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Change in North American Missions Landscape

By Elvis Garcia, Hispanic Dir. of Church Planting • BMMA Missions

According to Pew Research, the U.S. Hispanic population reached 62.1 million in 2020, up from 50.5 million in 2010. The 23% increase in the Hispanic population was faster than the nation's growth rate, but a slower increase than in the Asian population. In 2020, Hispanics made up nearly one

in five people in the U.S.

"We want to be strategic in reaching North America with the hope of the gospel," said NAMB (North American Mission Board) President Kevin Ezell. "That means we should emphasize Hispanic church planting. The demographic shift taking place is incredible, and we must take the gospel to places it is needed most." Ezell announced a big Hispanic outreach nationally at a meeting with the NAMB's Board of Trustees.

"The Latino population has been dispersing across the United States for years — a reflection of where the nation's population is moving and where the opportunities are," said Mark Hugo Lopez, director of race and ethnicity research at Pew Research.

First-generation immigrants are leading Latino evangelical expansion in the U.S. — drawing in more unchurched believers and new converts than the average church plant, despite smaller congregations, less funding and tensions surrounding U.S. immigration policy.

A Progressive New Turn

This community's future growth capacity is dramatic — 75% of Hispanics are under 40 years and 34% are 18 or younger. This trend alone should



MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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

Bill Sheffield has resigned as pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Gentry.

Evert Smith is the new pastor at Pinecrest Baptist Church in Fordyce.

Loren Strickland is the new pastor at Woodberry Baptist Church in Hampton.

Ron Beardsley is a singer/songwriter and has pastored several churches in Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas. He is available for preaching or singing appointments as God leads. Contact him at (573) 475-0193.

Victory Baptist Church in Gentry is seeking a pastor. Contact Mark Betts at (479) 752-7140 or Donnie Shook at (479) 957-2222.

mean a redefinition of priorities and strategies of church evangelism.

Pew Research says that in the next few years, one in every six Americans will be of Hispanic descent, and by 2030, the Latino population will total roughly 24% of the population. These changes in the ethnic landscape require churches to reach out to this community because they will be showing up on your church steps in the near future and, in some states, it's already happening!

The United States has been the number one sending nation in the world according to statistics. It has mostly been a Christian nation where conservative thinking is normal. But that's not true anymore because we live in a more and more secular society than a Christian one.

Hispanic Burden for America

In conversations with Hispanic pastors who have been in this country for many years, I hear over and over again that we have to do something. We have to evangelize more, disciple more and "Win North America for Christ," which is the name of our national project. That's why our national project is called that. Our culture is reactive by nature, and we do not stop much to think about how we are going to do all of it. Instead, our first reaction is to do something.

We are also very organic and inexperienced in committee processes, fundraising and complicated training. It may worry some people, but it is a unique opportunity since we are not going to wait for us to have sufficient

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2022 CBC Gala Keynote Speaker Alex Kendrick with President Kimbrow. CBC Hosts 2022 Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College hosted its third annual Scholarship Gala on April 2. The black-tie optional event featured keynote speaker, Alex Kendrick, and was held at the Conway Expo Center.

The proceeds of the event benefit student scholarships, and President Terry Kimbrow announced that \$510,100 had been raised through event sponsorships and private donations.

The theme of the event was "Courageous Faith," and the program focused on the mission and ministry of CBC which is "the integration of Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment." The emcee for the night was Yalanda Merrell, Director of Audience Engagement at Lifeword.

Following the opening prayer by David Watkins (BMA pastor and CBC Board member), CBC Dining Services, under the direction of Chef Jill McCollum, served a delicious meal. The first course was Steak House Salad with blue cheese, toasted pecans, apples and bacon served with a Bacon Vinaigrette; followed by the second course consisting of a Medallion of Beef, Fresh Mash of Potatoes with Chives, Lemon Butter Glazed Broccolini and Yeast Rolls with Herb Butter. The meal was concluded with a White Chocolate Cheesecake with Mixed Berry Coolie Cream.

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The New Front Door To Your Church

By Aaron Earls • Lifeway

The first time a visitor walks into your church building, they probably know more about your church than you think. More than that, visitors may have even participated in a worship service already.

Much has been written about church websites being an unexpected "front door" to the church, but in the aftermath of the pandemic and near-universal adoption of video technology by churches, your online worship service is probably your new front door. For many, the first time they encounter your congregation will be through a video.

Churches should plan for this as they were quick to adapt to streaming services during the pandemic, reaching new and previous attendees through their online videos. Now, they're trying to navigate how to transition people from this new front door online through their physical front door in person.

Quickly Building a New Door

In the fall of 2019, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, Lifeway Research found

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CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President

Sports News

By Erik Holth

Baseball

• **Springdale, March 29**—Playing on the road for the first time this month, CBC was at the Tyson Complex for a meeting with the Royals of Ecclesia (EC). CBC (17-12) couldn't get anything going offensively, mustering only five hits in a 12-2 loss to EC (16-12). **Jay French** broke the single-season stolen bases record during the game, swiping four bases, giving him 32 on the season and breaking Brady Brashier's previous record of 30 set back in 2013.

• **Batesville, April 2**—Heading to the road for an American Midwest Conference (AMC) game for the first time this season, CBC was at Fred Wann Field for a nine-inning contest against the Scots of Lyon College. CBC (17-13, 4-3 AMC) got an early lead, but could not hold, as Lyon (19-14, 4-3 AMC) capitalized on sloppy CBC defense, defeating the Mustangs 13-3.

• **Batesville, April 2**—Looking to salvage a game in their first road AMC series of the year, CBC was at Fred Wann Field for a doubleheader against Lyon. CBC (17-15, 4-5 AMC) could not generate enough offense to keep up with Lyon (21-14, 6-3 AMC) as they fell in both ends of the doubleheader 22-8 and 9-4.

Softball

• **Pine Bluff, March 29**—Returning to the field for the first time since March 10, CBC took on the Golden Lions of the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (UAPB) in a doubleheader at the Torii Hunter Softball Complex. CBC (10-12) split the doubleheader with UAPB (3-25), dropping game one 3-2 before posting a 7-0 shutout in game two.

• **Columbia, Mo., April 2**—Playing an AMC opponent for the first time this season, CBC took on the Owls of William Woods University (WWU) at Battle High School. CBC (12-12, 2-0 AMC) got timely hitting and dominant pitching, holding WWU (16-12, 6-2 AMC) to just seven hits and three runs in a sweep, winning by scores of 5-2 and 1-0.

Men's Golf

• **Shawnee, Okla., March 29**—Playing the final 18 of 54 holes, CBC was on the course at the Shawnee Country Club for the final round of the Shawnee Shootout. CBC closed with a final round 379 to finish in ninth place, three shots behind eighth. Individually, **Suraprat Pareepart** had the best round, firing a final round 78 to finish at 236 to finish in a tie for 14th. **Travis Toebben** was next, and he closed with an 89 to finish with a 245, followed by **Jakub Slapal** at 246, **Ethan Williamson**, who competed as an individual, at 250, **Emmanuel LaBeur** shot a final round 80 to finish with a 255 and **Anupon Wandee**

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#BMA Baptist

Why Stay in the BMA?

Since surrendering to the ministry on March 5, 1991, during my freshman year at Central Baptist College (CBC), I have served in BMA in churches. At the time, there wasn't even a question. First, God had used the people of a BMA church in Missouri to show me the gospel, and I accepted Christ at White Oak Grove Baptist Church outside of Potosi, Mo. Second, God had drawn me to a BMA church in Springdale during high school after several years of being out of church. Third, I surrendered my life while being a part of CBC and Antioch Baptist Church of Conway. God had clearly placed me in the tribe where He wanted me to serve.

Over the years, I have seen many that have come after me step down from ministry or move to another group. It has been hard to see. While I am the first to say that our churches and association still have a long way to go because we fall short in some areas, the truth is that every group has its issues. I love the work of our churches and want to see them experience renewal and revitalization so that we can impact our nation and the world for the cause of Christ.

I have had opportunities to step into other groups, but God has kept leading me to serve the men and women of BMA churches. Our group of churches is far from perfect, but God has allowed me to see many of the values that our association has to offer. I don't have to criticize other groups to find reasons to stay connected to the BMA. The reasons for me to stick are pretty evident:

• **The BMA believes in the Word of God.** Whether it is our colleges, seminary or local churches, the Word of God shines through. We know it is inerrant, unchanging and our guide for life. We may interpret it differently on tertiary theological issues, but the overwhelming majority of us believe it is truly God's Word.

• **The BMA believes in missions.** In a recent podcast, Nick Jacobsen shared something that he heard around the BMA Global Missions Center in Conway. He recalled for us, "Missions is important. It's our middle name." With a name like the Baptist Missionary Association, it should be obvious that we are concerned about reaching the lost with the gospel message.

• **The BMA is a family.** One of the biggest reasons it is hard for me to even consider serving outside of the BMA is because of the men and women of our association. During the same interview with Jacobsen, he stated that one of the reasons for the SOAR conference's longevity is the family spirit that pervades the BMA. It is a spirit we should embrace. We can always do more together than we can alone.

Ultimately, I stick around the BMA because God hasn't given me instructions to leave. If He led me away, I would be sad, but I would agree. God wants us to offer ourselves up to Him fully and completely. Real success comes through faithful obedience. May we all strive to be successful with that framework.

Without diving into the negative of other groups, why do you continue to serve in the BMA? Join the conversation at Facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity.

finished with a 272 overall.

Track & Field

• **Wichita, Kan., April 2**—Heading out of state for the second straight weekend, CBC was at the Friends Spring Invitational today. CBC had three competitors during the meet — **Ally Swaim** in the 100-meter hurdles, **Josh Brown** in the men's 110-meter

hurdles and **Isaiah Stiger** in the long jump. Swaim would record a time of 14.84 to win her heat and advance to the finals, where she ran a 14.83 to place fourth and miss qualification for NAIA Nationals by just .03 seconds. Brown, making his track debut, recorded a time of 16.90 in his event, placing 19th, while Stiger put down a mark of 6.00 meters in the long jump to place 24th.



Adult and Online Course Grant Available

Are you a working adult looking for a convenient and flexible college option, but you are not quite sure about how it all works? We understand your hesitation, so that is why we are giving new students an opportunity to start for **free!** All you need to do is complete the application process and be accepted for the fourth five-week course of the spring semester by April 25 in the PACE department.

The grant will cover the tuition for your first required PACE course — CBC 1300 PACE Orientation. In addition, to receive the tuition grant, the enrollment team will register you for 12 credits (one 3 credit course per 5-week block) in the fall 2022 semester beginning July 5.

The fourth five-week course of the Spring semester meets May 2 through June 9. Classes are offered in-class, online or as a hybrid option.

The Enrollment Team will work with you so you can take advantage of the following grant opportunities: \$500 BMAA Grant (that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church), the Ministry Tuition Grant, Student Referral Grant, Arkansas Academic Challenge Grant or the Veterans Tuition Grant. In addition, you will work with our Financial Aid and Business Office Team to make payment arrangements or finance the remaining semester balance.

The enrollment process begins by applying at online.cbc.edu. If you have questions, contact the PACE Enrollment Team at pace@cbc.edu or (800) 441-5106.

Fall 2022 Registration and Connect Days

Fall registration is right around the corner and our new traditional on-campus student orientation days — Connect Days — are available to schedule once the admissions process is complete.

Connect Days are vital to the success of our new students. New students will register for classes, set up payment arrangements, connect with current students, have fun and get familiar with campus for a successful fall semester. Students can choose one of the following dates to attend: April 29, May 24, June 21, July 19 or Aug. 2, 22, 23. To learn more about Connect Days, visit cbc.edu/orientation.

High school seniors should visit cbc.edu/apply to start the application process. Contact Admissions at admissions@cbc.edu or (501) 329-6873 with any questions.

CBC Hosts Third Annual Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College hosted its third annual Scholarship Gala on April 2. The black-tie optional event featured keynote speaker Alex Kendrick, and was held at the Conway Expo Center. (See related article on page 1)





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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.

very clear that no one knows the hour of Christ's return... only the Father."

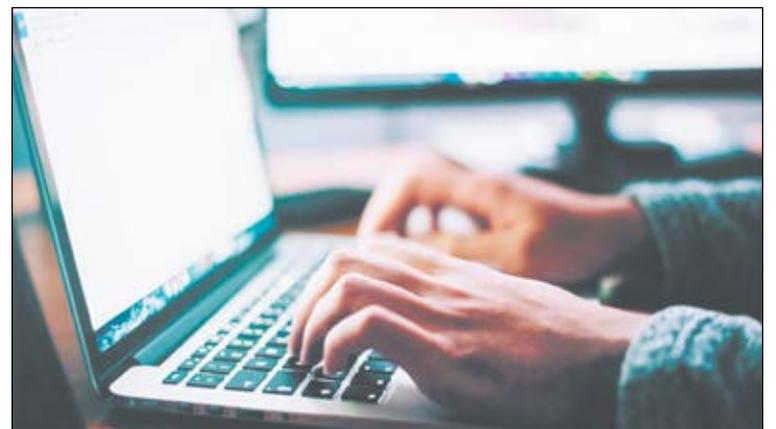
"May I suggest that instead of making statements that make us sound like we have crystal balls, we use Matt. 24:14 — *"This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come."* — as our verse on this subject. If you want Christ to return soon, win people to Jesus! Go into all the world with the good news. Once we tell the whole world about Jesus, then the end will come. Friends, there is no need to try and read the crystal ball of Christ's return. Tell people the only thing you know is that we are one day closer! Only Jesus knows that... and you don't know more than Jesus!"

My goal in this article is not to defend or propose any eschatological viewpoint, but rather to call every church back to God's intended DNA. That means "engaging" in His business until He comes, whenever that might be. May He find you faithful in taking the gospel to as many people as possible in your surrounding geography for which He has made you responsible. In I Thess. 2:2, Paul states, *"As you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition."*

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IN MY OWN WORDS

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Think Before You Type

"The loudest boos always come from the cheapest seats." (Babe Ruth)

The internet has given us a lot of opportunities. One of those "opportunities" that I consider most unfortunate is that of mean-spirited criticism of fellow believers. Whether it is the natural result of access to a platform that allows us to vent or it is the lack of courage that a face-to-face conversation might force us to have, the critics will always have their say online if they don't like what someone else is saying. It's almost like someone with great power and influence somewhere in the internet-sphere has declared it circular firing squad season for followers of Jesus.

You can pretty much get away with calling other Christians anything you'd like — stupid, heretic, retard, God-forsaken — online if they say something that you don't think is biblically sound. All these words are apparently accepted adjectives because I've read all these names on posts. Nothing, it seems, is out of bounds if you are criticizing a Christian whom you believe is out of line in their theology. Remember now, I'm talking about Christians who are **talking about** other Christians, not **talking to** other Christians.

This word of warning to any pastor or Christian leader who might express any idea or concept that could be considered outside the doctrinal mainstream — Duck! You're about to be fired on.

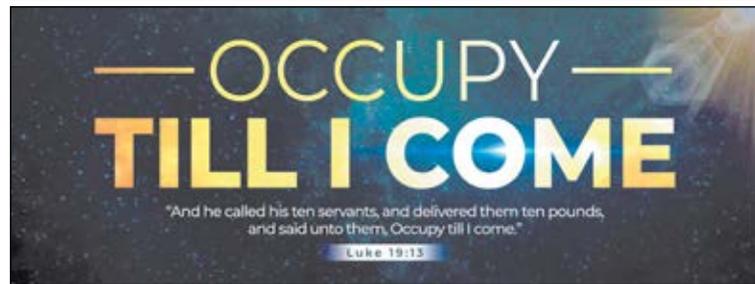
"So, you're just for letting people get away with filling people with unbiblical teachings? We need to call them out!" Okay. I get that. There's a lot of crazy stuff floating around out there. It's not so much what we are saying to one another that bothers me, it's what we are saying about one other. We can disagree with theological concepts and teachings, and we can support solid doctrinal positions without sinking to the lowest common denominator, can't we? The internet is for discussion. The internet is for interaction. We can all learn from one another, but when we disparage the character of people we do not know, people we have never met and people who claim to worship the same Jesus that we do, that is just about as out of line as the false teaching itself.

Here are some things I need to think about if I'm going to take a vigorous stand in public against the teaching of a fellow believer on the internet:

- **Am I being discerning?** Some issues are worth fighting over; some are not. Is there some major doctrinal issue at stake here? Sometimes I just need to scroll on by.
- **What's my goal here?** Am I just wanting to argue? I might need to check my spirit.
- **Is my speech seasoned with love, or am I just lashing out?**
- **What will a lost world think about what I'm about to say?**
- **If someone had access to all my online posts and ramblings, would I want them to address me the way I'm about to address this person?**
- **Should I back up and give this person the benefit of the doubt?**

Scripture has a lot to say about how to correct a fellow believer who is in doctrinal error. Some of those things are really tough, but I would argue that all of those corrections are to be done in the context of a local church, not on the pages of Facebook or Twitter. Internet print has a way of making innocuous written thoughts look nasty and mean, and it can make the person doing the correcting seem like a religious know-it-all. The lost world certainly won't buy what we are selling if that is the vibe we are spreading.

I heard it said one time that "religious fundamentalists always eat their own." Unfortunately, it's been my experience that this statement is almost always right. We can do better. I can do better. Let's all give it a try.



Engage in His Business

"When will the Lord return?" "Are we living in the last days now?" These questions are being asked by many today because of the events going on in our world. In Luke 19, the Scriptures make it clear that Jesus came to "seek and to save" the lost. Then we are given the parable of the 10 servants where we are told to "occupy" until the nobleman returns. In other words, you and I are called to "engage" in His business until He comes, whenever that might be. The focus must continue to be on investing in the harvest by sowing His seed and watering it with every opportunity you have.

I Thessalonians 1 and 2 give us a great balance between working and waiting and what every church's DNA should be. DNA has been described as "Divine Truth" (Embracing the Cross), "Nurturing Relationships" (Experiencing Community) and "Apostolic Mission" (Engaging the Culture). In I Thess. 1:3-4, Paul commends the followers of Christ for their faithful work, loving deeds and enduring hope. He gives us three steps to engaging in God's business. Faithful works is believing in His truth and the power of the gospel. Loving deeds is belonging to a caring community that places others first. Enduring hope is blessing others.

The mission of every scriptural church is to bring the gospel to as many people as possible in their surrounding geography. Are you expanding your influence and impact by being imitators of Christ and by containing everything necessary to replicate New Testament DNA? In I Thess. 1:6-7 Paul commends these followers of the Way for imitating them and the Lord. Paul then states that they had become examples to others in their work of faith, labor of love and endurance of hope. They were not just waiting but were working by being fully engaged in the work into which the Lord calls every follower.

The followers had the right DNA to pass on, but so did the individual churches. In I Thess. 2:14, the churches were imitators of how every church is supposed to be engaged in His business. They were individual imitators, but they were also institutional imita-

tors. Your DNA determines who you are and what you look like, and your church's DNA determines who you are and what you are busy doing. If you look at the churches Paul planted, they all had very striking similarities. There was consistent biblical teaching (I Cor. 7:17), similar structures (Acts 14:23) and directions to do what they had demonstrated (Titus 1:5).

Paul makes it quite clear to them that they should "follow me as I follow Christ." Every church will not look exactly the same, but it should have the same DNA. The church is always referred to as "she" (female) in the Scriptures. When a new church is planted, the sending church is the "mother" of her "daughter" congregation. The daughter will not look exactly like the mother and normally will have her own personality, but she should have the same DNA (Divine Truth, Nurturing Relationships and Apostolic Mission). These churches continue the work the very first churches were involved in by carrying out His Great Commission.

Then in I Thess. 1:9-10, Paul makes the very clear point of working while we are waiting, *"how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son..."* (HCSB). Waiting is defined as sustained patient trust in the One you are waiting upon. It is not wasted time, but rather challenges, every authentic community of followers of Christ to be an expectant community while they are busy engaging in His business. Waiting on the Lord is not passive. It is an active engagement of life's challenges within the revealed will of God as you hope for His deliverance. You must be obedient in doing what He has already told you to do.

Yes, sometimes God says wait and to hit the pause button until you know His direction. Here is a great thought on "occupying" until he comes from a friend of mine. "Just curious... I hear Christians say often, 'we are living in the last days.' I gotta say, that's a huge statement to make and one I frankly don't understand. Y'all realize the disciples who walked with Jesus thought He was coming back during their lifetime? He didn't. The Bible is



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Jasper Becomes Arkansas' 12th Pro-Life City

On March 17, the Jasper City Council adopted a resolution affirming that the community is Pro-Life. Jasper is located near the scenic Buffalo River, and it is the Newton County seat. The Newton County Quorum Court also passed its own Pro-Life Resolution earlier this month.

Last year the Arkansas Legislature enacted 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, 19 counties and 12 cities and towns have passed resolutions affirming that they are Pro-Life:

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

Arkansas has passed some of the strongest pro-life laws of any state in the nation. In light of that, it makes sense that so many communities would vote to affirm that they are Pro-Life. (familycouncil.org)

2021's Most Popular Worship Songs, Sermon Topics

"Build My Life," Pat Barrett's passionate proclamation of holiness and righteousness, was the top worship song of 2021, church technology company Faithlife said in its annual report on March 30.

Concurrently, sermons focused mostly on God, Jesus, love, power, faith and glory, while the top trending Bible passage was Eph. 3:14-21, exploring the "Appreciation of the Mystery" of God's love.

Faithlife, makers of Logos Bible Software, based its report on data from more than 705,000 presentations and 2.7 million songs churches sang together using Faithlife Proclaim Church Presentation Software, and 91,000 sermons posted to Faithlife Sermons.

"The 2021 Faithlife data highlights how church leaders are meeting the needs of their congregants and community in another difficult year," Faithlife CEO Vik Rajagopal said in releasing the data. "The trending preaching topics demonstrate that even as the world navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic, churches delivered God's truth about the hope found in Jesus."

Joining "Build My Life," the top 10 worship songs were, in descending rank:

"Way Maker" by Sinach, which lost its 2020 top spot; "Great Are You Lord" by Sons & Daughters; "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music; "10,000 Reasons" by Matt Redman; "How Great is Our God" by Chris Tomlin; "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship; "This is Amazing Grace" by Phil Wickham; "Graves into Gardens" by Elevation Worship and Brandon Lake; and "In Christ Alone" by Adrienne Camp.

The top 20 songs include several hymns, with "How Great Thou Art" at 13, "Lord I Need You" at 14, "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" ranking 16 and "Cornerstone," 17th on the list.

"The list highlights that hymns are still present in many churches," Faithlife said in a press release, "even if they are sung alongside contemporary songs."

While the top sermon topics were similar to top topics in 2020, Faithlife said several topics gained in popularity in 2021. These include eschatology/resurrection, which was six times more popular; grace, four times more popular, followed by family and children, creation/renewal, philosophy, revival, cults, compromise, persecution and hospitality.

Joining Eph. 3:14-21 as top trending passages are John 17:6-19, when Christ prays for His disciples; John 14:8-21, when Christ answers Philip's request to show the disciples the Father; Peter's Pentecost sermon in Acts 2:14-39, 40-47; and Paul's exhortation to Timothy in II Tim. 2:1-13.

Of the 31,102 verses comprising the Bible, 94% of them — 29,321 — were referred to in at least one sermon uploaded to Faithlife Sermons in 2021, Faithlife said.

A free download of the full 2021 Year-End Song & Sermon Report is available at grow.faithlife.com. (baptistpress.com)

TSA to Allow Passengers To Identify as Gender "X"

The Biden administration announced that airport security will now allow passengers to select their gender as "X," regardless of the gender listed in their passports or other IDs, and Americans will be able to select their gender on their passports without supporting medical documentation.

Beginning this month, pre-check applicants "can select the gender they would like saved" in their records "simply by selecting 'M' or 'F' during the enrollment/renewal process," the Transportation Security Administration said in a statement on Thursday, adding that existing enrollees can change their gender designation by calling a hotline.

"The gender selected does not need to match the gender on supporting documentation, such as birth certificate, passport or state-issued ID," the TSA said. "Changing a gender association in TSA PreCheck will have no effect on

a member's expedited screening when arriving at the TSA checkpoint."

The TSA said it is also working to include, by the end of this year, an "X" gender marker option on its application to ensure the pre-check program "accurately reflects traveler gender and keeps pace with identity documents that offer the "X" gender marker option."

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) also issued a statement, saying the TSA will work with airlines to promote the acceptance of the X gender marker and will revise the guidance for its officers to do away with gender considerations when validating documents. The DHS also said that Americans will be able to select an X gender designation on their passports, starting April 11, without supporting medical documentation.

On March 31, the Biden administration said: "Far too many transgender Americans still face systemic barriers, discrimination and acts of violence. Today, the administration once again condemns the proliferation of dangerous anti-transgender legislative attacks that have been introduced and passed in state legislatures around the country."

Last October, the Biden administration announced the first-ever U.S. passport for citizens who identify as nonbinary or intersex by using the "X" gender marker instead of "M" for male or "F" for female. (christianpost.com)

NCAA Warned to "Stay in Their Lane" after Swim Controversy

Representative Mary Miller (R/Ill.) and other members of Congress threw the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) a life preserver yesterday, writing the embattled organization's president a letter with a stern warning, "if the NCAA is unwilling to protect women, Congress will be forced to take immediate action." The NCAA is drowning in a pool of its own making after allowing a male swimmer to outrace all the females in the women's 500-yard freestyle championship race. Congress is offering the NCAA a chance to do the right thing voluntarily.

The basis of the letter's complaint concerns Title IX, a section of federal law which "prohibits federally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students or employees based on sex." One application of Title IX is that "any university that receives federal funding must ensure equal treatment of the sexes in all areas, including athletics." By allowing males to dominate female athletic competitions, Miller argued, the NCAA has perpetrated "an attack on women and girls' athletic opportunities, which was the whole purpose of Title IX."

Miller said this "grave injustice" is "wildly unpopular among Americans... these are deliberate attacks on the American way of life." The present cultural battle sloshes beyond sports into the very definitions of "man" and "woman."

As an anecdote, Miller told a story about a mother who "has two children in Maryland's schools." The mother was

upset because the elementary schools were "trying to tell the boy that he wants to be a girl and the girl that she wants to be a boy." It sounds like a cruel April Fools' joke, but the villains subjecting young children to this sexual confusion are deadly serious.

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?" said Jesus in Matt. 19:4, quoting from Genesis 1. Scripture clearly teaches that there are two and only two sexes, unchangeable, created by God, the giver of all good things. "If you do away with God, you're just swimming in an abyss of bad ideas," Miller said. That's our culture's problem, Miller asserted. "We kicked God out of everything (or we tried to; we obviously can't kick Him out)."

The secular culture is flinging itself headlong into contradictions about the human body. It respects the physical differences between men and women by creating separate athletic leagues to allow them to compete fairly. But then it violates its own distinctions by accepting anyone's self-identity. Or, at least, one part of the culture is starving itself of reality.

There's another side to this debate, which is pushing back hard. Over 20 lawmakers also introduced a resolution in Congress to recognize Olympic silver medalist Emma Weyant as the real winner, because she was the first woman to finish the race.

State legislatures are running up the score for women's sports. Bills to protect women's sports have exploded, with 99 bills introduced in 2021 and 37 bills already introduced this year in 20 states. Eighteen state legislatures have passed women's sports bills, including

in Utah, where the Republican legislature overrode the governor's veto. Most governors have chosen to sign these bills with broad support, most recently in Oklahoma and Arizona. We're far from the finish line, but national momentum is on the side of those fighting to preserve women's sports. (Family Research Council, frc.org)

Finnish MP Wins On All Charges

A Finnish court has upheld the right to free speech by dismissing all charges against Finnish Parliamentarian Päivi Räsänen and Bishop Juhana Pohjola. In a unanimous ruling, the Helsinki District Court concluded that "it is not for the district court to interpret biblical concepts." The prosecution was ordered to pay more than 60,000 euros in legal costs and has seven days to appeal the ruling.

The former Minister of the Interior had been charged with "hate speech" for sharing her faith-based views on marriage and sexual ethics in a 2019 tweet, a 2019 radio debate and a 2004 pamphlet. Pohjola faced charges for publishing Räsänen's pamphlet for his congregation over 17 years ago. Their case has garnered global media attention this year, as human rights experts voiced concern over the threat this case posed to free speech in Finland.

The high-profile trial received significant attention, particularly after the prosecution attacked core Christian teachings and cross-examined the bishop and Räsänen on their theology in court. The prosecutor began the first day of the trial by arguing that the case was not about beliefs or the Bible. She then proceeded to quote Old Testament

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The Location of The Antichrist's Empire (Part 2)

Why does it matter that we know the location of the empire of the Antichrist? Well, I'm not the best to answer the intent — I just know there is an overwhelming number of passages that pinpoint this final empire of this age. It's amazing that Jesus told His followers 2,000 years ago to be watchful and ready — how much more should we be 2,000 years from that first admonishment. Therefore, we need to know the biblical narrative of the end of the age so we can accurately be watchful and ready.

In part 1 (see the March 30 issue), I touched on a piece of indirect evidence of the identity of the Antichrist's empire — the fact that all the biblical prophets called for judgment on the neighbors of Israel. I believe we'd all agree this wasn't due to their inept geographical knowledge. Therefore, it might be because they are the nations that make up the Antichrist's empire.

In that article, I shared that Daniel 2 and Revelation 17 both reveal the final empire will be a revival of a previous empire and that Revelation 17 is the smoking gun because it presents that the final empire would be the one to follow the Roman Empire. History tells us this is to be the Islamic Caliphate/Ottoman Empire which eventually ruled from Modern Day Turkey.

Scripture itself calls for there to be two to three witnesses, not just the one I shared. That's no problem because nearly all the Biblical prophets could be called to the witness stand for they all paint the picture of an Antichrist arising from the Middle East. Few of the prophets identify the location of this beast empire alone, but rather provide the pieces that, when configured together, parallel Revelation 17. Like the Messianic prophecies throughout the prophets of which Dr. Michael Heiser, in his book *Unseen Realm*, describes as a Mosaic picture: "The pattern in a mosaic often isn't clear up close. It may appear to be just a random assemblage

of pieces. Only when you step back can you see the wondrous whole."

Today we have the completed end of the age mosaic, but God's people haven't always had all the pieces. I believe it's helpful to look at the prophetic evidence in the order to which it was revealed.

Joel is one of the oldest prophetic books. He was warning the people in Judah of the coming invasion of the Assyrians, but as with all the prophets, he warned of an immediate doom, but also an ultimate showdown. We can tell they're pointing to the ultimate end of the age showdown by the context. Often the prophecies of the latter days are coupled with the mention of the Day of the Lord or the Messiah. Most refer to this as an "already" but "not yet" prophecy. My Aussie colleague, Daniel Secomb, calls it pattern prophecy.

In the book of Joel, the focus is on an invasion that will ultimately befall the people of Israel. Immediately, this would be the Assyrians, soon after the Babylonians, but the context is clearly concerning the end of the age. As the Day of the Lord and Messianic language is in the context. Interestingly, in Joel 2:20 an origin of the invading army is given. The invaders are said to be from the north.

The New King James renders the term "northern army" as does most English translations: "But I will remove far from you the northern army and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things" (Joel 2:20 NKJV).

The word army is assumed and rightly so, but the English Standard Version (ESV) follows the original language more directly as well as the singular attributive pronouns that follow: "I will remove the northerner far from you, and drive him into a parched and desolate land, his vanguard into the eastern sea, and his rear guard into the

Revivals

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.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Central Ark. District WMA, April 9, 10 a.m.; Angelyn McMurry (We Are Free), program; Landmark, England.

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

Greenbrier District WMA, April 14, 10 a.m.; lunch will be served; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

western sea; the stench and foul smell of him will rise, for he has done great things" (Joel 2:20 ESV). The ESV's rendering points to the reality that is intended — the one we know as the Antichrist.

So, Joel reveals the Antichrist and his army will come from the north. Now this isn't concluding evidence, but it is helpful in building the mosaic. It's not helpful in the sense that since this is also pattern prophecy — Assyria and Babylon were considered invaders from the north, but it does help pinpoint the location, especially when we find Daniel referring to the Antichrist as the King of the North and Ezekiel says he will come from the "far north." Again, these three witnesses to the northern location aren't helpful alone, but when graphed with insight from Micah and Isaiah they complete the picture. We'll do that in part three.

For now, Joel, Daniel and Ezekiel tell us the Antichrist will rule north of Israel. Present-day options would be Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and eventually Russia, all of which are directly above Jerusalem. One of these nations came up in part 1 from Revelation 17 — modern day Turkey.

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

Spotlight On Missions
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Michael & Laura Beth Strong Minneapolis, Minn.

God has been doing some very exciting things in Minneapolis. We have been able to celebrate as four men came forward with credible professions of faith to be baptized in obedience to the gospel. We have two (possibly three) others who are currently waiting to be baptized as soon as we can secure a baptismal again. We invite you to join us in praising God for His free gift of salvation and the desire at work in those who have come forward to dedicate their lives to following their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also praise God for His gift of answering our prayers to add to the body. We had four other individuals commit to



The four men who were baptized at our Feb. 27 baptism service. (front L/R) Erick, DaVor; (back L/R) Andrew, Dakota.

membership. Six others are in prayer about joining officially at the time of this email. We disciple each new believer through specific core teachings in order to help them begin their lifelong journey of discipleship. A young man who is working with us, Isaiah, is preparing to start the New Believer Bible Studies with each of our baptized men and the four other new members of the church.

We were also able to go on a special spiritual retreat in March. The trip was planned to be a special time of fasting and prayer where the group would seek God to grow us in unity, in doctrine and to request He increase the desire for holiness in us as well as work in us to live out this desire.

Leading up to the trip, all nine men were assigned important basic truths to research and share with the group. Isaiah and I made ourselves available to the men to help those who had need research and put together a short teaching on it. All nine presentations worked out beautifully and we got to witness God work in the time to prepare our hearts for the start of what is to come. The group bonded and had a great time getting to know and serve each other. I can personally attest to leaving with a hunger for holiness and hope for what God will do on the next trip. There was so much growth from the first trip to the second that Isaiah and I ended up praising God for what He had done. All we can ask is, "More, God! More!"

In the coming weeks, we will be working with all of the men to disciple them. We will also be looking to help get a set of basic Bible study tools we can keep at FreedomWorks for the men to use as they commit themselves to the pursuit of Christ in serious Bible study. If you would like to give toward this project, please let me know. FreedomWorks has proven to be a fruitful partner in gospel missions. We have some great plans to serve the men at FreedomWorks in the future, including being a part of two major outreaches in June.

I want to share some exciting news with you. Laura Beth and I are excited to announce God is giving us another precious child! We lost a child right before the twins, so we have been pretty quiet about it because we wanted to wait until we knew for sure we wouldn't lose this little blessing. Laura is now 20 weeks along and all the tests show a healthy baby. Please pray for her during her pregnancy. Thanks for all your prayers to this point.

We have another great need we would like to bring to you for prayer. We are looking to find a place to worship weekly. It would be helpful to have somewhere near the men at FreedomWorks (at least, that is my belief, but God may think otherwise). My prayer is to also have an office where I can meet privately with the men or in smaller groups to serve in the area of counseling. All of our guys are considered vulnerable people, and we want to be able to help them walk through the process of restoration while protecting their privacy. Will you join us in asking God to provide the right place for us to meet, have an office and worship? Will you join us in asking for the provision for that place when we find it?

We have quite a few outreach events coming up in the next few months — Easter Outreach, Salsa Cookoff Outreach, Mother's Day Tea Party Outreach, FreedomWorks June Outreach and Extreme Tour Outreach. This is the most important time of year to connect due to the warmer weather. We are looking for partners to help us take advantage of this time through several strategic opportunities. Will you pray for us? Will you also pray about giving toward at least one of these events? You can also give toward our general fund. Visit the BMA Missions giving page (app.securegive.com/BMAMissions), click "Show All" and then find "Michael Strong." (mike@nnccmpls.com)

FRONT DOOR

(Continued From Page 1)

41% of Protestant churches weren't putting any portion of their worship services online for people to view. By the end of March 2020, within a month of the pandemic, more than 9 in 10 churches provided some type of online video service. Online video options continued throughout the pandemic.

Still, pastors are hoping the 1 in 4 pre-pandemic churchgoers not currently attending services, some of whom may be watching online, will return. Three in 5 pastors (60%) say they're specifically exhorting online worshippers, who are able, to trade their couch for a pew and attend services in person.

Yet, despite this desire, churches have continued digital services. In February 2022, 94% of churches were still posting video worship services online, with 84% live streaming those services and 10% posting sermons later, according to Lifeway Research.

Why? Perhaps because churches have seen tangible benefits of their videos, including ministering to underserved church members, reaching new people online and even adding fresh faces to in-person worship services.

Welcoming People in the New Door

Some churches have experienced increased connections to their shut-ins, often older members who have physical ailments that prevent them from physically attending. Many were active in services for years but were forced away because of their declining health. The addition of online videos has enabled them to stay connected and participate with their congregations in at least a partial way.

Online services have also reached some non-churchgoers. Among those who say they don't regularly attend church services, more than 1 in 4 (26%) participated in an online church service during the pandemic, according to a September 2021 Lifeway Research study. Meaning, unchurched individuals were exposed to worship services for the first time through videos posted online — some of whom may now be showing up in person.

As of early 2022, almost 3 in 4 pastors (74%) say their church has reached new people online in the past six months. Even more pastors (83%) say new people have recently attended or connected in person.

Six Ideas to Move People Through the Traditional Door

For those trying to transition people from online to in person, the looming question is how. How can we motivate those who could physically attend to join us? How can we use the new front door to get people to actually step inside our church building? Try these six ideas:

• **Keep streaming.** It may seem paradoxical to keep doing the very thing some are using instead of attending in person, but many are being reached through the video services who may be on the cusp of joining your church physically. Treat the online worship service as a thread

of connection with those viewers. You shouldn't be looking to sever the thin line, but rather, turn it into a rope that can make the ties thicker.

• **Start creating.** What if, instead of ending your worship service live streams, you added additional content to strengthen the connection with digital participants? Start a podcast to add depth or application to the sermon. Launch a video book club or Bible study. Post FAQ videos on your website (or just create and use a free YouTube or Facebook account for your church). Make quick TikTok devotional videos. Record and share videos about your hobbies and interests — sports, gardening, cooking, hunting, video games, etc. — and weave in references to your faith and your church. Try something!

• **Keep exhorting.** As you continue streaming your services and starting new channels, continue calling those who are able to join you in person. One of the reasons you keep streaming is because that's the one clear avenue through which you can speak to those online-only viewers. Take opportunities during the service to invite those watching to join you next Sunday. Talk about the importance of the "one-another" commands in the Scripture and how we can't obey them in isolation. Stress the need of every follower of Jesus to walk together with others.

• **Leverage opportunities.** Some online churchgoers have gotten in the habit of being viewers of and not participants in your worship services. It may take something different and unique to pull them up off their couches and out of their Sunday morning pajamas. With warm weather arriving, plan for a churchwide picnic or another outdoor event that may feel safer for some who are hesitant to come to an indoor service. Talk about Easter as a time when everyone in the church can come together in person to worship our risen Savior. Look at potential events you can host or use to make a physical connection with digital viewers.

• **Be gracious.** As some make the transition to in-person attending, take the opportunity to welcome them, not shame them. The goal is to integrate them into your church body. That's more likely to happen if they feel well-loved and like welcomed members of the family, not embarrassing distant relatives. Don't single out those who are new or back for the first time in years with an awkward greeting from the stage, but make sure your congregation knows to intentionally seek out those individuals and make them feel at home.

• **Strengthen the connections.** As they move into the rows of the worship service, help them eventually move into the circles of a small group. Speak about the need for group discipleship from the pulpit. Introduce small group leaders during the service. Make it a seamless transition for someone to move from watching online to attending in-person to being involved in a small group.

As people are introduced to your church through the new front door of video, continue keeping the old front

GALA

(Continued From Page 1)

The highlight of the evening was Alex Kendrick, who shared his amazing story on the founding of Sherwood Pictures. Kendrick shared many stories of how God has worked in his life as a writer and director. Throughout the night, he encouraged the audience in many ways. "We must fight for the hearts and minds of the next generations to love the Lord, to know the Lord and to make truth the foundation of education, which comes from God's Word." In his closing comments, he reminded us to live the life of Jer. 29:13: "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

After the keynote speaker, the CBC Fine Arts department provided the entertainment. The CBC Band was led by Dr. Danielle Hodges. The band performed "Havana Nights" featuring soloists Jarett Maxwell, Jeremiah Dodson and Emily Owen and "Such Small Things," featuring soloist Abigail Weihe. The CBC Choir, under the direction of Jim Turner, sang "Daniel, Servant of the Lord," featuring soloists Caleb Allen and A.J. Woodraska. The piano used in the performance was provided by Steinway Piano Gallery of Little Rock.

After his closing comments, President Kimbrow asked the choir to sing one more song — "Courageous Faith." Words were written by Christine Harris, wife of the late David Harris, a CBC alumnus, and Assistant Professor of Music Jim Turner composed the music.

In his announcement of the total that had been raised through this event for student scholarships, President Kimbrow acknowledged 65 event sponsors and many additional individuals and businesses who made contributions toward the total. "I am beyond grateful for the generosity of so many," said President Kimbrow. "The Central Baptist College Board of Trustees, businesses, not only in Conway, but across the state of Arkansas, and other individuals who are such faithful supporters of Central Baptist College all came together to make this an unforgettable night for the support of Christian Higher Education."

Contributions are still being accepted. To contribute, visit cbc.edu/gala and complete the online giving form. Checks may be mailed to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72034 with "2022 Scholarship Gala" on the memo line of the check. For more information, contact Director of Alumni and Public Relations Jessica Faulkner at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8800.

door open to digital-first guests and all those whom God draws to your congregation.

—Aaron Earls is the online editor for LifewayResearch.com. Lifeway Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches. You can access the original article at research.lifeway.com/2022/03/28/the-new-front-door-to-your-church.

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PAUL WHITE
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An Arkansas Kind of Welcome

Last week, the Springdale area was hit with some severe weather. Having not one, but two of our new missionaries in that area, I called and was relieved that, although the storms were close by, neither Roberto nor Clinton received any damage. Clinton said his family spent some time seeking shelter in the bathtub and that their electricity was off for a while. As for Roberto, (who just got moved in from Texas) after finding out all was ok, I said, “Welcome to Arkansas, where if you don’t like the weather just stick around a few hours.”

Please keep all our missionary families in your prayers. It is my prayer that all our churches and families fared as well.

What’s Special About Special Emphasis?

In years past, our Association decided to allow each of our departments to set aside a time each year to attempt to strengthen and help bring stability to their area of ministry by asking our churches to take up a special offering above and beyond their general support. We are very happy that, over the years, our people have rallied to this challenge. Each year, the directors are given the task of coming up with a need or needs and an amount to help cover the cost of these so they will be able to hopefully increase their effectiveness or at least maintain it.

For instance, the *Baptist Trumpet* is currently involved in their Special Emphasis time. I cannot imagine not having the *Trumpet* coming each week to keep our people informed on all the ministries of the BMA. The *Trumpet* is vital to State Missions as well as the other departments of the state. Please give as liberally as possible. All the funds received are directed back into your state work. It’s your money being invested in your ministries. Central Baptist College, Youth Department, *Trumpet* and Missions have their being in your generosity.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “Last Monday, we had the biannual meeting with the Advisory Committee. It was a pleasure to talk about the work in North Little Rock and pray with these men of God. God bless the ministry of each brother, their lives and their families.

“Tuesday and Thursday, a nurse came to the house to give me the infusions recommended by the doctor. It was a hard week for me as the medication drained my energy and caused a severe headache until Friday afternoon. However, God is doing the work in my body and I no longer need the walker to walk. I don’t walk like I used to, but I am moving forward. Now I can go up and down the steps of the atrium without the help of another person, and I only support myself on the pulpit. I thank God for helping me in this situation. Thank you for your prayers for my health.

“During the announcements at our Sunday meeting, we reported on what was raised last weekend for the playground construction project—\$1,302. We thank God for that provision. In preaching, I continued our series of studies on Proverbs by looking at chapter 17. The large number of practical applications for daily life that Proverbs provides is very interesting. I hope the

church is taking advantage of it.

“God bless you, and thank you for your prayers.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “In the Berean Groups (groups in homes), we continue to preach the Word of God. I ask you to pray for the southwest Little Rock group so that it can be activated again. Our desire for this year is that we will have two new groups. Each group has a different community life, but something in common with each group is that we share our life and the Word of God.

“Last Saturday, we attended Leslie’s funeral. She was the young lady who died in a car accident at the age of 31 and left behind four children. Pray for the Garzona family for peace that only God can give and comfort.

“Sunday, we began a series of sermons that have to do with the cross, its message and its impact on each disciple. Each sermon lays the groundwork for the final theme—the victory of Christ Jesus in the resurrection. Our resurrection service will be at 6 in the morning, followed by breakfast for fellowship time.

“Thank you very much for supporting the missions. To God be the glory!”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “On Monday of this week, I went to Little Rock to give my biannual report to the Missionary Advisory Committee and State

Missions Director Paul White.

“While I was waiting, I visited with Jeff and Allan in the *Trumpet* offices. We had a very nice visit. They do so much to help and support not only the missionaries, but also the churches and people in our association.

“Then I gave my report, and every member of the committee was so supportive and genuinely concerned with how we and the mission are doing. We spent a great deal of time in the meeting in prayer.

“After my meeting, I got to meet Brian, our newest missionary, and talked with him for a while. I also got to see a couple of the other missionaries—Clinton and Ruben—and visit with them. I also talked to Roberto, our other new missionary. I had met him previously in Dallas. I am telling you all of this to let you know that the other missionaries and I are truly blessed to have the support of this association. These men you have elected serve the association, and I hope you realize just how important they are to all of our ministries, and to yours too. They are sincere and serious about the work they have been given to do. May God truly bless them.

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

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, “Monday was crazy, between the driving and the community group at the house. The report to the Missions Committee went well. Thanks to all the people that showed up. Thanks also to my sending pastor, Andy Neal who attended the meeting.

“We had 28 at our community event, and 3 new people showed up. Sam stepped in and met with my Mormon contacts. (I’m so thankful to be able to hand off outreach like this.)

“Thursday was nine hours of discipleship—for some reason, this seems to be a great day for these kinds of meetings. I’m glad Drew has been able to step in to lighten the load. The micro meetings were on Friday, we had a meet-up for a birthday party for one of our core families.

“Saturday was helping one of the community members do an event at their house in Bella Vista, and I met a few first-time people. There is a need for this type of church and outreach in Bella Vista. I am praying that God

MISSIONS (Continued From Page 1)

funds or correct conditions. As we are taught correctly and biblically and understand that Jesus commands us to go, so we will go!

For us, this country is a battlefield where we fight daily to win souls for Christ. We are focused on church planting and developing a relational and logistical support network.

Demographic statistics show that the population is moving to the cities and getting bigger, while rural life is decreasing. We believe this is where we should put the greatest emphasis and ask, “Where are the people?”

Paul shows us how strategic his mission was—the cities of Berea, Athens and Corinth, as well as Caesarea, Ephesus and Jerusalem, among others, were the center of his operations. Thus the phrase in Acts 19:20, “*After I have been there, I must also visit Rome.*” They show us Paul’s intentionality. He knew Rome was the center of the known world at that time, so he should go there.

Jesus also tells us: “*Don’t you say: ‘There are still four months to go, and then the harvest comes?’ Behold, I say to you: lift up your eyes and see the fields that are already white for harvest.*” (John 4:36). The time is now. The cities are ready today. People are, more than ever, in an avalanche of uncertainty, and the gospel needs to be preached more than ever!

Where We Want to Go

Our national planting project is primarily focused on the largest American cities. Our missionaries carry a double purpose—develop a church and start a leadership development program or Bible institute as soon as possible to send workers, multiply ministry and develop networks of mutual support.

Our task begins with training and recruiting missionaries with a catalyst mindset, continuing with mentoring, proper training and the development of growth and sending strategies to continue church multiplication.

This will result in the organization of local associations of Hispanic churches that support missions together with the BMAA and can have fellowship and support each other. I have been a witness to this associa-

will send me next year to reach them.

“Drew preached on Sunday. I have been working with him on the nuts and bolts, and it’s so exciting to see the work paying off. We are getting ready for Easter as a church. There is an event planned for the Saturday before Easter.”

Faith Journey, Benton/Hot Springs Area: Bryan Clay writes, “God is great all the time! After a month of searching and following God’s direction, we were able to meet with the owners of a potential meeting site in Benton.

“God showed His faithfulness toward us, and we were able to secure

tion, and I’m on the board of directors organized by the Hispanic Baptist Association of Mississippi and recently the Hispanic Baptist Association of Arkansas.

The Support We Need

Christian and non-Christian organizations see Latinos as the future of church growth in North America, and we want the BMAA to have a more active part in this area as well. Would you join us for the future today? We are promoting three areas for planting churches—prayer, connection and financial support. We encourage you to be involved at all levels.

If you want more information on how to be involved, please contact me at (662) 587-2148 or elvis@bmaam.com.

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

Bible verses and criticize the phrase “love the sinner, hate the sin.” In their closing statement, the prosecution alleged that the use of the word “sin” can be “harmful” and called for heavy fines in the event of a guilty verdict.

Räsänen’s defense, supported by the legal advocacy organization Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) International, argued that finding Räsänen guilty would significantly damage free speech in Finland. What Räsänen said, they argued, was an expression of Christian teaching. The court recognized that while some may object to Räsänen’s statements, “there must be an overriding social reason for interfering with and restricting freedom of expression.” The court concluded there was no such justification.

On both days of the trial, crowds gathered outside the Helsinki courthouse to express their support for the politician and the bishop. In Hungary, over 3,000 people gathered in front of the Finnish Embassy in Budapest to demonstrate against the charges before the closing arguments were heard.

Räsänen has served as a Finnish Member of Parliament since 1995. From 2004-2015 she was chair of the Christian Democrats and from 2011-2015 she was the Minister of the Interior. During this time, she held responsibility for church affairs in Finland. (adffmedia.org)

this place. We feel it will be a perfect place to build the foundation of Faith Journey Mission. The building is an event center located in Benton called The Cabin 3H. It is used to host various events such as weddings, showers and reunions. The owners are Christ-focused, mission-minded and eager to help see our mission succeed in advancing the kingdom of God.

“We will begin to work out the details in the next few weeks on when to meet and what those meetings will look like. It is an exciting time for us. Please continue to pray for God’s guidance as we begin this process. Where God guides, He provides!”



Master's Builders at Daniel Springs Encampment

By Nelda Malone, Reporter

On March 14, The Master's Builders began their 175th job in Gary, Texas. Jason Prewitt, camp director at Daniel Springs Encampment, had a few projects that the Builders could help with — Daniel Dorm, their event center, needed some more room in the kitchen and bathroom areas. The event center has been such a blessing to the camp. The kitchen and bathrooms on the west side of the building were extended into unused space, giving them more room for use with larger groups.

The men also added eight RV electric hookups and three water spickets to the outside wall on the west side of Daniel Dorm. This will allow people with campers to use the event facilities at Daniel Dorm.

The Summer Staff Break Room, which was built in 2020 by The Master's Builders, was converted into a Staff Residence for Morgan Sandifer. The men added a bathroom/closet to the 18' x 24' building, which already had a kitchen, washer/dryer and appliances.

While at Daniel Springs, the Master's Builders had the opportunity to hear more about the work called "Kingdom Kids" in Haiti from Holly Greer who mentors and cares for her "street kids." Joy and love overflowed from Holly as she talked about her kids there!

You can follow the work of The Master's Builders on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo). Rose Bittner does a wonderful job keeping our posts up-to-date!

Thank you to all our men and women who work with this ministry — to all who have gone before us and the ones God will provide for the future. To God be the glory!

If you have questions about this ministry, or if your church has building needs, please contact Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675, Mike Green at (972) 935-3877 or David Axe at (903) 918-0720.

HOMECOMINGS

Haynes, Haynes, April 24, 10 a.m.; Don Lewis (message); potluck and singing; Don Lewis, pastor.

164th Homecoming at Center Grove, Cord, June 12, 10:30 a.m.; Jeff Herring (message); lunch/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.



Bobby Lewis Robbins, Jr., 70 of Greenbrier, passed away March 31. He was a member of Springhill Baptist Church.

Billie Allen, 87 of Connell's Point, passed away March 28. She was a member of County Line Baptist Church in Marvell.

Jimmy Howard Davidson, 85 of Plumerville, passed away March 28. He was a deacon of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Gene D. Clements, 77 of Malvern, passed away March 26. He was a member of South Main Baptist church.



First, Buckner welcomed two by letter; Andy Hawkins, pastor.

Grace, Russellville added one by letter and one by baptism; Roger Pearce, pastor.

Liberty, Stamps received one by letter; Adam Rogers, pastor.

Little River, Manilla rejoices over sixteen baptisms since last report; Jeff Knowlton, pastor.

Park Place, Bryant welcomed one by letter, one by statement, and one by baptism.

Pinecrest, Fordyce gained one by letter; Evert Smith, pastor.

Prospect, Jonesboro reports two by letter; Mike Book, pastor.

Victory, Gentry witnessed two by baptism.

Victory, Hampton received one by baptism; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

Check Out The Trumpet Archives At baptisttrumpet.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Ark. District WMA, April 9, 10 a.m.; Angelyn McMurry (We Are Free), program; 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.; Spring Lake, Texas-

kana; Angelyn McMurry (We Are Free), program; Randy Shepherd, message.

Greenbrier District WMA, April 14, 10 a.m.; lunch will be served; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

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

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

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.

Lifeward 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.

The Power of Connecting

Help us continue to be your ministry connection!

Special Emphasis 2022

March & April

Baptist Trumpet Day is April 24













Goal: \$45,000

For deficit reduction, software improvements and website upgrades