective death approach to the end of life by euthanasia and physician assisted suicide; and

Whereas elective death as a health care option is perceived as a source of ruin to the sanctity of human life; and

Whereas the Bible prohibits any decision or procedure which is construed as elective death;

Therefore be it resolved that the messengers and churches of the BMA of America meeting in Springfield, Mo., April 2022, resolve to stand for the longevity of life and against the so-called elective death promotion by men.

Resolution #3 — Resolution to stand firmly against Homosexuality in a Christian Spirit

Whereas Christians can and should minister to homosexuals and lesbians in a kind biblical manner; and

Whereas God can minister to all individuals;

Whereas our pulpits and lecterns can proclaim the destruction of the

See MEETING, Page 3



Parents Lack of Biblical Worldview Puts Children at "Spiritual Disadvantage"

By Ryan Foley, *Christian Post* Reporter

(via christianpost.com) A prominent Evangelical researcher has warned that the lack of a biblical worldview (a worldview or lens through which we look at life that is based on God's unchanging Word) among parents of preteens puts youth at a "spiritual disadvantage." The George Barna-led Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University released the first report of its American Worldview Inventory 2022 on March 8, which analyzed "the worldview dilemma of American parents."

The report was based on a survey of 600 American parents with children younger than 13 conducted in January. The respondents were asked several dozen worldview-related questions that "measure both beliefs and behavior within eight categories of worldview application."

See WORLDVIEW, Page 8



Community is not Discipleship

By Andrew Cross

It was the beginning of January 2021, and I couldn't sleep. I picked up J.T. English's book *Deep Discipleship*, and I couldn't put it down.

I was pastor of a ministry devoted to equipping single adults in their 20s and 30s with the gospel. At that time, our church was looking to bring our Sunday morning small groups back on campus in the midst of the pandemic, so naturally, I was in a pensive state of mind. Maybe you've asked some of the same questions I was asking — Why do we do what we do? What is the goal? How do we know if we're accomplishing it?

Prior to the pandemic, I noticed the church's inclination to prioritize relationships over discipleship. A study from Lifeway Research confirmed many of my suspicions. While 78% of churchgoers say they've developed significant relationships with people at church, only 48% say they intentionally spend time with other believers to help them grow in their faith. It seems there has been a trend for churchgoers to meet together but not grow together spiritually. Doesn't that defeat the purpose?

Asking the Right Questions

In his book, English suggests we've been asking the wrong questions about

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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

Sports News
By Erik Holth

Baseball

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 21** — For the second straight week, a CBC baseball player has been named American Midwest Conference (AMC) player of the week. This time it was **Logan Easterling** who was selected. Easterling was 8-13 this past week with 4 home runs, 9 RBIs, 6 walks and 5 runs scored. He now leads the team in home runs this season with nine and is batting .400 with 24 RBIs.

• **Conway, March 25** — Carrying a nine-game winning streak into this weekend, CBC opened a three-game AMC series with the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State at Victory Field. CBC (16-11, 3-2 AMC) could not halt HSSU's (13-10, 3-2 AMC) offensive onslaught, surrendering 25 runs in the two games, falling 12-7 and 13-9.

• **Conway, March 26** — Looking to salvage the final game of their AMC series, CBC took on the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State at Victory Field. CBC (17-11, 4-2 AMC) got dominant pitching and dominant hitting to take the finale from Harris-Stowe (13-11, 3-3 AMC) 9-1.

Men's Golf

• **West Point, Miss., March 21** — Competing for the second straight week, CBC was on the course at the Old Waverly Golf Club for the first round of the Blue Mountain Golf Classic. CBC would finish 10th in the first round, finishing with a score of 317, just 9 strokes off the lead of Lyon. Individually, **Surapat Pareepart** led the way, shooting an opening round 77 to sit in a tie for 19th place. **Travis Toebben** was next at a 79, followed by **Anupon Wandee** with an 80, **Jakub Slapal** with an 81 and **Ethan Williamson** with an 82.

• **West Point, Miss., March 23** — Looking to move up a couple spots in the final standings, CBC teed off the final round of the Blue Mountain Golf Classic at the Old Waverly Golf Club. CBC closed with a 323 to finish with an overall score of 640, 11th place in the tournament and 35 shots behind the winners, Mobile. Individually, **Jakub Slapal** led the way for the Mustangs, shooting a final round 75 to finish at 156 overall. **Anupon Wandee** was next with a 159 after shooting a final round 79, while **Travis Toebben** closed with an 82 to finish at 161, **Surapat Pareepart** shot an 87 in the final round to finish at 164 and **Ethan Williamson** closed with a 90 to finish at 172.

Women's Golf

• **West Point, Miss., March 21** — Competing out of Arkansas for the first time in 2022, CBC teed off in the Blue Mountain Classic at the Old Waverly Golf Club. CBC was in seventh place after the first round, shooting a



Student Ministry Matters

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



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



Children in Worship

As more and more churches return to normal, there is a question of what is best for the children and students in our congregations. For many years, it has been assumed that children's church is the best approach to providing a worship experience for younger children. In fact, many large churches have implemented age-graded worship experiences for those from birth through adulthood. Sunday morning becomes a segregated experience for the family from the time they get out of the car until they head back home. Pre-school worship, children's church, junior worship, youth worship, contemporary worship and even traditional worship provide separate experiences on the same property move to pull the family apart.

God is honored with the intergenerational service. There is a place for age-graded times of study and interaction, but the church as a body should be multi-generational in nature. As children worship, they should be able to look over and see the weathered hands of a long-time saint who is weeping as they joyfully sing "Amazing Grace" for the hundredth time. Teenagers should see their parents pray together. Everyone should see that the gospel is sufficient for all ages.

I know some of you will say that it is hard to have little ones in the worship service with you. It is. There is no doubt about it. I still remember being one of those little ones and having my mom flip my ear to gain my attention as a little squirt. However, I think there are reasons to move in this direction:

• **It is biblical.** Think about Eph. 6:1. The Apostle Paul addresses children pointedly when he says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (ESV). Notice what he did not say. It doesn't say, "Parents, tell your children to obey you, for this is right." It addresses children. There was an understanding that children would be a part of the gathering. Paul didn't assume that this information would need to be relayed through an adult. As his letter was read, children were addressed.

• **It is an opportunity for children to see the example of their parents.** Children, and especially young children, won't understand all the words shared from the pulpit or the songs sung by the congregation. However, they will see the value their family places in gathered worship and the God they hold in high esteem. Now, if the parents or grandparents aren't really concerned about worshipping the Father, the example is of lesser value, but it still speaks to the children.

• **It confirms that the children are connected to the congregation.** While unsaved children are not church members, they are still a part of your local congregation because of their families. Church members are praying for their salvation and are interested in their lives as a whole. When children have the opportunity to worship with those of all ages, it is a benefit to the child as well as the more mature member. A noisy church full of the sounds of children is a place that is full of life. A quiet church speaks volumes.

I know there are some of you who will disagree. You have people in your congregation who have seen children's church as the only way to approach children and the gathered worship. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider your next steps with your children in church. Our church has decided to limit children's church to those in first grade and down. Your church may want to go higher or step from the nursery into gathered worship. Whichever route you pursue, be sure to think about the long-term effects of your decisions. Gathered worship is important, and our children and youth need to understand that.

407, just 18 shots out of fourth place. Individually, **Alyssa Hagewood** tied for 14th after shooting a first-round 92. **Keeley Bulza** was next as she opened with a 98 while **Abby Kirby** shot a 105 and **Brooklyn Adcock** shot a 112.

• **West Point, Miss., March 22** — Entering the final round in seventh place, CBC was within striking distance of fourth in the Blue Mountain Golf Classic at the Old Waverly Golf

Club. CBC finished with a final round 382 to place fourth with an overall score of 789. Individually, **Alyssa Hagewood** was the top finisher, tying for 17th with a score of 189 overall after closing with a 97. **Keeley Bulza** finished just two shots behind Hagewood, finishing with a 93 for a total score of 191 while **Abby Kirby** and **Brooklyn Adcock** both finished with 96's to shoot a 201 and 208, respectively.



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

LESS THAN A WEEK
UNTIL THE CBC GALA!
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3RD ANNUAL

Scholarship Gala

APRIL 2 - 6:00PM - CONWAY EXPO CENTER

CBC.EDU/GALA

COURAGEOUS Faith

Third Annual Scholarship Gala is Here

Central Baptist College's Third Annual Scholarship Gala is here, but it's not too late for you to be involved! The 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. The proceeds from the event benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally funded scholarships.

There has never been a greater time when we need individuals, churches and businesses to come alongside CBC and support the transformational life change that education can provide. Alex Kendrick is inspirational and his story is one of Courageous Faith, as is the story of Central Baptist College.

We need you to help us reach our goal! Single tickets are \$100, and since the event is taking place at the Conway Expo Center, we have plenty of space for additional people to attend. If you cannot attend, you can still participate and help us by making a one-time contribution for the Gala event. Remember that 100% of the event proceeds will be used to fund student scholarships. To purchase single tickets or to make a one-time donation, visit cbc.edu/gala. Limited event sponsorships are also still available. Contact Director of Alumni and Public Relations Jessica Faulkner at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8800 for more information.

Alex Kendrick has dedicated his life to following Jesus Christ and making His truth and love known among the nations. After serving in church ministry for 20 years, he now writes, speaks and produces Christian films with his brothers, Stephen and Shannon. Alex directed the movies "Overcomer," "War Room," "Courageous," "Fireproof," "Facing the Giants" and "Flywheel. He also co-wrote the *NY Times* bestselling books: *The Love Dare*, *The Resolution for Men* and *The Battle Plan for Prayer*. He has been interviewed by Fox and Friends, CNN, ABC World News Tonight and serves on the boards of the Fatherhood CoMission and the Christian Film foundation. He and his wife, Christina, live in Albany, Ga. with their six children and are active members at Sherwood Church.





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Saturation Evangelism

The word saturation means “to fill completely with something that permeates.” Saturation evangelism has been defined as “an approach to spreading the gospel that functions much like leaven in bread dough. Its purpose is to spread the gospel until an entire area is permeated and affected.” It describes a passion for evangelism. It is not taking on the “whole” world, but rather taking responsibility for “your” world. In *God Dreams*, Will Mancini states, “We will define a geographical area around us and take responsibility to personally communicate and demonstrate the gospel to everyone in that area.”

In *What Jesus Started: Joining the Movement, Changing the World*, Steve Addison traces the steps of Christ going village to village spreading the gospel. Addison writes: “Matthew records that Jesus’ ministry touched ‘all’ 175 towns and villages in Galilee. To reach them all, Jesus could rarely have stayed in one place for more than a few days; He would have been constantly on the move. By the end of His ministry, most of Galilee’s 200,000 people would either have met Jesus or have known someone who had.” Now that is saturation and living out His mission — “For the Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

In *God Dreams* (which I highly recommend), Mancini offers four images of vision:

- “Vision Advances” is depicted by an arrow. He challenges us to “Take It.”
- “Vision Rescues” is depicted by a plus sign. Here he challenges us to “Save It.”
- “Vision Becomes” is depicted by a circle. Here we are challenged to “Grow It.”
- “Vision Overflows” is depicted by a wave. We are challenged to “Let It Go.”

Mancini utilizes great templates that allow you to pray and think through this process.

Every church has been given a mandate called the Great Commission, and that is why your church exists and what you have been called to do.

How are you doing at that?

In advancing the vision that *God Dreams* offers you, three additional templates are given to walk you through how your church’s vision is to advance through geographic saturation, targeted transformation and people-group penetration. Missional living requires taking responsibility for your “map,” whether that is the college campus you live on, the job where you work, the city you live in or the two-three blocks around your house. This requires a laser focus connected to an intentional strategy and plan to reach those on our spiritual map with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Have you lost your burden and passion for the lost?

The Bible shows us that a “dedicated minority” can make a huge impact. First, there were 12, then there were 70 and then the Scripture speaks of 120. Yet, in Acts 17:6 this “dedicated minority” is described as having turned the world upside down.

While teaching in Ukraine several years ago, one leader was giving a testimony about how he came with a map of the zone he believed God had given him the responsibility to reach with the gospel. He then said the training and challenge of the conference had convinced him that he needed a larger map. May God expand our vision and our territory in spreading the gospel.

Every believer and every church must be mobilized for evangelism. Even then, in some cities and nations, you would still be a minority in comparison to the total population. This should not hinder you and your efforts to saturate your area through evangelism. When God does great things through a few people, all the glory goes to Him instead of man.

At our church, we like to state our purpose as, “People helping people to find and follow Jesus!” That begins by identifying those we need to get on our missional maps. What place or person do you need to get on your spiritual radar? What faces have you learned so you might know them by name?

MEETING (Continued From Page 1)

Gay Rights movement in America; **Therefore be it resolved** that we strongly urge the BMA of America messengers meeting in Springfield, Mo., April 2022 to continue to take a Biblical stand against homosexuality in a Christian Spirit

Resolution #4 — Recognize the need to elect Godly leaders in America

Whereas elected leaders are always anxious to appear to be strong supports of God and His churches; and

Whereas some corrupt elected leaders try to use religion for their own agenda; and

Whereas the types of elected leaders are guilty of selling faith for power;

Be it therefore resolved that we born again believers in Christ work to elect good and godly men and women who share our Biblical values and who support morality; and

Be it therefore resolved that we urge these elected leaders to care for the public trust; and

Be it therefore further resolved that the messengers meeting in Springfield, Mo., April 2022, work diligently to

After identifying them, you begin investing into their lives. God has called us to love others. How can you demonstrate the love of Christ to those on your missional map in practical ways? Who can you bless so that they might feel a sense of belonging in order that they would consider believing in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? Now that you have identified them (geographic saturation) and you begin investing in them (targeted transformation) you can then decide what you can invite them to attend. You may need to start small by inviting them to a cookout in your backyard or some other non-threatening activity.

Notice the progression of identifying, investing, inviting and then increasing. You begin to truly live missionally when you develop a heart and mindset that is aware and deliberate about sharing the Good News — through word and deed (people-group penetration). This requires building an outward focus in your individual life, but also requiring it of all the groups in your church. Who is it that needs to be seated next to you in your small group or worship service? Where do they live and what do they look like? What steps must you begin taking to show them the love of Christ and share your testimony with them?

It really is not that complicated. He has called us to follow Him and fish for men. People are either lost or saved. If someone is lost, witness to them. If someone is saved, disciple them or be discipled. Saturation evangelism requires us to have the passion that Jesus had in getting to every person in our geographic area and accepting the responsibility of exposing them to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember, a dedicated minority (you) can have a huge impact just like Jonah had in Nineveh and the disciples had in the early church.

elect good and godly men and women to public offices in the United States.

Resolution #5 — Reaffirmation of the United States government to support and help protect the Jewish nation of Israel, God’s own people

Whereas we believe Jehovah God attested to both the existence and the continuing existence of the Jewish people and by the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas we pray for peace in the Middle East; and

Whereas we Christians believe that Israel has a divine right to the land given to Abraham;

Therefore be it further resolved that the messengers and the churches of the BMA of America, meeting in Springfield, Mo., April 2022, urge the United States government to maintain and recognize Israel and her right to exist as God’s people.



• That we adopt the proposed operating budget for Fiscal 2023.

• That \$6,000 of the executive director’s salary be designated as a housing allowance.

• That we recognize Ron Ledford, David Watkins and Ed Ridge for their service to the Ministers Resource Services board.

• That Steve Crawley stand as a nominee for executive director.



• We recommend that we adopt the proposed operating budget for fiscal 2022.

• We recommend that the executive director be paid a salary of \$52,000. Benefits include one half of Social Security, \$250 per month in a health savings account, retirement at 6% of salary and travel reimbursement.

• We recommend that \$8,000 of the executive director’s salary be designated as a housing allowance.

• We recommend that a rising vote of appreciation be given to Justin Cameron and Jeremy Franklin for completing their term of service.

• We recommend that a rising vote of appreciation be given to Dr. Charley Holmes for his selfless and faithful service to the Baptist Publishing House over the past three years.

• We recommend that Jordan Tew stand as a nominee for executive director.



• Recommend the adoption of the 2022 – 2023 Daniel Springs Camp Budget.

• Recommend that Jason Pre-witt stand as a nominee for the position of executive director of the Department of Camp

Ministries.

• Recommend that the executive director be paid a base salary of \$50,160.00, one half of Social Security / Medicare, health, dental, life insurance and retirement at 6% of salary.

• Recommend and encourage that churches participate in the Camp Sunday emphasis on June 5, 2022.



• Affirmation of the proposed budget

• Re-affirm the appointment of Dr. Charley Holmes as president

• Each church observe Sunday, May 15, 2022, as Scholarship Sunday with special prayer for our graduates and receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA ministers and missionaries on that Sunday.



The Lifeword Board of Directors offer the following recommendations to the messengers attending the 2022 BMA Annual Association meeting.

• We recommend that the proposed operating budget for fiscal 2023 be adopted.

• We recommend that Oct. 23, 2022 be designated as Lifeword Sunday across the BMA.

• We recommend that every BMA church be encouraged to support Lifeword on a monthly basis as part of their Great Commission strategy.

• We recommend that the housing allowance for Lifeword executive director, director of Digital Broadcasting and director of Finance be set at \$30,000/year and for the director of Operations at \$24,000/year for this year and beyond until amended.

• We recommend that Donny Parish stand as the nominee as Lifeword executive director.



• We recommend helping the Garifuna congregation, led by Pastor Cherry Gamboa, in New York with their monthly building rent.

• We recommend the election of Dalton and Audrey Tew as missionaries to Nepal.

• We recommend that Amanda Hall be approved to raise funds as she works toward training and the mission field.

• Dr. John David Smith stands as the nominee for executive director/president of BMA Global Missions.

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By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

Special Emphasis Update

I looked back and we are right at \$1,000 behind where we were at this time last year. We have tried to be as transparent as possible about the needs for this ministry, and if anyone ever has a question about anything we do, we want to answer it to the best of our ability.

The goal of \$45,000 that we have set for this time of Special Emphasis 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 truly believe we have a unique ability to serve as the connection between what is happening all levels of the BMA and the members of our churches.

Will you commit to set aside April 24 (or another day of your choosing) as *Baptist Trumpet Day*? We would ask you on this day that you 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. You can find more resources and updates by visiting BaptistTrumpet.com/SE2022.

2022 Special Emphasis • Goal - \$45,000

Previous Balance (March 16)	\$3,259.03
Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier*	\$100.00
Laneburg Baptist Church, Laneburg	\$750.00
Antioch Baptist Church, Hampton	\$500.00
Liberty Baptist Church, Stamps	\$500.00
Total	\$5,009.03

*Have given previously



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Lake Hamilton School Board Stops Opening Meetings With Prayer

Earlier this month, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) reported it had successfully stopped the Lake Hamilton School District in Garland County from opening school board meetings with prayer.

In an article dated March 2, the atheist organization wrote, "A concerned parent from Lake Hamilton School District in Arkansas contacted FFRF regarding prayer at school board meetings; a subsequent review of board meeting minutes confirmed that board meetings were consistently opened with prayer.

"Board members are free to pray privately or to worship on their own time in their own way, Heineman wrote to the legal counsel for the school board a few weeks ago. However, by praying at official meetings, the school board lends its power and prestige to religion, amounting to a governmental endorsement. And, FFRF pointed out, prayer also alienates nonreligious Americans who make up the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population by religious identification — 35% of Americans are non-Christians, including more than one in four Americans who identify as religiously unaffiliated.

"The board has quickly responded to FFRF's missive. Counsel for the board replied that 'prayer has been

removed from the standard agenda."

Unfortunately, this is not the first time the Freedom From Religion Foundation has bullied a school district in Arkansas.

In March of 2017, the organization threatened to sue the Harrison School Board for opening board meetings with prayer. School board members voted unanimously to keep praying despite the FFRF's threat.

In December of 2019, Pea Ridge Public Schools suspended public prayer at school board meetings and ball games following a complaint from the FFRF.

More generally, in 2013 the group threatened legal action against Conway public schools who were letting local youth ministers visit members of their youth groups during lunch at school, and the foundation has complained repeatedly about the fact that Arkansas law lets public schools offer academic courses on the Bible.

The FFRF also is one of the groups suing to remove a monument of the Ten Commandments from the Capitol lawn.

The U.S. Supreme Court and lower federal courts have ruled time and time again that it is constitutional for public meetings to begin with prayer.

It's worth noting that groups like the FFRF tend to threaten lawsuits. If people stand their ground, these organizations rarely follow through by filing lawsuits. (familycouncil.org)

Adidas Cheerfully Celebrating Destruction of Women's Sports?

In its latest US-based television commercial, Adidas features Brazilian trans volleyball player and activist Tiffany Abreu as he competes on a woman's team and dominates the game with his vastly stronger physical male body.

As part of Adidas' "TmPossible" campaign, which discredits fair play and helps eliminate a true women's sports division, the ad claims, "It's impossible to take hold of the world's spotlight overnight" and "compete as a trans woman." Adidas is doing its part to make it happen... and they are trying to convince you to accept it.

Ironically, Adidas has a history of proclaiming its support for women's rights and women's athletics. Now it is pushing a totally opposite agenda that advocates men on women's teams. Adidas wants it both ways, but it's logically impossible.

Under Adidas' "woke" agenda, it will champion men like college swimmer Will Thomas, a biological male who is singlehandedly rewriting long-standing NCAA women's swimming records set by actual women.

On Adidas' YouTube channel, the ad has had more than 27 million views, but only 913 "likes." On the contrary, almost every one of the 2,097 comments are critical of Adidas' decision to support men competing in women's sports.

Adidas has chosen to ignore logic, science and common sense when it comes to the physical differences between male and female athletes. (familycouncil.org via OneMillionMoms.com)

Bible Researchers Decipher Earliest Hebrew Inscription

Biblical researchers say they have decoded an ancient Hebrew inscription, known as a "curse tablet," that predates by centuries any known Hebrew inscription from ancient Israel. The inscription was found on Mt. Ebal, the mountain of the curse, mentioned in Deuteronomy 27 and Joshua 8.

"Cursed, cursed, cursed — cursed by the God of YHWH, you will die cursed, cursed you will surely die, cursed by YHWH cursed, cursed, cursed," reads the earliest proto-alphabetic Hebrew text recovered on a small, folded lead tablet, the Associates for Biblical Research announced at a press conference at the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, Texas, on Thursday.

"I believe the amulet dates to the Late Bronze II age, or as early as 1400 BC," Scott Stripling, ABR's director of excavations, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

He added, "This is earlier than many skeptics believe the Bible existed, making this the earliest appearance of the word YHWH in Israel and it was found at a covenant site. The implications are enormous and will reverberate for many years to come."

The amulet, known as a defixio or curse tablet, came to light in December 2019 when Stripling, also the director of the Archaeological Studies Institute at the Bible Seminary went with his team to wet sift the discarded material

from excavations conducted in 1982-1989 in the West Bank

Those excavations were conducted by the late Haifa University archaeology professor Adam Zertal who discovered the altar of Joshua on Mount Ebal near the city of Nablus in the West Bank.

"This amulet and its inscription do not predate the Bible," Stripling said. "We believe it coincides with the biblical events. We talk about verisimilitude, a consistency between what we read in the text and what we find in the material culture. If the text were true, this is what you would anticipate finding, and indeed, it is what we found."

Haifa University professor Gershon Galil told *The Times of Israel*, "This is a text you find only every 1,000 years."

Some have raised concerns about the claims, with one unnamed academic telling *The Times of Israel*, "The fact that they are publishing it in the news before being published scientifically is a bit off."

The Associates for Biblical Research said an academic, peer-reviewed article will be published later this year. The researchers include: Stripling, Galil, Ivana Kumpova, Jaroslav Valach, Pieter Gert van der Veen, Daniel Vavrik and Michal Vopalensky.

According to the Bible, Mount Ebal was the mountain from which the curses were called out for those who broke God's law when the children of Israel made a covenant with God before entering the land of Israel (Deut. 11:29). (christianpost.com)

Disney Dwarfed by Goofy Transgender Push

Disney has created some iconic villains over the years, but they've crossed

the line with their latest — Texas. In news no one can believe, the company synonymous with children has decided to pick a fight with a state protecting them. The announcement, which came on March 21, is just the latest stop on CEO Bob Chapek's apology tour after he failed to defend transgenderism in Florida soon enough for the radical mob's liking. Now, after two weeks of penance that's included everything from multi-million-dollar LGBT donations to the formation of a gay and transgender task force, Disney is the closest its ever been to a final break with American parents — and reality.

The Bob Chapek who said corporate statements on politics are "counterproductive" is a changed man from early March. Now, after being brought to heel by the radical fringe that holds Disney hostage, the company's woke agenda is overshadowing everything else. "We know the moment requires urgency, and words are not enough," Chapek told Disney employees at a virtual townhall. But this latest step, vowing "action" against Texas Republicans who want to stop children from mutilating their bodies or taking life-altering drugs, is such a political escalation that even conservatives didn't see coming.

"When I read the article," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) said, he wondered what possible "action" Chapek could possibly mean. "What is Disney going to do in Texas?" he asked on "Washington Watch." "We're following our state law. Unless they want to come in and un-elect our legislature... As powerful as they may be, I don't think they have the ability to change state law in Texas — not that I know of." He, like

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JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor
editor@baptisttrumpet.com

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

ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor
associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com
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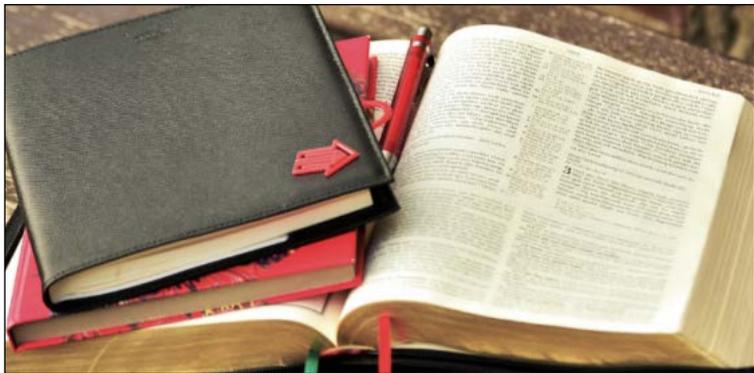
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Conquering Biblical Context

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

There are two opposite errors we often have when studying the Bible. The first error is using verses completely out of context. Here are two out-of-context verses to show you that smoking cigarettes or vaping is exactly what God wants you to do. Ready?

We see in I Cor. 16:9 that “... *your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...*” Okay, my body is the temple.

Then in Rev. 15:8 it states, “*The Temple was filled with smoke...*” Okay, my body is the temple, and the temple should be filled with smoke. Looks like the Bible commands us to smoke? Not exactly.

What we see in I Cor. 6:19 is actually telling us to honor God with our bodies (read the surrounding verses for context) and Rev. 15:8 isn't talking about your body being a “temple”—it's talking about the Temple in Heaven. And that wasn't tobacco smoke; it was smoke of God's glory.

See? You can prove just about anything with out-of-context Bible verses. That's why it's important to understand the broader context of any verse you hear before making theological conclusions or applications to your life.

The other error is actually made in reaction to the first — thinking that verses can and should only be kept in **strict** context and never applied to a situation outside that context — even if you're just trying to extract a general principle. Here's an example from Jeremiah 29, a letter written to a small group of Israelites living in the foreign capital city of Babylon:

War had just been declared against them, many people were killed and the best and the brightest (like Daniel) were sent to Babylon for reprogramming away from God and toward the things of Babylon. Why did God allow that? Isn't He strong enough? He is, and He could have intervened, but chose not to. God told Israel, in very graphic terms in Deuteronomy 28, what would happen if they turned their backs on God and began doing evil, detestable things.

They disobeyed God, so He kept

His promise, and they were conquered and sent into exile. But just like us, they wanted to hear that everything would soon be okay, there wouldn't be lasting consequences for their actions and repentance was unnecessary. True to the Law of Supply and Demand, the people demanded to hear these pleasant lies, so false prophets supplied them with pleasant things instead of truth.

But Jer. 29:8-14 (NLT) says, “*This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,*” says the Lord. *This is what the Lord says: You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,*” says the Lord.

“*They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me I will be found by you,*” says the Lord. *I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.*”

So, what does Jer. 29:11 really mean in its original context? God says yes, you'll be punished for 70 years, then God will bring you back home to start all over. Their disaster — which they were living in — would not be ultimate. The nation of Israel did have a future even though things looked hopeless.

If you believe in keeping verses in the strictest of contexts, Jeremiah 29:11 only applied to people in this situation at this particular time in history.

No need to text this verse to people — it doesn't apply.

No need to put it on a graduation cake — it's not relevant.

But that belief is too narrow. Sure, thinking that this verse means winning a state championship because God has good plans for you and a future in the NFL — that's too far in the other

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

most people, is stunned the company is even trying. “It's shocking to me. We're talking about children (pressing pause) on an irrevocable decision” that could haunt them the rest of their life.

Meanwhile, inside Disney, there's a growing outrage over the company's far-Left agenda. In a kingdom of 203,000 employees, the 100 who staged a walkout over transgenderism may have grabbed national headlines, but they're a fraction of the men and women who are quietly seething over the combative activism that's violating their values. In an open letter, members of the Disney team blast Chapek for making it “an increasingly uncomfortable place to work” for anyone whose “political and religious beliefs are not explicitly progressive.”

“Over the last few weeks, we have watched as our leadership has expressed their condemnation for laws and policies we support. We have watched as our colleagues, convinced that no one in the company could possibly disagree with them, grow increasingly aggres-

sive in their demands. They insist that (Disney) take a strong stance on, not only this issue, but other legislation and openly advocate for the punishment of employees who disagree with them.

“Employees who want (Disney) to make Left-wing political statements are encouraged, while those of us who want the company to remain neutral can say so only in a whisper out of fear of professional retaliation. The company we love seems to think we don't exist or don't belong here... Furthermore, as this politicization makes its way into our content and public messaging, our more conservative customers will feel similarly unwanted. You can only preach at or vilify your audience for so long before they decide to spend their money elsewhere.”

In some corners, that movement has already begun. Ben Shapiro, furious at the company for catering to its wokest base, declared, “It's time for the market pushback to begin.” “If you want entertainment that is going to cater to your children, we're going to start making kids content over here at Daily Wire specifically so that you don't have to [support] companies that hate your guts and cater to people who despise your values.”

There was also backlash from a handful of brave Disney stars. Natasha Ward, star of the Disney-owned “Station 19” posted that “Supporting trans freedom does not mean it's okay to violate the rights of biological women.” When “other people's truth infringes on fact and places an undue burden, which displaces my rights, we have gone too far,” she argued.

Other conservatives are infiltrating shareholder meetings and confronting Chapek personally. Justin Danhof, director of the Free Enterprise Project, bought a single share of stock at several Fortune 500 companies just for the right to attend meetings and challenge the political status quo. That came in especially handy this week, as Disney hosted investors during one of the most contentious weeks in recent memory. “To attend a shareholder meeting of a publicly-traded company, you need to own a whopping one share of that company,” Danhof explained. “So if you're upset at Coca-Cola for an action they've taken, I think it's like \$58 these days buys you admission to the shareholder meeting.”

Most of Disney's legitimate investors — the ones who are in it to make money — aren't in lockstep with the company's politics, Danhof said. “But the vast majority of activist investors who show up, they're pushing their affinity issues from the LGBTQ community, and they're doing it in very large numbers. But I'm encouraged,” he insisted. “There are more voices on the Right than there ever have been.” He compares it to the parents' movement in education. “They're taking over school boards. They're recalling terrible members because they want to protect their children... But just know that you can do the same thing in the corporate arena as well — because corporate America wants to control what your children

direction. There is a middle ground between these two extremes as we apply God's Word and extract helpful life principles things from Scripture:

- **First, we reap what we sow.** To use modern language, we harvest what we plant. God didn't allow the nation of Israel to flagrantly sin. God said there would be consequences, and there were.
- **Second, God's disposition is good.** He punishes the nation but wants them to know there is hope for a good future. When they seek Him, they will find Him. God has not abandoned them. Is God just — and therefore must punish sin? Absolutely. Is He also full of grace and redemption? Yes to that, too.
- **Third, God isn't building the plane while flying it.** He's not only all-powerful and can insert Himself in history, but He also knows the future. God wasn't blindsided by Babylon's conquest and saying, “Hey, I'll get you out of this, just give me 70 years to come up with a plan to get you back.”

No, God knew when they were captured that, 70 years later, Babylon would be conquered by Persia, and they would be released. God knew when they abandoned Him that Babylon was becoming an ambitious nation. God knew when He gave them the law, they would turn their backs on Him, and He still knows today.

What does this mean for us? God already knows your life — the triumphs, heartaches and sin. He knows it all. No matter where you are today, you can know that God “*knows the plans (He) has for you.*”

“*They are plans for your (ultimate) good and not for disaster, to give you hope and a future.*” The question in verse 13 is, “Will you seek God wholeheartedly?” If you do, you will truly find Him to be your hope and guarantee of a good, eternal future.

You can know God personally today. He is seeking after your heart.



Former BMA Pastor Dies

Larry Clifton Linam, 72 of Texarkana, died March 24. He attended East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas and graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia with a Bachelor of Arts. He did post-graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

At age 17, Larry felt a call from the Lord to become a pastor and was ordained at First Baptist Church DeKalb, Texas on July 21, 1969. He preached in churches in both Texas and Arkansas, and his last pastorate was at Shiloh Baptist Church in Waldo (Lamartine) from which he retired on Dec. 31, 2021.

Larry was a bi-vocational pastor with a heart for small churches and often had a second occupation while pastoring. In 2010 Larry published a book, *The Day the Angels Cried*, about the church shooting in Daingerfield, Texas on June 20, 1980, in which his seven-year-old daughter was killed.

Survivors include: his wife, Barbara Linam; his parents, Jess and Irene of Texarkana, Texas; a son Jeff (Wendy) Linam of Rio Vista, Texas; a daughter Jennifer Cortez of Linden, Texas; two step-sons, Michael Winegarden of Allen, Texas and Mark (Alyssa) Winegarden of Sedro-Woolley, Wash.; 11 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held March 26 at Spring Lake Baptist Church in Texarkana, with burial in Woodmen Cemetery in DeKalb, Texas under the direction of Texarkana Funeral Home (texarkanafuneralhome.com).



Nell Dunn, 80 of Plumerville, passed away March 23. She was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Donald Rogers Brannan, 86 of Greenbrier, passed away March 21. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

Henrietta Cloud Huskey, 75 of Waldo, passed away March 14. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

see (too). And believe me, they want to corrupt your family and your culture. So, you can fight in the schools — but you can also fight at the corporate level.”

And judging by their actions, Disney would be the perfect place to start. (Family Research Council, frc.org)



The Location of the Antichrist's Empire (Part 1)

I think I've shared my reluctance to be a "prophecy teacher." I cringe when introduced at events as such because I just want to be a pastor seeking to rightly divide the whole counsel of God. Prophecy is a third of the Bible so we can't avoid it and, in these crazy times we live in, we need to look to Scripture, especially prophecy, to navigate them.

What amazes me within the study of Bible prophecy is how much can be known. The title of this article seems to warn that I will be speculating with a best guesstimate on the location of the Antichrist's empire — I won't. I encourage you to read on and see what can be known about what lies ahead especially the location of the Antichrist's empire.

When we read through the Old Testament prophets, we encounter much about geopolitics. Many nations are mentioned — almost all of which are Israel and her neighbors. The temptation is to assume that was the only world the biblical writers knew, therefore that's why those nations were mentioned. Before we make that assumption, we should first give the Holy Spirit more geographical credit. What if we assumed centerstage for the end of the age events was the Middle East and that the neighbors of Israel are the intended nations to be judged at the end of the age? What if we started with that in mind and let that lay a foundation for end time geopolitics? What if God specified those locations on purpose? I believe He did.

With this foundation in mind, let's jump to the passage I believe to be the lynchpin to knowing the identity of this final empire. Before looking at Revelation 17, let's go to Daniel 2. In Daniel 2, we read of Daniel interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's statue. In

the interpretation, Daniel tells the king that the statue with its five divisions represents a succession of empires that would rule over the land of Babylon. The statue serves as timeline of sorts, running from King Nebuchadnezzar's reign to the reign of the Messiah.

First, in Daniel 2, we're told the head of gold represents the Babylonian Empire. In Daniel 8, we see that the chest and arms of silver represents the Mede and Persian empire. In that same chapter, we see that the belly and thighs of bronze points to the Grecian empire. Unfortunately, we're not given the fourth empire, which is pictured by the legs of iron. We're not given the fifth either, but it is expressed to be a revival of the fourth. The fourth has been divided up and reassembled — revived. Most have assumed this fourth and the revival of it is the Roman Empire, but there's not any biblical support for that.

In a parallel vision in Daniel 7, we're shown that the final empire of the succession will be the one of the Antichrist — the Little Horn.

Though Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 fail to identify the final empire's location, we do learn that it will be a revival of the fourth.

Another parallel vision from Daniel 2 appears in Revelation 17. There's a lot going on in the passage, but in Rev. 17:10-11 we get the greatest clue into the location of this final kingdom: "They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction" (Rev. 17:10-11 NIV).

This passage is much like the statue in Daniel 2. It lays out a succession of empires stretching throughout history

until the end of the age. King Nebuchadnezzar's statue had the common denominator of the land of Babylon, while the passage seems to be a succession of foreign gentile nations that would rule over Jerusalem, but just like Daniel 2 this passage shows that the final kingdom will be a revival of the previous one.

John the apostle is told that there will be eight kingdoms. The eighth would be a revival of the seventh. He's told that at his lifetime five of these empires had come and gone. One of the seven was currently in existence. During John's life the Roman empire's flag flew over Jerusalem. He's then told one more kingdom is to come, it will rule for a while, go away and come back.

Do you see why this passage is the key?

If we know the kingdom that would follow the one ruling over Jerusalem in the time of John, then we could know the empire of the Antichrist.

And we do.

For after the Roman empire it was the Ottoman Empire or Islamic Caliphate ruled from modern day Turkey over Jerusalem.

This Islamic State would rule from 1453 until it was dissolved following World War I. At that time, it was divided up into many different nations — resulting in the Middle East today.

Revelation 17:10-11 isn't the only evidence of the Antichrist's empire possibly being a revived Ottoman Empire, but it may be the clearest.

Jake is available for revivals and preaching learn more at standfirmministries.com.



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.

Gospel Concert, April 10, 10:45 a.m. featuring Folenius; Landmark, England, Davin Inzer, pastor.

Gospel Concert, April 10, 5 p.m. featuring Shawn Drewett; Temple, Fordyce; Lance Hollis, pastor.

Southwest District WMA, April 12, 10 a.m.; Angelyn McMurry (We Are Free), program; Randy Shepherd, message; Spring Lake, Texarkana.

Greenbrier WMA, April 14, 10 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

BMA of America, April 18-20; Springfield, Missouri.

National WMA Meeting, April 19; 8:30 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m.

Spotlight On Missions
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501.455.4977 • www.bmamissions.org



Darlene Carey Christian Academy

Doug and Diane Lee • Philippines

Because of COVID, we have not been able to have College Week for two years. College Week is an annual event at the college the week after mid-term exams. It gives the students a chance to unwind and have a time of fun, games and camaraderie. Donna Scroggins was a fantastic sponsor this year with four teams. It was an incredible time of sports, talent contests, preaching, basketball, ping-pong, cooking competitions and the famous Amazing Race! Each team did an excellent job and showed an outstanding display of good sportsmanship.

Work is nearly complete on the Darlene Carey Christian Academy! The building should be complete in April, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication scheduled for May 19. Classes will begin in August 2022. A big shout-out to Dr. Stan Scroggins and Pastor JoJo Vallejera for coordinating this building project, and a great big thank you to the National WMA for adopting the academy as their project.

Life as a missionary involves being open to new opportunities to expand ministry to reach people in all walks of life with the gospel. Besides working in church planting, Bible study groups and overseeing the BMA Bible College, Doug was recently invited to become a chaplain officer of the Pearl of the Orient Chaplain's Values Educators, Inc. in the Philippines. It is a volunteer organization that ministers to Coast Guard personnel and other military and law enforcement. Doug served as a chaplain's assistant in the Army during the Vietnam era.

Support funds can be sent to: Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Rd., Pica-yune, Miss. 39466 or BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033. Please be sure to designate for whom and how the funds are to be used. (*edouglee70@gmail.com, dianebusserlee@gmail.com*)



Doug and Pastor John Rey Vallejera, a chaplain officer, presenting Doug with his official ID and badge.

meeting; Grandview, Springfield, Missouri.

Baptist Trumpet Sunday, April 24.

Hot Dogs and Hot Rods, May 21; proceeds benefit Water for Christ; Lifesong, Greenbrier.

National Galilean Camp, June 24-29; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

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.



Missionaries

Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198
 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/Saline County; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Northwest Arkansas; (936) 202-7988

Donna Webb, Administrative Asst.; (501) 565-4601
 E-Mail: bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com
 Office Location: 10712 Interstate 30 • Little Rock, AR 72209
 Mailing Address: PO Box 195514, Little Rock, AR 72219
 www.bmaARmissions.com

Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



PAUL WHITE
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 arstamis@comcast.net

“Growing Pains”

It was my privilege to bring the morning message at my home church in Brookland. The message was entitled, “Growing Pains.” Connection Point is one of our newest churches having organized last August. A special thank you to my son and pastor, Chad for the opportunity and to the Lord for His guidance.

Annual Spring Advisory Committee Meeting

It was that time again — when we call all our current missionaries to meet with us at the office in Little Rock. We are mandated by the association to meet at least twice a year, once at the office and the other at each location where our families are planting.

We had an outstanding day hearing the uplifting and encouraging reports. It was refreshing to hear how God is blessing each work as we begin to distance ourselves from the pandemic. God also blessed us with perfect attendance among both the committee members and missionaries. A special thanks to these men for taking out of their time to serve you, our association.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “Your prayers were answered! The Spring Youth Camp 2022, Contracorriente (Countercurrent) was a success. There were several professions of faith, and all the boys and girls consecrated themselves to the Lord. Three churches participated — El Faro, South City and Growing in Christ. The fellowship was endearing, and the participants related as if they were from the same local church.

“The food was very good and plentiful. Scott and Myrtie Small are excellent hosts. We recommend going to Stoneridge Baptist Camp for your church retreats. Another good thing is that we had no accidents.

“The ladies met on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. to continue their study on the women of the Bible. They are very excited about taking advantage of the study.

“After our Sunday service, we had an activity to raise funds for the construction of the playground. It was excellent, and we managed to sell all the food the sisters had prepared.

“Thank you for your prayers, especially for Justin, a young man from our congregation who went to camp and received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “Our Celebration Service had a mix of joy and sadness.

We rejoiced for the great things God did in the lives of each one of us. I see the maturity in Ebenezer is manifesting little by little, but it is still a long way from completion. There was sadness because of the news that a 31-year-old girl had died in a traffic accident last Wednesday. We were ministering to her since Thanksgiving. She leaves behind four children that her grandmother is now taking care of and has custody.

“Last week was spring break time and all the Berean Groups (cells) took a break. My wife, Kory was on vacation so we could enjoy ourselves more as a family.

“Please be praying for the plans we have for this month. We will be developing a series of sermons ‘The importance of the Cross in the life of the Disciple.’ On Easter Sunday we will have our Dawn Service at 6 in the morning. We will be in the temple and it will be followed by breakfast.

“Thank you for your support, thank you for your prayers. To God be the glory!”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “Once again, three weeks in a row, the Lord added to our number. We had a man join that had been saved and baptized when he was much younger, but he had fallen out of church and away from the Lord later in life. We have been praying for him for some time. He is our niece’s husband’s stepfather. Two weeks ago, his parents (who have been coming for

over a year) and his wife joined us, and we began to pray even more specifically for him. He came to worship with his wife, and came forward and wanted to join us. He not only came back to church, but he also came back to the Lord! Don’t ever tell me that prayer doesn’t matter — He hears our prayers and answers them in a mighty way!

“Sunday night, we went home to our mother church, The Bridge in Mountain Home and baptized two new members who brought seven first-time visitors with them. Praise God! They were so excited and overjoyed too — as they said, ‘get closer to God through baptism.’ Again, I say, Praise God!

“Thank You, Lord for hearing our prayers and thank You, Lord for your answers! We thank you all for your prayers and support for us, for Faith Chapel, for Flippin and our community. We ask that you please continue. God is answering them!”

Faith Journey, Benton/Saline County: Bryan Clay writes, “This week at Faith Journey has been a week of expectation. We are quickly learning that with church planting comes times of waiting and watching to see what the Lord has planned for us. Ephesians 3:20 tell us *‘Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that 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.’*

“We are still in search of the right facility to begin our meetings at Faith Journey. We had a meeting scheduled for Sunday evening with the owners of a promising spot, but had to reschedule to another evening this coming week due to a conflict in their schedule. We understand that God’s delays have a purpose, and we continue to pray for God’s will in providing the right place to start this mission.

“We hope we can share more about this upcoming meeting with everyone in next week’s report. We are continuing to meet with families to share with them how they can be a part of Faith Journey as we grow. We are excited to see this mission begin to take shape, and we wait with faithful expectation.”



Fairview Baptist Church in Jonesboro is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. For more information, contact Pastor Gary Henderson at (870) 935-0266 (church office), (870) 974-1996 (cell) or pastorgaryhenderson@gmail.com.

Hillcrest Baptist Church in Texarkana is seeking a bi-vocational music director. For more information, contact Pastor Kelly Owens at hbctexarkana@gmail.com.

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. Resumes may be sent to glenn.farmers1st@att.net.

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

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.

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.

Southwest District WMA, April 12, 10 a.m.; Spring Lake, Texarkana; Angelyn McMurry (We Are Free), program; Randy Shepherd, message.

Greenbrier WMA, April 14, 10 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Reports from the Churches



Broadway Ave., Bay welcomed two by baptism; Rick Jensen, pastor.

Fairview, Jonesboro added one by letter; Gary Henderson, pastor.

Lemonwood, Pine Bluff reports two profession of faith during their recent revival meetings; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

Kingsland, Kingsland reports two by statement; Rick Bolin, pastor.

Oak Park, Little Rock gained one by baptism; Dr. Gary O’Neal, pastor.

Victory, Hampton rejoices over four by baptism; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

DISCIPLESHIP

(Continued From Page 1)

the people in our churches. We’ve been asking “What do disciples want?” instead of “What do disciples need?” and “How do we maintain disciples in the local church?” instead of “How do we grow disciples in the local church?” These questions are reflective of a discipleship disease infecting our churches, and the answer isn’t to lower the bar for churchgoers but to raise it. After one year of implementing this philosophy and practice in ministry, I see evidence that English is right.

According to English, the goal of deep discipleship is “the knowledge of the LORD’s glory” (Hab. 2:14, CSB). English focuses on four distinctives for deep discipleship — where people meet, who they are, why they meet and how God is present. These distinctives helped me map out how to bring our groups back on campus, what that was going to entail and what we hoped to achieve as we joined God in His mission of making disciples.

The spaces for discipleship in churches matter. English writes, “We had a lot of environments that had the highest stated purpose of community and almost no environments where the highest stated value was learning.” As I evaluated my ministry, I found that we were also missing some intentionality in our educational spaces. In my desire to reach young adults, I was prioritiz-

See DISCIPLESHIP, Page 8



First, McNeil, April 10-13; 10 a.m. Sun. (Mickeal and Sharon Quillman); 6 p.m. Sun. (Rocky Goodwin); 7 p.m. Mon. (Eric Goble); 7 p.m. Tue. (Ron Owen); 7 p.m. Wed. (Dustin Wisely); Ken Williams, pastor.

Kingsland, Kingsland, May 1-6; 6 p.m. Sun.; 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; Brian Shepard, evangelist; Rick Bolin, 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.

Bodcaw, Bodcaw, July 25-29, 7:00 p.m.; Jimmy Walker, evangelist; Lane Garner, pastor.

Landmark, England, Aug. 14-17, 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Master’s Voice (in concert); Ricky Capps, evangelist; David Inzer, pastor.

HOMEcomings

164th Homecoming at Center Grove, Cord, June 12, 10:30 a.m.; Jeff Herring (message); lunch and singing to follow; Barry Anderson, pastor.

Bodcaw, Bodcaw, July 24, 10:30 a.m.; John Ed Dorman (devotional); Tim Vines (message); potluck lunch and singing; Lane Garner, pastor.

BMAA Meeting

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WORLDVIEW (Continued From Page 1)

While 67% of parents with children younger than 13 identified as Christians, just 2% of those surveyed subscribed to a biblical worldview as defined by the researchers. According to the report, a biblical worldview “emerges from accepting the Bible as a relevant and authoritative guide for life.

Among the two-thirds of parents who identify as Christian, just 4% of them possessed a biblical worldview.

“A parent’s primary responsibility is to prepare a child for the life God intends for that child,” Barna, the director of research at the Cultural Research Center, said in a statement.

“A crucial element in nurturing is helping the child develop a biblical worldview — the filter that causes a person to make their choices in harmony with biblical teachings and principles.”

According to Barna, who founded the prominent Evangelical research firm Barna Group, the “research confirms that very few parents even have the worldview development of their children on their radar.”

“The typical American parent is either fully unaware that there is a worldview development process, or they are aware that their child is developing a worldview, but they do not take responsibility for a role in the process,” he said.

“Every parent teaches what they

know and models what they believe. They can only give what they have, and what they have to give reflects their driving beliefs about life and spirituality.”

Barna warned that parents are “both a primary influence and a gatekeeper to other influences” on their children.

Although some parents are “aware the child’s worldview is being developed,” Barna said they may “choose or allow outsiders to accomplish that duty on the parent’s behalf.”

“Shockingly few parents intentionally speak to their children about beliefs and behavior based upon a biblical worldview,” Barna said. “Perhaps the most powerful worldview lesson parents provide is through their own behavior, yet our studies consistently indicate that parental choices generally do not reflect biblical principles or an intentionally Christian approach to life.”

The research concluded that American parents’ views about the Bible play a role in the group’s widespread absence of a biblical worldview.

Specifically, nearly 6 out of 10 parents surveyed do not see the Bible as a “reliable and accurate source of God’s truth,” while just 40% view the Bible as “God’s accurate words for humanity.”

The subgroup of parents most likely to possess a biblical worldview attended independent or nondenominational Protestant churches (16%). The share of parents with a biblical worldview was measured at 10% among those who read the Bible daily, those who

see themselves as “very conservative on theological matters” and those who consider themselves “very conservative on social issues, such as abortion and same-sex marriage.”

Those with a biblical worldview comprised less than 10% of all other subgroups of preteen parents, characterized based on their religious and political views. The groups with the highest number of parents possessing a biblical worldview identified as politically conservative (9%), and theologically defined born-again Christians (8%). Overall, 22% of respondents identified as born-again Christians, while 19% described themselves as politically conservative.

The groups least likely to possess a biblical worldview were those attending Catholic churches, respondents who characterized themselves as politically liberal or progressive and parents between the ages of 18 and 24.

Just 1% of Catholics and liberals had a biblical worldview, while less than 1% of parents younger than 24 have a biblical worldview.

Catholics comprised 24% of respondents, while political liberals and progressives accounted for 17% of those surveyed. Thirteen percent of the sample included parents between 18 and 24.

Older parents were slightly more likely than their younger counterparts to embrace a biblical worldview. Four percent of parents aged 45 or older, who constituted 31% of respondents, subscribe to such a worldview, followed

DISCIPLESHIP (Continued From Page 7)

ing community, something that Gen Z and Millennials are hungry for, at the cost of serious learning. If I wanted to make deep disciples, I needed to have spaces where learning was the highest stated value, and I didn’t have to forsake community to do that.

Creating Discipleship Spaces

I learned that our young adults would likely enjoy relationships around

by 2% of parents between the ages of 25 and 44, who constituted a majority (56%) of those surveyed.

While mainline Protestants and Evangelical Protestants each comprised 11% of the sample, Evangelicals had a higher share of adherents with a biblical worldview (6%) than mainline Protestants (2%).

While Barna expressed concern about the astronomically low share of preteen parents with a biblical worldview, he remained optimistic about the possibility of a spiritual revival in the U.S.

“The reality is that culture-changing movements can transform a nation with as little as 2% of the population on-board,” he said. “Turning around the paucity of commitment to the biblical worldview cannot happen overnight in the United States, but it can happen.”

— Ryan Foley is a reporter for *The Christian Post*. He can be reached at: ryan.foley@christianpost.com

the shared experience of being disciplined. Or as English puts it, “Community is indispensable to discipleship, but community is not discipleship.” That’s where we’ve gone astray. As pastors and church leaders, we assumed our duty was simply to get our people together and then discipleship would automatically happen. That may be why 65% of pastors are satisfied with the state of discipleship in their churches, even though 44% aren’t regularly evaluating discipleship progress to inform that opinion. Pastors feel good about all the groups and meetings the church hosts, but aren’t concerned with actually producing spiritual formation.

In our groups, I was relying on a community-driven space to accomplish what only learning spaces can, so I made changes. The purpose of our groups was now to learn as a spiritual family. To work toward that end, I implemented an active learning pattern I learned from *Deep Discipleship*. We start our time with pre-class work, usually an article to read or a quote to ponder related to our Bible lesson. Then we discuss that content in micro-groups at tables. After that, the Bible teacher transitions to a teacher-student dialogue, taking an expositional look at a book of the Bible. Finally, there’s a time of contemplation where the participants are urged to apply the text and share what they learned with someone later that week.

It wasn’t a magic formula, and it wasn’t a drastic change. It was just an intentional one. We have seen it bear fruit over the last year in our ministry. Our young adults know the pattern. They read the article, they discuss it, they engage with the teacher and the Bible and they apply what they learn — all while enjoying biblical community and strong relationships. I have been encouraged to see our people not just meeting together but being challenged to grow in the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. And in that, they are being formed into whole disciples of Jesus Christ.

One year later, we are experiencing healthier community in our ministry than ever before. As we’ve raised the bar, young adults have taken discipleship more seriously. The young adults in our city who want spiritual formation and biblical community know they can find it in our ministry, specifically in our groups. That’s where they can experience deep discipleship.

— Andrew is married to his wife, Anna and pastors the young adults of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. He received his Master of Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This article was shared with permission and was originally published at research.lifeway.com/2022/02/25/community-is-not-discipleship.

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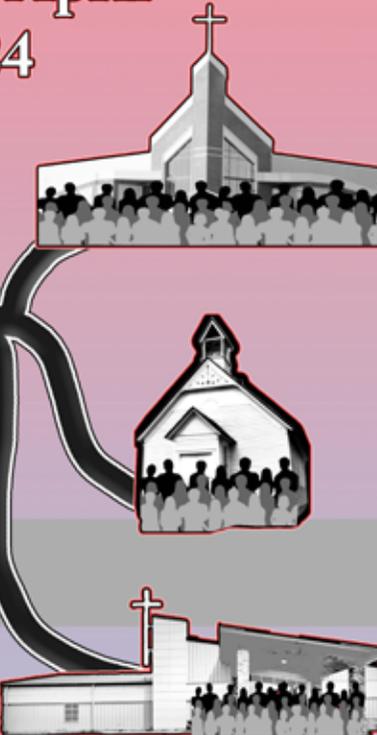
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