

BAPTIST TRUMPET

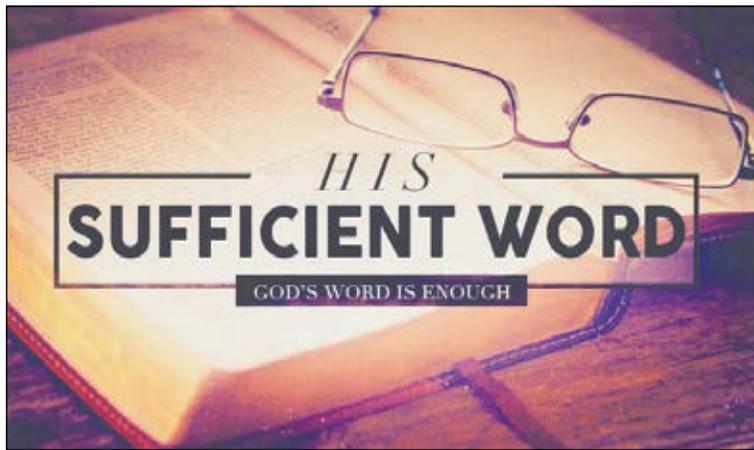
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The Sufficiency of Scripture

By Nathan Brewer, Lead Pastor • Grace Harbor Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Jason Goodwin and I rarely have an interaction where I don't end up laughing hysterically by the time the conversation ends. His passion and intensity have brought about many moments of laughter between us, but as we gathered for the BMA of America

meeting in Springfield, Mo. in April, God used these traits to grip our hearts for the seriousness and sufficiency of God's Word.

Within minutes of him stepping off the stage, I tracked down Jason and was intent to have a serious and heartfelt conversation with him. I expressed my gratitude for his bold and clear sermon from II Peter 1.

I want to take some time here to share three immediate responses I had following the message he preached at the national meeting:

• **Always be prepared to defend the sufficiency of God's Word.** During and since Jason's sermon, I have found myself asking "Would I be ready to preach or defend the sufficiency of Scripture on a whim?" I think this is a profoundly important and relevant question for us as preachers to be able to confidently answer in the affirmative. Due to the illness of the scheduled speaker, Jason was asked mere days before the meeting to bring this message. This led me to really evaluate how firm I am in my conviction and familiarity with the subject of the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Clif beautifully set up on night one that II Tim. 4:3 is no mere theoretical musing of Paul, but a reality that we are experiencing at an alarming rate today. Then Jason challenged via II Peter 1 that we ought to have a firm conviction in

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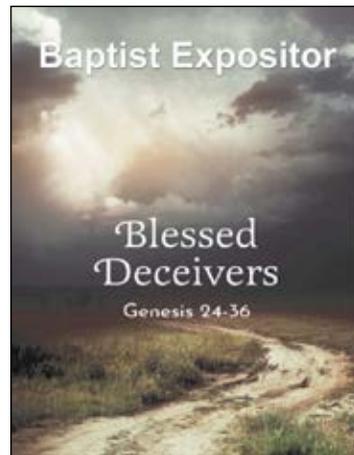
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MOVING with Ministers and Staff

This is only a news column, and the publishing of a person's availability should not be considered a recommendation by the Trumpet. To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at www.BaptistTrumpet.com.

Captain Smead has resigned as worship leader at Zion Baptist Church in Fordyce effective May 29.



"Blessed Deceivers"

By Jordan Tew, Executive Director Baptist Publishing House

Is God faithful despite my sin? That's a question we would all love to have answered, because none of us are sinless. The truth is that God is faithful to His people, even when they sin against Him. What a wonderful truth!

This summer's quarter of the *Baptist Expositor* is titled "Blessed Deceivers" and will be an in-depth study of Genesis 24-36. This unit is part three of four in our series on Genesis. It emphasizes a great deal of deception by Isaac, Jacob, Laban, Rachel, Simeon and Levi. However, despite their acts of deception, we particularly see Isaac and Jacob's faith progressively increasing and God remaining faithful to His covenant promises.

Through this study, you will see Isaac and Jacob's increasing faith and understand that God remains faithful to His covenant promises regardless of man's deception and failures. This study was written by Dr. Philip Attebery, Ryan Burchett, Dr. David Hellwig and Jordan Tew.

You may place your order at baptistpublishinghouse.com or by calling (800) 333-1442. The summer quarter begins Sunday, June 5.



Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship

Good Soil Evangelism And Discipleship Conference

By Eliezer B. Semedo, North American Church Planting Assistant BMAA Missions

Do you remember the parable of the sower? What were the different types of soil? After sharing the parable, Jesus later explained to the disciples: "When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one sown along the path. And the one sown on rocky ground — this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. But he has no root and is short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away. Now the one sown among the thorns — this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But the one sown on the good ground — this is one who bears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown" (Matt. 13:18-23 CSB).

Have you ever thought about this parable and the lessons we can learn about the different types of soils and how they apply to our overall evangelism process? Could you identify these different types of "soil" in your circle of influence? Have you struggled with presenting the gospel in a way that listeners truly understand the message? Would you be interested in learning more about an approach called

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SUMMER 2022 update	
JUNE 6 - 9 STAND FIRM CAMP IN WEST TEXAS**	JULY 6 - 9 PRE-TEEN CAMP 2
JUNE 12 - 15 STUDENT CAMP 1 (NEW THIS YEAR)	JULY 10 - 13 ARK-LA-TEX CAMP 1
JUNE 15 - 18 GMA NATIONAL CAMP	JULY 13 - 16 ARK-LA-TEX CAMP 2
JUNE 15 - 18 PRE-TEEN CAMP 1	JULY 17 - 20 STUDENT CAMP 2
JUNE 19 - 22 COMBO CAMP 1	JULY 21 - 23 COLLEGE CAMP (NEW THIS YEAR)
JUNE 22 - 25 COMBO CAMP 2	

Daniel Springs Releases Summer Schedule

By Jason Prewitt, Camp Director

We are so excited about the summer camp schedule (see above) and all the great camps that are going to take place. There are a few highlights to note:

- The first camp of the summer (June 6-9) will not take place on the Daniel Springs campus. Instead, we will be taking our team to West Texas to staff the Stand Firm Camp.
- Two camps have been added to the summer schedule — a student camp June 12-15 and a college-age camp July 21-23.
- You will also see that Pre-Teen Camp 1 and GMA National Camp have the same dates. Yes, they are at the same time, but will be held on two different sides of the campus so we can separate the two very distinct camps.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (903) 685-2433 or info@danielspringscamp.com. You can also find more information about each camp by visiting danielspringscamp.com and clicking on the "Camp Schedule" link. We are looking forward to hosting your group and seeing how God is going to change lives.



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Terry Kimbrow
President



Baseball

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 3** — The American Midwest Conference (AMC) announced the 2022 all-conference selections for baseball and CBC made history in the process. The Mustangs earned six all-conference and one gold glove selection while earning Player of the Year (**Jay French**) for the first time and Freshman of the Year (**Logan Easterling**) for the second straight season. **Austin Teal** also earned first-team honors, and **Ruben Hernandez** earned first-team honors at designated hitter. **Garon Johnson** was selected as a second-team pitcher. **Wille Baez** earned second-team honors for the second year in a row. **Slayton Holland** earned the pitcher's gold glove this season, the Mustangs' lone recipient.

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 3** — Opening play in the AMC tournament, CBC played the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) at CarShield Field. CBC (26-27) would defeat HLGU (12-32) 9-2 to advance before falling 9-8 to William Woods (30-13) in their second game, causing them to fall into the loser's bracket. **Logan Easterling** made history by homering in both games, giving him the most ever in a single season by a catcher, breaking the record previously held by **Austin Kuchinski**.

• **O'Fallon, Mo., May 4** — Looking to avoid elimination and continue their season, CBC took on the Eagles of Williams Baptist University (WBU) in an elimination game in the AMC tournament at CarShield Field. CBC (27-27) pounded out 12 hits and scored 10 runs in a 10-5 win over WBU (26-30).

• **O'Fallon, Mo., May 5** — Looking to avoid elimination, CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist (MBU) at CarShield Field in the semifinals of the AMC tournament. CBC (27-28) kept it close early, but couldn't keep up offensively, falling to MBU (25-22) by the score of 17-3. **Jay French** had another big day, clubbing two home runs to give him 10 on the season and becoming the new single-season hits leader with 86, eclipsing Jalin Lawson's 84 hits back in 2016.

Softball

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 3** — The AMC announced their postseason softball awards, and five CBC Mustangs were among the selections. Three Mustangs were selected to the first team and two were selected to the second team. **Averie Ayers**, **Savannah Sanford** and **Katie Smith** all earned a first-team selection while **Lauren Anderson** and **Kirstie Blackwood** both earned second-team nods and **Heather Hoffman** was selected as the Champion of Character. It was the first selection to the all-conference

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The Long Ride of Ministry

Over the past few months, I have picked up a new activity — bicycling. Northwest Arkansas is full of trails so, in theory, it should be easy to get out there and exercise. While not always easy, it has been fun. However, this past weekend, I overdid it. It is easy to do. When you ride out and then back, it is easy to think, "What is another mile or two? It won't be that hard." All I can really say is that mistakes were made. We completed 30 miles, but I was completely done when we made it back. My riding buddies did much better. They are a couple of years younger than this old man and are in better shape. I did make it back though.



Why do I share about my crazy biking adventure? I share it because of how it parallels our lives in ministry. With proper training and motivation, you can go on for the long haul. Without those things, you may or may not make it to the end. The shorter rides helped carry me to 20 miles, but the last 10 were only possible because of the people I had with me. In the end, I still had to crawl into my house when I got back home; but I didn't quit.

Over the years, I have seen too many men quit the long ride of ministry. They have stepped away because it got too hard. My heart breaks for them and the potential of how God was going to use them. How do we keep going and make it to the end of the ride? After 30 years of ministry, here are a few ideas I have on the subject:

• **Train.** A long ride on a bicycle is only possible when you train. You can desire to go the distance all you want, but if you don't spend time with the shorter rides, the long ones become impossible. For those in ministry, training comes in two forms. There is the educational route of seminary and Bible college. There is also the route of internships and residencies. If you have a heart for ministry, take the time to train. Learn as much as you can. It will take you farther in your ministry. If you want to support those heading into ministry, help them get that training. Provide tuition for their educational endeavors and provide opportunities for those new to ministry to serve and learn under an experienced pastor.

• **Have encouragers in your life.** We all need someone beside us cheering us on when times get tough. At about mile 20, my brother started saying, "Only 10 more left, you can do it." He even gave me some key advice as we approached a downhill and uphill section that would have been problematic given our distance in the ride. Friends and mentors can make all the difference as we seek to honor God in the long ride of ministry.

• **Understand your purpose.** As I rode along, I started wondering why I was even out there. I had my phone and my debit card. I seriously considered calling an Uber and bailing. While I am too cheap to spend money on an Uber, I definitely considered calling for a pick-up from someone. What helped me keep going was the knowledge that I need to get in better shape because the pandemic was not kind to me as I ate too much and moved too little. If you understand your purpose, you can accomplish much. I serve my church and God's people to bring Him honor. Obedience drives me as I seek to fulfill God's purpose for my life. I want to keep going for His sake.

Ministry can be tough. It can feel like a long ride you didn't prepare for well enough, but that doesn't change its importance. Ministers, spend time prepping for your ride. Church members, pray and support the ministers in your life so they will be able to complete the long ride and accomplish all that God has for them.

team for each of these young ladies.

• **Columbia, Mo., May 3** — **Averie Ayers** tossed a no-hitter for CBC to help the Mustangs stave off elimination from the AMC tournament at Battle High School. CBC (25-19) got put into the loser's bracket by William Woods (21-21), losing 7-1 in the first game before Ayers' no-hitter sent CBC on in the tournament and eliminated Williams Baptist (20-28).

• **Columbia, Mo., May 4** — Fight-

ing to stave off elimination, CBC took on Missouri Baptist University (MBU) in an elimination game in the AMC tournament at the Antimi Softball Complex. CBC (25-20) fought hard, but ultimately was eliminated on a walk-off home run, losing 3-2 to MBU (24-17).

Men's Golf

• **Mountain Home, May 3** — See SPORTS, Page 3



President's Awards recipients: (L/R) Chris Mitchell, Frank Lee, Dr. Rachel Scott, Dr. Kateryna Pitchford, Jerry Dowdy and Austin Reitz. Not Pictured: Jessica Faulkner.

Employees Honored at 2022 Employee Appreciation and Awards Luncheon

Central Baptist College honored faculty and staff for their service at the annual Employee Appreciation and Awards Luncheon on Friday, May 6. Below is a list of employees who were honored:

- **30 years of service** — Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister;
- **15 years of service** — Assistant Professor of Communications/Chair of Communication Department Ann Gardner and Assistant Professor of Missions Dr. John David Smith;
- **10 years of service** — Associate Vice President for Student Services Chris Mitchell, Administrative Assistant to the President Peggy Pillow and Director of Development Amy Reed;
- **5 years of service** — Director of Church Relations/Assistant Baseball Coach Duffy Guyton, Sports Information Director Erik Holth, Dining Services Sous Chef Bobby Jeffers, Assistant Professor of Accounting Heather Solano and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Amber Strain;
- **3 years of service** — Director of Physical Plant Byron Baker, Assistant Professor of English/Chair of Literature & Language Arts Department Traci Caldwell, Business Office Analyst Dana Dowdy, Director of Information Technology Jerry Dowdy, Director of Soccer Lance Gordon, Financial Aid Counselor Heather Harrison and Assistant Professor of Education Carolyn Weaver.

Five individuals were selected for the President's Awards. The recipients were: **Director of Information Technology Jerry Dowdy** for Loyalty, **Assistant Baseball Coach Frank Lee** for Dedication, **Computer Technician Austin Reitz** for Behind the Scenes, **Dr. Associate Professor of Business Kateryna Pitchford** for Professionalism and **Director of Alumni & Public Relations Jessica Faulkner** for Excellence.

Two other awards were handed out at the luncheon. The CARE (Creating a Rare Experience) Award went to **Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Rachel Scott** for her work in benefitting the employees, students and visitors of CBC. The Fred Award was presented to Chris Mitchell for his exemplification of the four principles of being a Fred — making a difference each day, having a heart for people, changing ordinary moments into memorable ones and leading by example.

2022 Outstanding Faculty Awards were presented by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister. Director of PACE & Online Studies/PACE Department Chair Steve Elder received the Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award and Director of Bands & Orchestra/Fine Arts Department Chair/Education Placement Coordinator Dr. Danielle Hodges received the Outstanding Faculty Award.

The 2022 Employee of the Year award was also announced. Nominated by letter or e-mail to the president, the employee was required to meet the following criteria: loyalty to the institution, demonstration of a good work ethic, positive attitude toward fellow workers and students and professionalism. The award went to Director of Physical Plant Byron Baker.



2022 Employee of the Year Byron Baker with President Terry Kimbrow.

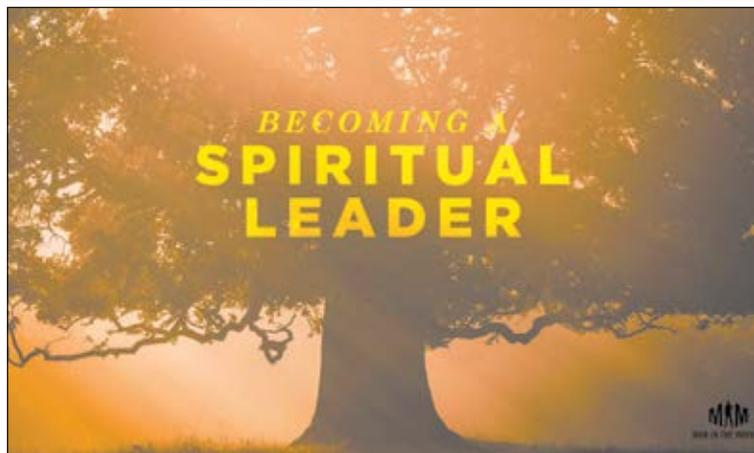


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Leading is Not About Winning

Spiritual leadership is careful to do not to adopt an “us versus them” mentality. Leadership commonly makes decisions by majority rule more than consensus. Having the majority means if you agree with us, we win; and if you disagree with us, you lose. The majority means that 51% approve the 100% decision, but consensus seeks 80% to agree with the 100%. This requires a constant revolution of collaboration. The goal is Holy Spirit confirmation that you and those you lead are all on the same page. Consensus requires much more time, energy and communication, but it is worth the investment.

Leadership is not about winning, but being willing to listen to constructive criticism. To be honest, I did not receive any kind of criticism well when I first began the ministry. The temptation is to take everything personally, and it is difficult not to do so. There is a huge difference between a critical eye and a critical spirit. You will have to learn how to discern which one is being expressed, then navigate them. You might say, “consider the source,” but that can sound a little arrogant and seems to imply an unwillingness to listen to their input. A better approach is to determine within yourself to not be defined by criticism.

Leadership is not about winning but being willing to discuss different opinions. When people ask questions, that does not mean they are against it but often that they need more information. The more questions you can answer up front, the more consensus you will have when making decisions. Make conversation great again and remember to keep your convictions but always practice charity. Talk it out and have the hard conversations that must take place to move forward. The local church has everything it needs to help navigate disagreement if you follow the biblical principles given for conflict resolution.

Leadership is not about winning but moving forward with those with

whom God has called you to live on mission. Opposition is real and hard to endure, but quite often it is the two or three, not the vast majority. The ones there are on board, and you need to run with them. It is unrealistic to expect everyone to agree, and you need to focus on staying on course, keeping your head down and listening to the Lord more than those who do have a critical spirit. “*Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts*” (1 Thess. 2:4). You cannot allow opposition to God’s mission to keep you from His mission.

Leadership is not winning, but rather being willing to honestly evaluate your present spiritual health. In the medical field, prescription without diagnosis is considered malpractice. That is why you need people at the table who are processors because they will think through the details, will be cautious and desire to not get ahead of the Lord. You need initiators because they are looking for ways to make the dream reality and always planning the next four steps. You need the challengers because they are willing to challenge the concept not the person, and you need the supporters because they love vision and innovation.

Leadership is not winning but walking the path of leading change. John Kotter suggests these eight steps to transformation:

- **Establishing a sense of urgency.** You need to know what needs to be changed and why it needs to be changed.
- **Form a powerful guiding coalition.** You need to consider who needs to be at the table that represents every group in your church.
- **Create a vision.** Where there is no vision, the people will find something to “cherish” that may not be in line with God’s vision for your church.
- **Communicate the vision.** Cast the vision, and when you are tired of casting the vision, cast it again. Use every vehicle you can to clearly show

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

Entering the final round 15 shots off the lead, CBC looked to climb out of sixth place in the AMC championship at the Big Creek Golf & Country Club. CBC would close with a final round 314 to finish with a total of 631, 25 shots behind the eventual winners. Individually, **Jakub Slapal** closed with an even par 72 to finish with a total of 150 in sixth overall, four shots behind the winner. **Travis Toebben** closed with an 80 to finish at 159, **Surapat Pareepart**, who was named the AMC Newcomer of the Year, closed with an 81 and a total of 161 and **Anupon Wandee** shot an 86 for a 156 while **Emmanuel LaBeur**, who didn’t play the first round, also shot an 81.

Women’s Golf

• **Eugene, Mo., May 9** — CBC teed off in the first round of the AMC Championship at the Redfield Golf Course. CBC is in third place after the first round after shooting a 388, 61 shots behind the leaders from Columbia. Individually, **Alyssa Hage-wood** paced the Mustangs with an opening-round 95 to put her in tie for 12th. **Abby Kirby** was two shots behind Hage-wood after firing a 97 and both **Keeley Bulza** and **Brooklyn Adcock** shot 98s in the opening round.

Track & Field

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 6** — The 2022 AMC Outdoor Track & Field Championships was held at Spartan Field on the campus of Missouri Baptist University. **Ally Swaim** qualified in two events and will run both hurdles events, meaning she has a chance to be a four-time conference champion.

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 7** — With final events scheduled, CBC had four athletes competing in six events. Two athletes, **Ally Swaim** and **Josh Brown**, medaled while Swaim earned even higher recognition as well. Swaim was named the Outstanding Women’s Track Athlete of the Year.

the direction and the strategies.

• **Empower others to act on the vision.** You either improve it or you simply approve it. Do not just inform but also give permission to your team to carry out the vision.

• **Plan for and create short-term wins.** You cannot accomplish it all at once, and you must decide what needs to be done that will challenge your team but also is realistic.

• **Consolidate improvements and produce more change.** Credibility gives you the momentum to make necessary changes to keep you on mission.

• **Make the new approaches and systems the norm.** Leading change is never easy, but it is possible when you have a plan like Kotter’s eight steps.

Leading is not winning but focuses you on what really matters — obedience to God’s mission and vision for your church. If you are not careful, you can make the simple complex and the

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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Thanking Our Mentors

Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week across the land. I know there are many various appreciation weeks, but that one is special because our daughter is a teacher. However, there also needs to be a Mentor Appreciation time. It doesn’t have to be a particular day or week of any particular month. It can be any day!

• **Mentors often do not realize their contributions.**

A mentor is someone who becomes either intentionally or unintentionally a trusted advisor or instructor who shares his or her experience with someone less experienced. I believe, in many circumstances, that person does not seek to be a mentor, but because of trust by another, he or she is sought out for advice. What may begin as a one-time question may very well end up being a lifelong relationship.

• **Mentors help shape the lives and journeys of others.** I was blessed to have three particular mentors in my life. The first was my dad, Jesse Mitchell. I learned so much from him about how to treat other people, not be prejudiced and work hard at whatever I undertake. The things he taught me about construction are still with me today.

The second was my pastor during my teen years, Paul L. Bearfield. Under his ministry, I answered the call to preach the gospel. He never tried to make me be like him, but showed me the importance of being myself as a minister of the gospel. As he did that, I found myself being more like him than ever expected. He taught me how to love people, care about their needs and preach the Word unashamedly and boldly.

The third was my coach, Dick Hays. From him, I learned to work with others to accomplish a common goal. Being undersized, I learned from him to have confidence in my abilities, even if they were limited. I learned much about coaching, which I was able to do for many years as a part of my community ministry. Coach taught me so much about sports, but also so much about life.

Today all three of these mentors are in Heaven. While each had a different influence on me, they each taught me spiritual truths — often while not realizing they were doing so. I am forever grateful to each of them. But here’s the issue — I never took time to thank them for the impacts they made on my life.

• **Mentors are found in every walk of life.** Almost everyone who reads this had mentors who made tremendous impacts that helped pave the paths that have been taken. However, we often do not consider the spiritual mentors that have been in our lives. Just think of the pastors who have guided you through the Word of God. Recall the Sunday School teachers who were before you week by week. And although the time may have been brief, recall the VBS teachers who made learning fun. Youth pastors and music ministers have affected the spiritual lives of those who follow Christ. Then there are parents — those who have cared about their children’s spiritual futures more than anyone else.

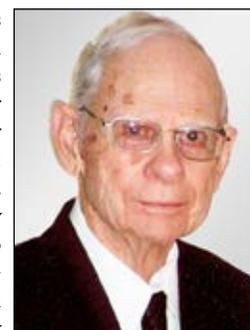
While discipleship in the Bible rarely was one-on-one, mentorship usually is. Spiritual mentors are spiritual disciplers. They are often impacting lives either intentionally or unintentionally, and they follow a biblical instruction from one who was constantly mentoring — the apostle Paul. He simply laid out this formula: “*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ,*” (1 Cor. 11:1). That is how mentorship works!

• **Mentors deserve to be thanked.** It is one thing to know you’ve had a good mentor; it is quite another to let that person know that you are grateful. Years ago, I began thinking about how a certain person had affected my ministry. So I got out paper and pen and sent a short note, expressing my gratitude for that impact. A few days later, I received a thank you note that read: “Thank you for your kind words. On a day when I was feeling very low, your words of gratitude picked me up.” It was signed, “C.O. Strong.” I learned much through that exchange, and it is because of it that I am writing this today. Mentors deserve to be thanked, and I believe they will appreciate it. But this one urging — do so before it is too late.

Paul said: “*I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teaching, just as I passed them on to you*” (1 Cor. 11:2). Thanking our mentors is truly a gracious act that benefits both parties.

complex then becomes overwhelming. Your church is not the destination, it is the distribution center. This needs to be verbalized because language helps in changing the culture. Your mission statement is the external words that

send people out. Your vision statement is the internal words that draw people into a cause they are passionate about. Leadership is not about winning but about inspiring, informing, equipping and mobilizing.



The late C.O. Strong.



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Recent Polls Show Americans are Pro-Life on Abortion

“70% of Americans support a woman’s right to choose.” It’s a false stat that has been debunked for years but that hasn’t stopped the liberal media, Democrat politicians and abortion activists from repeating the lie this week in the wake of a draft of a Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

So what do Americans really think about abortion? The answer is simple. For decades, a majority of Americans have taken a pro-life position wanting all or more abortions made illegal.

In the 1990s, polling data showed approximately 55% of Americans opposed all or most abortions. Yes, Americans support exceptions — such as abortion in cases of rape or incest or when the life of the mother is in danger. But those cases constitute less than 2% of all abortions, as 98% of abortions are cases when abortion is used as birth control.

Since that time, little has changed as poll after poll after poll has found anywhere from 50-60% of Americans still want all or most abortions made illegal. Here is a list of several major polls in recent years confirming this to be true:

- May 2022: A Fox News poll found Americans are pro-life on a 54-44% margin and majorities want abortions banned after either 6 weeks or 15 weeks.

- January 2022: A Marist poll found 71% of Americans want abortions to be made illegal or for more limits to be placed on them, all essentially supporting overturning *Roe*.

- September 2021: A new Rasmussen poll shows Americans support the Texas abortion ban to save babies from abortion by a 46-43% margin.

- June 2021: Gallup found 52% of Americans take a pro-life position on abortion wanting all (19%) or almost all 33% of abortions made illegal.

- January 2021: A Marist Poll found a majority of Americans are pro-life and oppose all or virtually all abortions that take place in America today. When asked, 51% of Americans take a pro-life position with 12% of Americans saying abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance, 11% of Americans say abortions should only be permitted to save the life of the mother and 28% of Americans take a pro-life position opposing 98% of abortions except in cases of rape or incest or if necessary to save the life of the mother.

- December 2021: A Harvard-Harris poll found 32% of Americans want to repeal *Roe v. Wade* entirely and another 24% of Americans believe the Supreme Court should uphold the Mississippi abortion ban at issue in the recent Supreme Court case, which bans abortions on unborn babies up to 15 weeks. That’s 56% of Americans who are for overturning completely or setting the abortion limit at 15 weeks, which can be done by overturning *Roe*.

- July 2020: Gallup found 55% of Americans take a pro-life position on abortion wanting all (21%) or almost all 39% of abortions made illegal.

- June 2020: A CBS poll found

just 43% of Americans think abortions should be generally available while 55% of Americans say it should either be more limited or should not be permitted altogether.

- January 2020: Gallup found that 58% of Americans oppose abortion on demand.

- May 2019: A new Hill-HarrisX survey found that 55% of voters support laws banning abortions after six weeks — when an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable.

- June 2019: A Morning Consult poll found that 61% of Americans want all or almost all abortions made illegal. (lifeneews.com)

Barna: Kids Will Be What They See

“Kids these days” are shaped by watching their parents. That’s the takeaway from the Cultural Research Center (CRC) at Arizona Christian University’s latest survey. “Young children are watching their parents. They’re listening to their parents, and they’re trying to put those two things together,” said George Barna, CRC Director and FRC Senior Research Fellow for the Center for Biblical Worldview. “The problem is, they’re seeing a contradiction between word and deed. The conclusion we discovered that children draw is, “What a shame. My parents seem as confused as I am. So this faith they’re talking about must not have the answers.”

The statistics are appalling. Among American parents of children under age 13, only 2% have a biblical worldview, and even among self-identified born-again Christians, the number is only 8%. “Between 15 to 18 months of age is when most children start forming their worldview,” explained Barna on Washington Watch. “By the age of 13, it’s almost completely in place.” Barna’s

worldview research discerns the presence of a biblical worldview with questions about biblical inerrancy, the character of God, the life of Christ, absolute moral truth and salvation by faith.

Just because parents aren’t consciously building their children’s worldview doesn’t mean one isn’t forming. “A child needs a worldview, so if we don’t help them develop it, somebody else will.” Barna’s research found “four major influences on worldview”: public schools, media, arts and entertainment, and “the laws of the land... because that’s what teaches us right from wrong partly.”

So, if a biblical worldview isn’t dominant, what is? “More than 9 out of 10 parents of preteens (94%) have a syncretistic worldview — a grab bag of beliefs and behaviors taken from a variety of philosophies of life,” said Barna. “Most parents mix some biblical ideals with... Marxism to Eastern mysticism and everything in between.” Throw in a little Marxism there, a bit of Eastern mysticism there, season generously with nationalism, stir in a dollop of post-modernism and garnish with secular environmentalism — and parents have concocted for their own worldview and their children’s a witch’s brew more poisonous than nutritious. God does not accept syncretistic worship (Exod. 34:14).

Part of the problem is the teaching in churches, neither equipping children with a biblical worldview nor empowering parents to do so. “We’re telling them Bible stories, but not teaching them biblical truths,” lamented Perkins. Instead of teaching the Bible and worshiping God, Barna added, churches are busy measuring

the “numbers of people showing up.” Sure, a brief, flashy performance might draw a crowd for now, but if churches neglect the core distinctives of Christianity, why should anyone bother even showing up for the long haul? If church becomes merely a forum for social interaction, families may as well spend their Sunday on the lake, at a cookout, or at the ballpark.

Community outreach is fine, even necessary; but churches can’t stop there. Perkins shared his own childhood experience in an unchurched home and then attending Vacation Bible School. He came for the cookies and stayed for eternal life. “I’m grateful that the church I was in... taught the Scripture, and so I developed that biblical worldview.” The church didn’t just teach Tony; his whole family was saved as a result. “I can recall my dad reading *Our Daily Bread* and the Bible,” Perkins continued. “I saw the Bible was important to him, so it became important to me.”

FRC President Tony Perkins asked Barna about the prospect for parents who lack a solid biblical foundation being able to instill one in their children, “How can you teach what you don’t have?” Barna responded that an “outsourcing approach to parenting” is not the solution, even if it is “the chief parenting strategy of most young parents today.” Hiring teachers, coaches, tutors and pastors is risky, because who knows what behaviors they’re going to model? No, the responsibility lies squarely on parents.

“George and I are not giving our opinion,” said Perkins. “It’s God’s Word. He’s the one that says parents are responsible for teaching their kids. So I

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THE GLUE OF OUR ASSOCIATION

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

The first value statement of BMA Global Missions states: Motivated by the Mission of God - The Mission of God is defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God expressed in the expansion of His kingdom (missions) to all peoples, it is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

The Mission of God is that transcendent reality of His nature that is all about His love and glory to the nations. The eternal, triune God is both the source and the example of love and communication. He did not HAVE to create us in order to experience love and communication, He had that from eternity past within Himself (Trinity). He did choose to create, and He manifests His nature in love and communication to His creation in both word and deed. His redemptive plan, through His eternal Son Jesus Christ, was established before the foundation of the world because He is a gracious, merciful, and personal God . . . this is who He is . . . His nature.

He is also a God of perfect holiness, and we are thankful that he is a propitious God. At no point in eternity past or in space and time did God all of a sudden become a missionary God and begin to promote His mission. An element of His eternal nature is His mission.

We are motivated by the mission of God, which includes his glory to the nations, his redemptive plan, and the ultimate destiny of all things (worship).

The Mission of God must be our identity, meaning it gives us our "why."

Why do we exist and why do we do the things we do? Mission! God's glory and love to the world provides us with our "what."

We are to go and proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to all people groups, which gives us our "how."

We are to make disciple makers out of the unengaged, unreached, and undisciplined, which gives us our "where" and in this sense, where we are going in terms of ultimate destiny. Mission is all about the ultimate and eternal worship

of God around his throne by the redeemed from every language, tongue, and nation.

The legitimacy of our association will be found in a synergistic cooperation to a unifying mission undergirded by like-minded beliefs and values under the watchful eye of biblical accountability. The glue of our association is our commitment



to the Mission of God. Synergistic cooperation, like-minded beliefs, values, and biblical accountability are all necessary, but the unifying mission is the strength and fuel of our association.

May God's love be known to the nations and may His name be famous among all peoples as we stay unrelentingly focused on the Mission of God, that part of His nature that defines us, directs us, and drives us as His people.



MOTIVATED TO CARE

BY: Jonathan Montgomery
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org



This ministry of care has made a difference in the lives of BMA missionaries since it began several years ago under the leadership of Jerry Kidd, a legacy missionary and former director. He was assisted by Sarah Hebert Hamilton whose experiences as a missionary to the Philippines burdened her to encourage missionaries. They coordinated several regional conferences for BMA missionaries to worship, fellowship, and encourage each other. Attendees still tell stories of their impact.

Conferences are a central part of Missionary Care's ministry efforts. A mini-conference was offered in the fall of 2020 to missionaries who were stateside and unable to return to their fields due to pandemic travel restrictions. An online soul care conference was produced at the Global Missions Center in Conway to be shared this spring with missionaries on the field. Using conferences to connect missionaries through worship and fellowship remains a goal of Missionary Care.

In addition, Missionary Care provides other essential services for our global workers like counseling, coaching, and prayer support. We offer assistance during each missionary's deputation period, departure, and furlough but also their permanent return to the States. During this reentry process, we offer debriefing and counseling to process their experiences and prepare for a healthy transition.

We are developing procedures to help missionary kids prepare for college during their senior years if they choose to return to America. If families have a specific need, we connect them with trained professionals. Whether it is helping with a vehicle during furlough or connecting them with a midwife to deliver their child in remote regions, we work hard to meet needs.

During the pandemic, BMA Missions provided a new level of care. A team was assembled to check on missionaries weekly and ensure their safety and well-being. An Asia-Pacific missionary heard from a missionary colleague serving with another sending agency that he felt alone during the pandemic because no one reached out. The BMA missionary shared that this was not the case for her family because Missions office personnel and churches remained in contact, making them feel loved and valued. Testimonials like this remind us that Missionary Care makes a difference in their ministries.

We are motivated to support and care for our missionaries who work tirelessly to proclaim the gospel and advance God's kingdom. They are passionate about making God's glory and love known to the world and the reason our churches are faithful to support, encourage, and pray for them.

May we all be motivated by God's mission.

BMA Missions and its missionaries and churches share one common goal: Make God's glory and love known to every tribe, tongue, and nation. It's the heart of our association and the focus of our first value statement:

We are motivated by the Mission of God.

Making him know to all peoples wherever they are in the world is our passion. Some live in far corners of the world in isolated villages where Jesus' name hasn't been heard. Others live in urban areas, planting churches that reach both local peoples and international expats with the gospel. Every missionary's ministry is different, but individuals and families serving the BMA share a zeal for proclaiming the good news.

Another shared characteristic is our caring support of missionaries as they navigate the good and bad days of ministry. The heart and focus of Missionary Care is to come alongside our missionaries with the aid, encouragement, and support necessary to carry out God's Mission.

Missionary Care also prepares, equips, and ministers to BMA missionaries so they can be fruitful in both life and ministry. This vital ministry exists to serve our missionaries as they serve others. We're invested in caring for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs because they have invested in caring for the needs of others. Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith describes our care team as "missionary medics" to those serving on the front lines.

OPEN DOORS AND CHURCH PLANTS

BY: Dr. Ralph Izard
BMMI Director
bmamissions.org

Baptist Medical Missions International is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economical, geographic, or disaster reasons.

BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their communities. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than just a few pills. We want them to leave with hope, the kind that comes from knowing Christ.

During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

Hear from BMA Missionaries Stan and Donna Scroggins about how BMMI has impacted their lives both as volunteers serving with medical missions and also as missionaries on the field:

“We always knew how important Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was to the local people who received medical care through this ministry. Stan and I started traveling with BMMI back in the 1990s. As a nurse, I relished using my skills alongside doctors and other medical professionals to provide care otherwise unreachable to the desperately poor around the world.

“Not until we began serving as full-time missionaries in the Philippines did I understand how important BMMI would be to us as BMAA international missionaries.

“Living in the Philippines has afforded us opportunities to be part of

teams in Vietnam and Cambodia, which opened doors for ministry, but it has been joining the teams in the Philippines that has meant the most.

“First it was in Northern Luzon where Missionary Fil Kakilala works with a ChangeMaker missionary planting a church. While part of that team we met an American Filipino who was born and raised on the island of Leyte. She asked us to check on her village of Tigbagwan in the mountains around the city of Maasin. That was four years ago, and now there is a vital mission church in that village.

“Then in 2019 a team came to work directly with us here in Talisay City, Philippines. Well, let me just say that is when the real impact of BMMI’s work became real to us. First, since we live in Talisay City we dreamed of starting a church in our little Jerusalem. BMMI set up a clinic right in our little village and guess what? That village captain is now such a good friend that he allows us to have complete freedom bringing the gospel to his people. This allowed us to take a group of students from BMA Bible College to do outreach there. It was during this time that the village captain accepted Christ and wanted his entire family to be saved also.

“Second, the BMMI team traveled to our mountain ministry in Ahgu to work with Missionary Church Planter Kevin Berayo. Because of this, Kevin has now started his third mission in that region.

“Not only does BMMI bless those desperately in need of medical care but also the hearts of missionaries. God uniquely places a love in the hearts of missionaries for the people He sends them to reach. That love for our dear Filipinos has been the biggest effect of the ministry of BMMI to us personally. Nothing has brought us greater joy than hosting BMMI teams to love on our dear Filipinos.



“In a time when travel is so difficult, when countries are in lockdown, when funding is limited, BMMI still moves on, breaking down the hindering walls and bringing the love of Christ to all peoples of the world and to BMA missionaries as well.”

Stan and Donna Scroggins



MORE GROUNDBREAKING FOR LIFEWORD

BY: Donny Parrish
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Lifeworld Executive Directors Harold Morris, A.R. Reddin, and Paul Bearfield, Sr. were incredible visionaries in their time, remaining on the cutting edge of technology throughout their tenures. Now deceased, they could hardly have imagined where that technology would take the media ministry.

Bro. George Reddin, who served as Lifeworld executive director from 1986 to 2011, had the foresight to lead the association to purchase what is now the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision for the studio part of the building was a media production center for audio and video content. Instead, the area originally intended for video production was used as a warehouse for both BMA Missions and Lifeworld.

Through the years, however, the world became increasingly video centric with more and more shows and other projects produced from a small studio. In 2017 Lifeworld moved into Internet ministry, which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeworld's audio production studio to be used for video.

Thousands of video content hours were shot in that small production area. Millions of hours of Lifeworld video content have been consumed on the Cloud and social media pages. As the need for video content increased, more studio space became increasingly important until finally there was no more production room.

Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is humbling that the Lord allows Lifeworld to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all nations and to play a role as 'the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language' prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeworld recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities. After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it was originally intended: a video production area. This studio expansion allows Lifeworld four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeworld," Executive Director Donny Parrish says. "The expansion of our television suite will give us four to five times more production floor space than we have now. We need this room to produce more video content to reach more people, and at the same time, this will allow our sister ministry, BMMI, to have more room for shoebox efforts."

This expansion is a huge leap of faith for Lifeworld. Please pray that God will provide the resources to complete this project and use the content produced to make His name more famous around the world!



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

• **BMAA National Meeting** — A young man I have been discipling and working with, Isaiah, completed his assessment and was approved by the churches of the BMAA to join me as an intern (officially) beginning in June. We are working on a plan to focus our discipleship time together to invest in him while working together to invest in our community making disciples. He will learn biblical exegesis, core theology, homiletics and general leadership skills. We hope to have a robust internship program that multiplies well-equipped, spiritually mature ministers, especially in the area of church planting. I am praying and looking for additional interns to serve and be assessed for a season before being referred to my mission's organization for assessment. This is the same path Isaiah traveled.

God is opening doors to cross-cultural borders and giving me opportunities to invest in myself in brothers and sisters who may not be like me or speak English. I am overjoyed at this opportunity and hope to seek God in serving them well and giving them whatever He has for them to equip and encourage them as they invest their lives in others for the glory of God. I desire to see a truly multicultural, international community worship and serve together weekly in our church planting work. I have also made it known I desire to train up and send out bilingual pastors into the Twin Cities metro to reach the nations with the gospel.

• **Ministry Growth and Expansion** — Laura and some of the kids were able to serve the women and children of Healing House the day before Easter. Laura led the women and children through two books to share the hope of the gospel. The first is called *The Story of Easter* and is geared toward babies and toddlers. The second book is *The BIG Picture Interactive Bible Stories in 5 Minutes*. She taught the story "Jesus Saves His People" which tells of Jesus' last days on earth and how the Son of God rescued His people from sin. She then led them through some activities pointing to what happened in the death and resurrection of Christ. This was an awesome opportunity to love our neighbors in a ministry that helps people we are called to serve as well as to disciple our children in what it looks like to be a follower of Christ. Laura has been able to get approval from management at Healing House to begin leading a Bible Study for the women beginning in July. She plans to begin teaching the material in the recent BPH Titus study guide, though that may change.

We have also been preparing to add new disciple micro group (3-4 people) Bible Studies. In the meantime, we are seeing new faces attend our study groups. We are praying for them and sharing the hope of the gospel. We are also inviting those who hunger to be disciplined to join us as we commit to investing our lives in them.

Since our last update, we had another young man commit to membership. We are working through some important details prior to completing the process but hope to see this formally happen soon. We do still have a couple of women who desire to be baptized in accordance with Jesus' command and their response of faith. We are trying to find a place with a baptismal or pool to host the service.

Two of our daughters are gathering people to start their Bible Studies. We are helping them learn how to plan, organize, prepare and administer studies. This includes creating a formal plan that includes a budget. We hope this will equip them for future ministry fruitfulness within the church wherever God calls them. We may be doing the same thing in a slightly modified way for one of our sons, John, who has a similar interest.

As I add interns, I hope to focus my time in a new way, leading to more personalized time with each of our people and special blocks of time praying for them. I will be developing faithful men into leaders and looking to see our women developed into the same by my wife and other women called to this work in the coming months. We have a great hope to see the fulfillment of Titus 2 in our church plants.

For more information on this ministry, contact Bro. Michael and request to be included on his email newsletter list. (brothermike@nncmpls.com)

SCRIPTURE

(Continued From Page 1)

and make a faithful practice of teaching God's Word. Brothers and sisters, the time to be confident and learned in the sufficiency of God's Word is now. On a whim, you very likely will need to be prepared to both defend this truth and to encourage others with this truth who may be doubting and struggling. May we be confident, may we be prepared and may we show grace with those who God allows us to disciple.

• **God's Word is actually sufficient.**

The other thought that has dominated my mind is the result of conviction of the Holy Spirit in my own life — God's Word is **actually** sufficient. What I mean by that is that the sufficiency of Scripture is more than a doctrinal affirmation. It certainly is not less than something that must be affirmed, but it is certainly more than that. It is something that must shape my own life as a Christ-follower, husband, father and pastor. It is something that must at times, wake me early in the morning and keep me up late into the night.

If I verbally and intellectually affirm sufficiency, yet fail to allow it to be what shapes my activity in each of these spheres in life, do I really believe it? Is sufficiency something on our websites but not in our pulpits? Is this something you find yourself evaluating and maybe sensing some deficiency in? If so, be confident that God will graciously and mercifully supply you with a hunger for His Word if you'll ask Him to give it. He is patient, He is kind and He stands ready to give you an unquenchable hunger for His Word. May we believe sufficiency not only in word, but in deed.

• **God's Word a more certain word than my own experience.** The final thing I want to share is actually a point that comes from the text itself. In II Peter 1:16-21, Peter is recalling his first-hand experience with what we refer to as the transfiguration. Peter was there and he was not only an eyewitness to this appearing, but an eyewitness to the majesty of God. This seems to be (and is) a very reliable and definitive first-hand account. These kinds of accounts are invaluable and often are great validation for testimony. In fact, you often see those with this kind of first-hand exposure insist that it's true because "I saw it and I was there." We know Peter saw it and was there, but he takes the opportunity later in his life to affirm an even greater and more certain reality — the sufficiency of the written Word of God. He follows this affirmation up then with an exhortation: "you will do well to pay attention (to the prophetic Word of Scripture)."

These three things I have listed are not necessarily linear, but cyclical — always be prepared to defend the sufficiency of God's Word because God's Word is actually sufficient and is a better word than my own experience so I must always be prepared to defend God's Word because it is actually sufficient and is a better word than my own experience. We all know how



Richard Smith Recognized For Kellar Award

The BMA Seminary's Board of Trustees chose Pastor Richard Smith (MAR '95) to receive the BMA Seminary's distinguished Kellar Award for 2022.

Originally from Oklahoma, Smith earned the AA degree from Jacksonville College and a BA degree from East Texas Baptist University before earning his graduate degree in religious education from BMA Seminary.

He has ministered in five Texas churches, with his current service being more than 29 years as lead pastor for the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie.

Bro. Smith has also served the BMA as president of ABS college ministry, BMA of Ellis Hill, BMA of Texas and the BMA of America.

He and his wife, Kim have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

The Kellar Award was created to honor seminary graduates whose ministries typify that of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary. Kellar served as president from 1956-1967. He was instrumental in organizing the BMA of America and served as president of each BMA institution of higher learning.



Bethlehem, Greenbrier welcomed two by baptism; Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor.

Calvary, Stamps added one by letter; Kenneth Bobo, interim pastor.

Herman, Bono added two by baptism and five by letter; Randy Stimack, pastor.

Immanuel, Nashville added three by letter; Glen Green, interim pastor.

Little River, Manilla rejoiced over seven by baptism since last report; Jeff Knowlton, pastor.

Spring Lake, Texarkana reports one by letter; Randy Shepherd, pastor.

First, Mantachi, Miss. added one by letter; David Long, pastor.

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prevalent it is for ourselves and those around us to trust and be guided by our own experiences rather than the more sure and full Word of Scriptures. May we be convinced and may the Spirit guide us in those moments is the more fully confirmed Word of God.



Greenbrier District Men's Fellowship, May 14, 8 a.m.; Mt. Olive, Guy.



Beacon Baptist Church in Gravette is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Roy Key at (470) 787-5373 or send a resume to rkeycabinets@yahoo.com.

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.

West Park Baptist Church in Ozark is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to P.O. Box 541, Ozark, Ark. 72949 or pastorharold@att.net.

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



Future Headlines, The Rise of the Antichrist

Don't tell anyone, but one of my favorite movie franchises is "Back to the Future." Of course, that's fitting for a foil-hat-wearing-prophecy guy. I've seen the movies several times, well except for the third movie — I'm not necessarily a fan. When I think of the remarkableness of Bible prophecy, I'm often taken to "Back to the Future 2," where future Biff gets a sports almanac from the future and returns to the past to then bet on the sporting events in which he already knew the winners. He could bet with confidence because he had a book that told the future. Sounds familiar, right? He knew future headlines in the sports section of the newspaper. In that same way, through the Bible, we can know future headlines — especially those in geopolitics.

I apologize for spending the past five issues sharing Biblical evidence of the location of the Antichrist, but I wanted the amount of consistent evidence within Scripture to be seen. Along with a large amount of evidence on the location of the Antichrist's empire, there is also a large amount of evidence as to how the empire and the Antichrist will rise to power. Knowing how Scripture tells of this final empire's rise gives us future headlines to expect and watch to appear.

I begin in a few familiar places within Scripture. The first is King Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream in Daniel 2. Here the Lord revealed a timeline of empires that would rule over the land of Babylon from that moment until the establishment of the Messiah's Kingdom (the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom). The divisions of this statue reveal a succession of empires, and there are five divisions. The fifth division represents the empire of the Antichrist. What's fascinating is that this fifth empire is shown to be a revival of the fourth:

"Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron — for iron breaks

and smashes everything — and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay" (Dan. 2:40-43 NIV).

Notice the fourth division is called an empire of iron, while the fifth is a mix of iron and clay. This points to elements of the final empire being the same as the previous. Unfortunately, this fourth empire is not identified in the book of Daniel, but it is in the book of Revelation: *"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. 17:10-13).

In Revelation 17, the Apostle John recounts this vision of a seven-headed beast. He's told the seven heads represent God-opposing empires that ruled over or will rule over Jerusalem. John is living in the sixth kingdom (Rome), but one would come after it. Notice like in Daniel 2, the final kingdom (the eighth) would be the same as the seventh. From the evidence of previous articles, the seventh empire was the Ottoman Empire which ruled modern-day Turkey from 1453 to 1922. The empire was dissolved after World War I and was divided up into other nations. And yes, that does sound eerily similar to Daniel 2.

We also see this idea of the Antichrist's kingdom having existed, going away and then returning in Revelation 13, where we read about a vision of

GSED

(Continued From Page 1)

Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship (GSED)?

One of the distinctive features of the GSED evangelistic approach is that it uses "the Bible's redemptive story, from Genesis through Revelation, allowing the participant to have his/her own 'aha' moments as mysteries of the Bible are progressively revealed through the study."

This evangelistic Bible study could be used in a one-on-one setting or in small groups. It is possible to present God's redemptive story in as few as 15 minutes or as long as 20 or more hours. The Story of Hope (GSED booklet) includes a study of 40 Bible events (20 Old Testament and 20 New Testament). In summary, Good Soil is a great "no pressure" way for non-Christian participants to clearly understand the gospel so they can sincerely embrace Jesus as Savior. It is also a helpful tool to teach God's redemptive plan to believers. (To learn more, visit: goodsoil.com/about.)

This summer, BMA Missions and the GSED team will be offering this amazing training in Conway. The Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship training will take place on Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For those who want to get certified to train others, there will be an additional day of training on Saturday, June 4.

This is a great tool for pastors, church leaders, Sunday School teachers or any believer who wants to learn an exceptional evangelistic tool. The cost of the training is \$80 per person. Each participant will receive the Good Soil workbook, *The Story of Hope* booklet, *The Way of Joy* booklet, the *Gaining Ground* book and *Truly Evangelistic Church* book.

For all the details and to register, go to form.jotform.com/221013656534045 or use scan the QR code above. Seats are limited, and registration will end on May 20. For more information, contact me at eli@bmaam.com or (501) 455-4977.

two beasts. They are representative of the Antichrist and False Prophet, but there is also a possibility that in the description of the first beast (the Antichrist) we get a mix of a description of the king, as well as the kingdom:

"...I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name... One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed" (Rev. 13:1-3).

This beast has the same description as the one in Revelation 17. They both have seven heads and ten horns. Notice one of the heads is wounded and comes back to life. This is often understood to refer to the Antichrist himself being wounded and coming back to life. It likely could be, but it would be scripturally consistent if this



Fundraiser Banquet For We Are FREE

By Kelly Williams

Pastor Ken Williams of First Baptist Church in McNeil has challenged our church to Extravagant Generosity in 2022. The goal is to give away at least \$100,000 this year to missions and other organizations. Bro. Ken has established a Mustard Seed Fund, which members have given in honor or memory of someone, and those funds are used to pay for any fundraising costs incurred so that all the money raised goes directly to the ministry. As part of this challenge, we are hosting a fundraiser for the We Are FREE organization on June 14 at First Baptist Church McNeil's gymnasium at 6 p.m. We Are Free has served 14 clients in the last 16 months.

We Are FREE is located in Southwest Arkansas, and I volunteer there on a weekly basis. I have a burden to raise \$40,000 to pay for a van that will be used to transport the ladies to counseling and doctors' visits, as well as to church on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

There is no cost to attend the banquet. All donations will go directly to We Are FREE. For more information, please contact me at kelgirl0805@gmail.com or (214) 534-9875.

It Worked For Us

Reports for this column should be sent to editor@baptisttrumpet.com or P.O. Box 192208 Little Rock, Ark. 72219



Extravagant Generosity

By Ken Williams, Pastor • First Baptist Church, McNeil

The vision at First Baptist Church, McNeil for 2022 is Extravagant Generosity \$100,000. We are trusting God to use us to give away \$100,000 this year. That is more than twice what we have given in modern times and perhaps ever given to missions. Let me just cut to the bottom line — we are at \$70,000 and it is April 25. Will you say "amen" with us?

I hesitated, in fact was very nervous, about setting that goal, and now it looks as if that were way too small of a goal. One of the things that has been very successful is our Missions Revival. I invited five different men to represent five different ministries, and we fundraised and received offerings for these five ministries. We sold 200 hamburgers at our local festival and at church to raise \$2,000, then received offerings of over \$10,000 for a grand total of \$12,500 to be divided between the five ministries — Mickeal Quillman (missionary to Zambia, Africa), Rocky Goodwin (Evangelistic International Ministries) and the three local pastors to preached were asked to select a ministry to which we could contribute. Eric Goble of Brister Baptist Church selected Lifeword, Ron Owen of Antioch East Baptist Church selected ABS in Magnolia and Dustin Wisely of First Baptist Church in Magnolia selected Arkansas State Missions.

Their churches were a big help in both attendance and in the offerings. Ron Owen led our singing and did a phenomenal job. We had a great offering, a great revival and one 12-year-old young man was saved. Amen!

referred to this final empire having been "wounded" and coming back.

Regardless, if Revelation 13 refers to the Antichrist or his kingdom, Scripture is clear that the modern-day, Turkey-led empire would exist and then go away. We've seen that happen a hundred years ago. Scripture is also clear that it will return.

Therefore, a future headline we should expect is that the former Ottoman Empire would be revived. The

Ottoman Empire was also known as the Islamic Caliphate or Islamic State. Therefore, like Biff betting on sporting events in "Back to the Future," we can go all-in betting we will see future headlines that there is a desire to revive and rebuild the Islamic Caliphate or Islamic State. We should expect that the Ottoman Empire will return.

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

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
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PAUL WHITE
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Fresh Air

I am happy to announce that the grip of COVID is beginning to loosen. Lately, the attitude of people is beginning to change for the good. It has been a long nearly two and half years but, thank the Lord, we seem to be pulling out of it and the difference is beginning to be seen in your mission works across the state.

I have noticed a change in the countenance of our men as they are beginning to see some fruit for their labors. They have worked through maybe the worst time in our lifetime to be in ministry and have remained faithful to their call. Please remember to pray for them as they continue to be your mouth and legs across the state, carrying the precious message of Christ. Read their reports as they share God's blessings with you.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Saturday, Mariandree Ramirez, a girl from our congregation, graduated Magna Cum Laude as a nutritionist at UCA. It was gratifying to participate in her graduation ceremony and celebrate with her and her family. We congratulate Mariandree. She is an example of effort and dedication.

"On Sunday, the men and young women who are not mothers lionized the mothers of our congregation. We cooked, gave each one a rose and served them at the tables. In addition, the children and adults sang songs alluding to Mother's Day.

"For my family, it was a bitter-sweet celebration because, before the program began, we were informed of the death of our beloved sister, Freeda Webb, who was a member of our mother church and became very close to us. Please pray for comfort and strength for her family."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "It has been a week full of activities. On Monday, the Berean Group (home group) at Stonehedge Dr. had eight present. On Wednesday, the Bible study at the home of the Alcazar family had six; and on Thursday, the Berean Group at Southwest Little Rock had five present. On Tuesdays, I am trying to have Bible study with Ricardo Delgado, a 16-year-old young man who considers himself agnostic but is open to listen. We had an inspiring service Sunday, and the presence of God was among us.

"Pray that, with every Berean Group or discipleship group, the Word of God will be preached and that people will come to repentance and be new disciples. Also pray that new believers like the Alcazar family will be strengthened and rooted in faith. May God make an impact in Ricardo's life, and may he come to repentance.

Only God can make these changes.

"Keep praying for the election of our first deacons. Yesterday one of the three I am praying for said yes, but he wants to know more about what it means to be a deacon. I am already preparing a training for them.

"God has been good, but the enemy is not happy (sick, job changes and the economy are some of his strategies). The wonderful thing about the spiritual struggle is that we are on the winning side. I am very grateful for your support and prayers. You are part of the team!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "What a day we had at Faith Chapel! Now, this is complicated, so I will try to get it right. We met Morgan, a teenage girl, last July 4 at our outreach event. We knew she was special from that time. She kept going back to the park and bringing other kids back for hotdogs. One of them was named Kenny, and he was also one of the boys on bicycles I asked you to pray for a few weeks ago. He also came to our morning worship service this morning by himself.

"Morgan had started coming to church the next week (after July 4) and had been pretty faithful. She also brought her mom, her great aunt and grandmother. Well, her mom was the one that joined last week, and we all went to The Bridge Church (our mother church) to baptize her tonight. She invited a lot of her friends and neighbors. To make a long story short, Bro. Hershel brought a spirit-filled message and, at the invitation, two came forward and were saved. Morgan was one, and Kenny's dad was the other! Praise God! They asked if they could both be baptized and join too, only they want to be baptized in the river. I said sure, we can do it in the river. Praise God!"

"I am constantly amazed by the way our awesome God works, how He uses us, and how He uses those that don't even know it! Praise God!"

I can't wait to see what He is going to do next.

"Thank you for your prayers for us, Flippin and all of those that we have asked you to pray for specifically. God is hearing and answering them! Please continue!"

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "We had quite a few new visitors to our community event on Monday. One of our frequent guests invited many of us to his house to watch a game on Saturday. I was able to go and have a great conversation with him about the gospel and also about the church. He said when he gets his work schedule sorted out, he and his family will come and see.

"I went to another local game meet-up on Tuesday to encourage the guy running it. It was great having a second point of contact with some of the folks that are coming to the house on Mondays.

"I had meetings from morning to night working on more discipleship opportunities for our folks on Thursday.

"DeAnna has also had several doctors' appointments these last few mornings. Everything checked out, just routine checkups. Office work and message prep were on the schedule for Friday.

"I had several meetings on Saturday morning about local community efforts. I am so excited to see how God is using this work to create opportunities to reach people. In the evening, I went to watch the MMA fight and meet with Gio and his family. Please continue to pray for our contacts and the people of The Table."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "We hope all our amazing moms had a happy Mother's Day! We enjoyed celebrating the mothers who attended



This is the group that gathered on May 1 for the launch service of Faith Journey Mission in Benton and Missionary Bryan Clay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Gospel Singing, June 1, 6 p.m.; Haley Creek Boys; Faustina, Hampton.

National Galilean Camp, June 24-27; 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.

Gospel Singing, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.; featuring The Kinsmen Quartet; Cross Roads Baptist Church, Warren.

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.

Faith Journey Baptist with a small gift to show them how much we appreciate all they do for their families. We had a time of sharing with each other about special memories that we have of our mothers. *'Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all'* (Prov. 31:28-29).

"Our sermon this week was from Exodus 20, about trusting God to meet all our needs and not trying to rely on our own abilities to make a way of our own. Many times, we feel that we need to help God with the plans He has already set forth in a specific way, and we try to tweak it to what we think His plan should look like instead.

"We made the front page of the *Saline Courier* newspaper this week. It featured a picture of one of our first children's church attendees with me, entitled 'Sharing the Gospel'. It is such a blessing to be able to have that put in the Sunday edition and have our name

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

can't apologize for that." Long before the invention of social science research techniques, God, in His infinite wisdom, designed a perfect mechanism for moral instruction — the family.

"A worldview isn't just what you believe," said Barna. "It's also how you behave, because you do what you believe." When confronted with the bleak outlook that Barna's data show, we have two options. We can be paralyzed by anxiety and fear over what America is becoming, or we can trust that God, as always, will use these circumstances for his glory. "We have a remnant of about 15 million adults across the country that have a biblical worldview," Barna reminded viewers. "God always uses a remnant." (frc.org)



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put out into the community about the start of Faith Journey Baptist Church in the Benton area. Hopefully, this will help spark interest in a new church plant and bring in some first-time visitors. We are eagerly watching to see what God has planned!"

Hispanic Mission, Northwest Arkansas Area: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "A cordial greeting from Northwest Arkansas. It has been a month and a few days since we arrived in this beautiful city. I have begun a time of prayer and making connections with the people we have been meeting, while keeping in mind II Cor. 5:20 that we are ambassadors and that in the name of Christ we speak to people to be reconciled to God.

"We are praying for a group of people we have met. They are 18 people, and God has pleasantly surprised us with the Rodriguez Family — Sergio, Ana, Freddie and Ariel. We invited them on April 16, and since that Saturday they have been coming every Saturday. We have shared the Word of God, and they are very interested in continuing. Patty is teaching Freddie, the teenage son of this couple, to play guitar.

"We were also told to pray for family members Jonathan and Veronica, who lost their home in the rains last week due to flooding. We pray that God will help us to reach them and support them during this ordeal.

"We already have a family! I ask for your prayers as we have a meeting with a woman, Irma Chavez, who works with many Hispanics in the area.

"Other than that, we are very happy and have loved the city and feel that we have come to our place. Blessings, and I hope you are doing very well."

Family Council Plans To Educate, Equip Voters

On April 5, Family Council unveiled a three-pronged strategy for educating Arkansans about a proposed amendment that adds protections for religious liberty to the state's constitution.

Family Council President Jerry Cox released a statement, saying, "Religious liberty is on the ballot in Arkansas this November. Last year, three-quarters of the State House of Representatives and the State Senate voted to place the Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment on the 2022 ballot. In addition to protecting the freedom to worship at a church, synagogue or mosque, it protects people's right to peacefully live, speak and act according to their sincerely-held beliefs. Over the next seven months, Family Council plans to conduct a statewide campaign to educate voters about this proposed amendment to the state constitution. Arkansans need to be able to make an informed decision when they vote this November. We intend to help them do that."

Cox said Family Council has a three-pronged strategy for educating Arkansans about the amendment. "Our grassroots campaign will consist of three parts. First, we are going to inform and activate our existing network of nearly 7,000 households and churches. Second, we plan to work with other like-minded state and national organizations to help them inform and activate people in their spheres of influence. And third, we intend to conduct an extensive earned-media campaign consisting of Arkansas TV, radio and newspaper as well as a strong online presence. We don't know of any groups planning to oppose the amendment. If opposition to the amendment develops, we may work with churches to raise funds for a statewide paid-media campaign as well."

Cox highlighted some of the information that Family Council will share with voters about the proposed amendment ahead of the November election. "The Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment amends the Arkansas Constitution. The measure is similar to a state law that Governor Hutchinson signed in 2015. It would help ensure that state and local laws won't interfere with the free exercise of religion. It outlines some of the steps Arkansans can take if the government infringes on their religious liberty. And it contains exceptions for situations where a compelling government interest is at odds with religious liberty. Those are examples of the kind of information we plan to share with voters between now and Nov. 8."



Calvary, Stamps, June 12-15, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme – The Mighty God.

First, Cave Springs, June 12-17, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme – Zoomerang: Returning to the Value of Life.

Celebration, Haskell, June 19-22, 6:30-8:00; MegaKids Camp.

Antioch, Conway, June 20-23, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; theme – Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness.

Zion, Fordyce, June 20-24, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme – Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness.

Bodcaw, Bodcaw, July 10-15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; theme – The Mighty God.

North View, NLR, July 10-14, 6:15-8:30 p.m.; theme – The Mighty God.

Victory, Gentry, July 11-15, 6-8:10 p.m.; theme – Zoomerang.

County Line, Marvell, July 18-22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; theme - Victory

FREE ORGAN
Contact Shiloh Baptist Church in McRae.
(501) 288-2757.



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

Union, Rosston, May 23-25, 7 p.m.; Mitch Dulaney, evangelist; Joe Brown, pastor.

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

County Line, Marvell, Aug. 7-10; 9:45 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Chris Vines, evangelist.

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.

Cross Roads, Warren, Oct. 17-19, 7 p.m.; Richard Gambill, evangelist; Sidney McGraw, pastor.



141st Homecoming at Bluff Springs in Rosston, May 15, 10:30 a.m.; Travis Dillard (devotional); Stan Harris (message); lunch and singing to follow; Donnie Dillard, pastor.

New Home, Quitman, May 22, Sunday school at 10 a.m., preaching at 11; Potluck lunch will be served after preaching with singing after lunch; J.D. Courtney, pastor.

Union, Rosston, May 22, 10:30 a.m.; Shawn Drewett (message); Joe Brown, pastor.

164th Homecoming at Center Grove in 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.

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