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Darlene Carey Academy Dedicated

By Stan Scroggins, BMAA Missionary

The culmination of six years of meetings, dreaming and planning, over two years of construction and continuous prayer was crowned with the wonderful ceremony memorializing and honoring the life of the late BMAA Missionary Darlene Carey on May 19.

We missionaries often use the modern mission mantra “leave no footprint” — meaning that when our

mission is done and we depart the mission field, the work will be self-sustaining by the indigenous churches and people. With that in mind, it became very clear that we must come up with a way the Filipinos could continue the work of the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College in Talisay, Philippines after the American missionaries depart. The new Darlene Carey Christian Academy will help move them in that direction.

Once fully enrolled, the academy can supplement one-third of the budget of the Bible College. So not only is the academy's purpose to provide education to Filipino children, but it also allows for the continued preparation for the ministry of pastors, missionaries and church workers here in the Philippines and all of Southeast Asia.

There are lots of words to help phrase our gratefulness. Let me express just a few ways that helped make the dream possible:

- First, our fellow laborers and missionaries — Doug and Diane Lee and Jimmy and Julie Walker. Jimmy took up the task early in his work. Having a background in Christian school administration made him the ideal leader of the project once he arrived here. Doug and Diane Lee sustained us throughout with encouragement, prayers and support.

- Next are our faithful BMA churches and individuals. This \$200,000 project is debt free and paid for by gifts from all over the United States. Every

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.

Nick Bumgardner is available for pastoral service, pulpit supply and revivals. Contact him at (870) 690-7060 or bronickb@yahoo.com.

Calvary Baptist Church in White Hall is seeking a bi-vocational worship leader. Resumes can be sent to castlebclan@yahoo.com. For questions, contact Pastor Rodney Castleberry at (501) 977-4772.

amount, big and small, has provided sustainability for the Filipinos which otherwise would not have been possible. To the wonderful ladies of our National Women's Missionary Auxiliary, what can be said to emphasize their impact on the project? Thank you to every local church WMA, local and state association chapters that promoted and supported the over \$57,000 given through the National WMA Project.

At the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony, we were excited to welcome: all our American Philippine Missionaries (Fil Kakilala, Cris and Alicia Samson, Danny and Rita Ballard, Doug and Diane Lee and Stan and Donna Scroggins); local missionaries John and Louella Page; area pastors; BMA Bible College faculty and staff; the Academy principal Raydarlyn Vallejere and her teachers; BMA of the Philippines President Jojo Vallejere; National Department of Education representatives; the local congressman's representative; and guests from the United States, Jimmy Walker and Dr. Philip Attebery.

Darlene Carey was the epitome of self-sacrifice for the people God had called her to serve. Thousands of people were led to Christ through her personal testimony. She provided education for hundreds of children and mentored pastors and helped establish churches. They are all a lasting, living legacy of the Lord's desire for the nations He accomplished through Darlene's life. All who knew her know that she would most assuredly recoil from all the attention and accolades, honor and praise, and instead, righteously point us to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom all honor, praise and glory is due.



Preaching the Word As an Associate Pastor

By Joseph Henderson, Associate Pastor/Missionary • BMA of Miss.

Clif Johnson, BMAA President: We often find difficulty in making the rubber meet the road when it comes to fleshing out the theme of the national meeting. This series of articles is meant to be helpful to you in thinking of ways to make the theme of “Preaching the Word” come alive in your ministry. May the Lord richly bless you as you give His Word its rightful place.

Executive Editor's Note: See the other two articles in this series in the May 4, May 11 and May 18 issues.

“Preach the Word” — this was the theme of the BMA of America annual meeting in Springfield last month. The messages preached not only expressed this command but also exemplified it. Even when we left Missouri to head back to South Mississippi, I could still hear it echo in my mind.

When taken seriously, there is an appropriate heaviness that accompanies this God-given task. Sometimes I sense this heaviness and confuse it for a burden. I can be impressed by the weight of such an awesome responsibility — the responsibility of speaking God's Word to God's people — and I can feel as if it

See PREACH, Page 2

Caring for our Missionaries

By Margaret Anderson

Jonathan Montgomery recently transitioned from part-time to full-time status with BMA Missions as Director of Missionary Care. He had previously served as youth and children's pastor at First Baptist Church of Taylor, for 11 years, and this month marks 15 years of service in full-time student ministry.

Originally from Springhill, La., Jonathan's passion for missions started years ago as a VSM student. He then served as a VSM team leader, assisted in training other VSM leaders and has led several other short-term trips.

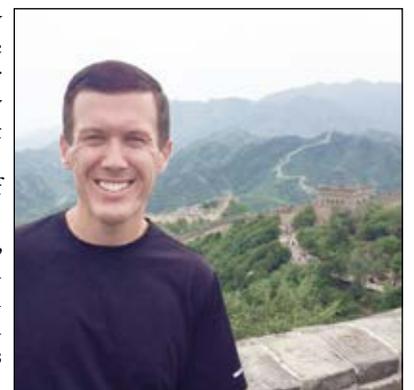
When the pandemic began in 2020, BMA Missions assembled a team to regularly check on every missionary during the early months. Jonathan served on this team, and for the last year, worked as Jerry Kidd's assistant for missionary care.

When asked why missionary care is important, Jonathan replied, “The life of a missionary presents many unique challenges in preparing to go, serving on the field and transitioning back to the States after years of service.

“Missionary Care is designed to help our missionary servants during these stages of their service and to help them through each transition and whenever a crisis comes up. We hope to minister to the whole missionary — spiritual, physical, mental and emotional health of each individual — as well as the whole family.

“Missionary Care primarily offers encouragement and prayer support, but we also can connect our missionaries with counselors and coaches for additional support during tough times. We are here to serve our missionaries as they serve others.”

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CENTRAL
BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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

Terry Kimbrow
President



Adult & Online Registration

Working adults looking for a convenient and flexible college option have another opportunity to enroll in the first five-week course of the fall semester in PACE (Professional Adult College Education). Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option. The deadline for new student applications is Monday, June 27.

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

The enrollment process begins by applying or scheduling a meeting with an enrollment counselor. Visit online.cbc.edu to apply or learn what PACE can do for you. If you have questions, contact PACE Enrollment Services at pace@cbc.edu or (800) 441-5106.



Sports News
By Erik Holth

AMC All-Academic Team Selections

• **St. Louis, Mo., May 17** — The American Midwest Conference (AMC) released their final set of Academic All-Conference selections. Fifty CBC student-athletes from the sports of baseball, softball, men's & women's golf and men's track & field were selected to the Academic All-Conference teams after posting GPAs above a 3.0 in the Spring semester. The following student-athletes were selected:

• **Baseball** — Ben Slate, Cole Edwards, Steven Stewart, Wille Baez, Caleb Muns, Danilo Taborda, Ben Stevens, Kyle Bass, Caleb Sollars, Gram Middleton, Austin Teal, Dominick McBride, Ruben Hernandez, Austin LeJeune, Ty Decker, Cayden Hunnicut and Phillip Drilling;

• **Softball** — Alex Jeter, Averie Ayers, Tobi Finley, Emily Cole, Caroline Byers, Hannah Work, Madi Spears, Jordyn Frederic, Savannah Sanford, Mallory Reynolds, Heather Hoffman, Victoria Lasker, Maggi Huddleston, Lauren Anderson, Gracie Keathley, Kristen Walderns, Mia

Clark, Allie McWhorter, Reagan Oustad, Madalyn Tubbs, Katie Smith, Emma Golden and Mollie Johnson;

• **Men's Golf** — Jakub Slapal, Emmanuel LaBeur and Travis Toebben;

• **Women's Golf** — Alyssa Hage-wood, Keeley Bulza, Abby Kirby, Brooklyn Adcock;

• **Men's Track & Field** — Jadon Price, Josh Brown and Isaiah Stiger.

Congratulations to these student-athletes on their outstanding work in the classroom this past year!

NFCA Freshman of the Year Finalist

• **Louisville, Ky., May 18** — The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) awarded NALA post-season honors, and a Central Baptist softball player was among the honorees. **Savannah Sanford** was one of six finalists selected by the NFCA for Freshman of the Year. Sanford had an outstanding season, batting .485 with four home runs, 31 RBIs, 13 doubles, a triple, 22 runs scored and a team-high 49 hits. She ranked first in the AMC in batting average, eighth in the conference in hits, fourth in doubles, tied for 10th in RBIs, second in on-base percentage at .532 and fifth in slugging at .752 while earning first-team All-AMC honors.

PREACH

(Continued From Page 1)
is too much to bear.

It is possible that this sense of inadequacy is more prevalent in associate pastors than in the men who preach every Sunday, or at least we experience it in different ways. Stepping up to the pulpit as an associate pastor can feel like being the pinch hitter coming off the bench late in the baseball game. There is a desire to “knock it out of the park,” knowing that we don't get as many opportunities.

But we were reminded at the annual meeting that we've not been commanded to preach extraordinary, elaborate or impressive sermons. We've certainly not been commanded to preach our own whims or pet subjects. We've been commanded to “Preach the Word” — nothing more and nothing less.

It is true that preaching the Word is difficult work, but, in many ways, it takes the weight off of our shoulders! It is both a divine restraint binding us to the text, and a divine relief, liberating us from unrealistic or un-scriptural expectations. It was this two-sided coin that I walked away with from the annual meeting. We are bound to simply “Preach the Word” and we are free to simply “Preach the Word.” Though it will look different in various contexts, let me mention three ways that we can endeavor to more faithfully “Preach the Word” as associate pastors:

• **We can find additional preaching opportunities.** Lead pastors might should preach less frequently than they do, while associate pastors likely should preach more frequently than they do. Hopefully, that will include several Sunday sermons at our own churches, as I am blessed to enjoy, but it might also mean filling pulpits in our communities that are currently without a pastor or asking other pastors to allow us to give them a Sunday off. In order to more faithfully “Preach the Word,” associate pastors should begin by preparing and delivering more sermons.

• **We should consider our sermon texts with care.** Associate Pastors ought to preach sermons that deal thoughtfully with God's Word and that complement the weekly preaching ministry of the church. In my own context, that means that we preach expositional messages, where the main idea of the text is the main idea of the sermon, and it means that we do not deviate from the current sermon series whenever someone other than our lead pastor is preaching. After all, we are preaching the same Word, no matter the position we might hold.

• **We need to request and receive feedback.** This probably isn't the sincere, but typically shallow, comments from congregants at the back of the auditorium. Nor should a man rely on his wife and kids to provide this type of feedback, at least week-in and week-out. Maybe it means having a sermon (or service) review at your church where other pastors both cheer you on and offer ways for you to grow



Student Ministry Matters

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



Dan Carson
Director

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



What Are People Looking For in a Youth Pastor?

Over the past three weeks, we have been looking at a question on our podcast, “What are people looking for in a youth pastor?” We have approached it from the viewpoint of a volunteer in the ministry, a parent of a student and the lead pastor. While every church is going to be slightly different, there are some common themes found in the expectations of these three groups, no matter the size of the church:

• **A youth pastor should love God.** How do we deepen our love for God? We dive into the Word and prayer. There are other ways we express love to the Father, but a youth pastor that is not willing to spend time in the Word is not ready to lead others. We share from the overflow. It is this discipline that will shape how we talk about God and serve Him.

• **A youth pastor should love students.** In general, God calls us to love people. We find it in the second half of the Great Commandment found in Matt. 22:36-40. However, the youth pastor must have a heart for students. He needs to love their goofiness, their enthusiasm and even the mistakes they may make along the way. It isn't for everyone.

• **A youth pastor should be a team player.** Linking arms with the other staff members and parents is key to being a good youth pastor. It isn't your show. The youth ministry is simply one arm of the ministry of the church. If you think you can do it all on your own, you are wrong. God calls us to community and to work with others to accomplish His will in this world. A good youth pastor will partner with the parents of his students and the other members of the pastoral team. There should be no “lone rangers” in ministry.

• **A youth pastor should be growing.** Like others in ministry, it is important for those that work with students to be growing. First, they need to grow in the Word. As I mentioned before, it is vital to spend time with God through the Word and prayer. Second, they should be growing in knowledge through reading and possibly considering higher education. Those of us serving students should be some of the most educated and prepared. Our students need us to be ready with an answer to the many questions they are facing. That is not an easy task because the questions aren't getting any easier. Youth pastors need to be growing.

I am sure there are other characteristics that might be important to you, but I believe these four cover a number of areas and should be on our list of expectations as we consider who is serving with our students. If you work with students, you may need to spend some time in self-evaluation and invest in some of these areas. Taking the time to do so will not only strengthen your ministry but also allow you to serve longer.

Be sure to check out episodes 114, 115 and 116 of the Student Ministry Matters podcast as we talk with Amanda Bowman, Lori Cline and Wade Allen. You can find the podcast at studentministrymatters.podbean.com or through most major podcasting apps.

in this important task. Through those types of reviews, I have sharpened my own preaching skills, a sharpening that is almost invaluable. Of course, this means being open to critique; even more pointedly, it means receiving that critique well. But this feedback is a vital component of a strong and strengthen-

ing Word-preaching ministry.

Associate pastors have been called by the same God to preach the same Word for the same glorious purpose. We are neither above this command nor below it. May God grant us grace as we strive to more faithfully “Preach the Word” to the glory of God alone.



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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

LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



Leading from the Overflow

Do you remember when you were called into the ministry, to a particular church or to a ministry in your church? Have you thought about what the primary call of God is on your life? The primary call on your life is not ministry or a ministry but rather intimacy with Jesus. Discipleship 101 (Mark 3:14-15) reminds us that when Jesus called the 12 disciples, He called them “to be with Him.” In John 15, we are told to abide in Him. Ministry is what Jesus does through our lives out of the overflow of our intimacy with Him. Vance Pitman says, “Ministry is the great love affair that woos us away from our intimacy with Christ.”

Leading in ministry is difficult, and it is very easy to get so focused on doing stuff for Jesus that we forget about the importance of being with Jesus. Speaking of Jesus, He would break away from His “ministry” for extended times to be in the presence of His Father. Luke 6:12 tells us that He spent the entire night in prayer.

Bill Elliff says, “I have often wondered at our arrogance about this. If the Son of God needed extended hours with the Father, how do we think we could do otherwise and minister effectively?” The peace that passes all understanding can only be experienced out of the overflow of our intimacy with Christ.

Do we think more highly of our abilities and leadership skills than we should? Humility reminds us of how desperately we need Jesus and how thankful we should be that He has provided others to work alongside us. Pride causes us to think we are indispensable and turns us into workaholics.

Dale Burke tells us, “Because of pride, you find yourself wanting to be in control. You have to do it all, stay in control.” Work harder, work longer and make it happen because if you don’t nobody else will. The unfortunate outcome is that we get so busy doing for Jesus that we remove the most important element of being with Jesus.

The pride issue is a problem that all of us must be aware of every single day. Let’s go back to the concept of extended prayer time with God. Bill Elliff states in *Presence Centered*

Church, “Our lives are filled with activity, appointments, and hundreds of conversations, but it is our pride that causes us to rarely give God times of undivided attention... If you don’t think you have time, begin by repenting of your opinion of your own importance. The world can make it without you one day a month.” What would it look like for you to break away one day a month just to seek His presence and deeper intimacy with your Savior?

Here are some practical rhythms to consider to ensure that your ministry is an overflow of your intimacy with Him:

• **Make sure you protect your daily quiet time.** Everyone’s rhythms are different, with some being early risers and others being night owls. The principle is that when we do get up each morning, the first thing we should acknowledge is that “this is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it.” It has been correctly stated that when you make every God-given day a God-governed day, it will become a God-gladden day. Prayer is making sure that we discover and follow God’s agenda and not ours.

• **Consider a day each month where you spend an extended time seeking Him.** Bill Elliff gives this insight, “Any leader who desires to experience the presence must make deliberate time to dial in... Usually, you will make more progress in this one day of concentrated communion than in a whole week of scattered thinking.” Henry Blackaby reminds us that it was a prayer that set the agenda for Jesus’ ministry. Prayer preceded the miracles. Prayer brought Him encouragement at critical moments. Prayer enabled Him to endure the cross. Prayer kept Him on the cross despite excruciating pain. Jesus said, “Men ought always to pray!”

• **Fasting can quiet us and usher us, in a very special way, into His presence.** Fasting allows us to say no to the many things that are always striving for their attention and control. Bill Elliff adds this on fasting, “You experience an amazing quiet when the voices that pull you in multiple directions are starved and silenced.” An extended time (day or more) along with fasting enables us to give Him our attention

CARING

(Continued From Page 1)

Jonathan and his wife, Mandy, have two sons, Max, 12 and Ben, 9. They are a “baseball family,” so most of their spare time is spent at the boys’ ballgames and practices. They also love to travel and have a goal of visiting all 50 states — in the last two years, they have traveled 10,000 miles and visited 42 states. They hope to attend a game at all the Major League Baseball parks. Jonathan also enjoys reading, especially historical books and biographies.

His start date at BMA Missions was May 1, but he has been “serving our missionaries as they serve others” for years. Join us in welcoming Jonathan to the Missions team.

and only Him. Jesus did not say “if” you fast but “when” you fast. This intentional focused time reminds us that our perspective is limited, our efforts and striving will never be enough, and that our flesh is very deceitful.

In order for ministry to come out of your overflow and intimacy with Him, you must be willing to take responsibility for your spiritual walk or lack thereof. Remaining humble keeps us open to honest feedback from others and from ourselves. Pride causes you to live in denial, where, unfortunately, we choose to ignore what is obvious to everyone else. In *Spiritual Depression*, Martin Lloyd Jones emphasized the importance of self-examination. This is not merely admitting there is a problem but addressing the problem scripturally. The Psalmist said, “Why art thou cast down O my soul, why are thou disquieted within me?...” (Psa. 42:5).

The person most responsible for your spiritual walk and intimacy with Christ is you. J Oswald Sanders put it this way: “We are, at this moment, as close to God as we really choose to be.” Lloyd-Jones stated, “... remind yourself of God, Who God is, what God is, what God has done and what God has pledged Himself to do.” God has promised us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit can only occur by abiding in the vine.

Spiritual leadership is not working harder and longer but instead allowing our ministry and service to occur out of the overflow of our intimacy with Him.

HOMECOMINGS

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, Rosston, July 10, 10:30 a.m.; Bruce Porter (message); Ed Phillips, pastor.

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

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

(501) 804-6647 • temitchell1946@gmail.com



Memorial Day — Not Just Another Holiday

I was just thinking about family, friends and fellow soldiers who have died while serving their country — our country. That brought me to once again consider that Memorial Day is not just another holiday. It’s not merely a time for people to have a day off from work or school. No, Memorial Day is much more!

It is not a day to honor veterans. I am a veteran of the United States Army. I served four and a half years during the Vietnam conflict. However, I am not a Vietnam vet. While I respect and admire those veterans who served in all our wars and conflicts, Memorial Day is not about them.

It is a day of remembrance. Remembrance — the act of calling to mind; a memory of a person or event, a time of recalling the life and often, the death of a person. Sunday, May 29, numerous churches across our nation will take time to honor the memory of those who died while serving in one of the branches of the military. The Pledge of Allegiance will be repeated by congregations, prayers will be offered and, in some instances, “Taps” will be played as a means of respect for those who died so that we might live in freedom.

Have you ever heard “Taps” played at the graveside of one who served? In my last 6 months in the Army I helped conduct over 40 funerals in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Three things come to mind about those graveside services:

- The flag-draped coffin,
- The haunting sound of the lone trumpeter playing “Taps,” and
- The presentation of the flag that had covered the coffin being folded, and I or another chaplain presenting it to a spouse, a mother, a father, a son or a daughter.

I have had the flag that draped my dad’s coffin since June 18, 1980. It is an important reminder that my dad, Jesse Mitchell served his country in the Army Air Corp from 1941-1945 in World War II. But dad became a veteran. He did not die in Okinawa, Japan or Germany. I honor the memory of dad, but Memorial Day is a time to remember those who died while serving to ensure the blessing of freedom in these United States; and, still, it may be even more.

I preface the next thoughts with this from the Apostle Paul: “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you” (Phil. 1:3).

While it is not the military, the Battle for Christ has had many soldiers — both men and women — who have died while serving in the Lord’s Army. Like the brave men and women who died on the battlefields across the globe, these soldiers of the cross have faithfully given themselves... even to the point of death. The early apostles are reported to have died cruel deaths as they determinedly preached the gospel while facing persecution and torture. For the past 2,000 years, believers have died — often before the eyes of their families — because Satan wanted to thwart the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastors, missionaries and church members have lived for Christ and died for Him as well. Maybe we should also remember them because they died while serving.

But, to me, the most important One to remember as He died in battle for freedom from the condemnation of sin was our Lord Jesus Christ. His death is paramount to all because He didn’t die for just one nation. Jesus died in the battle with Satan for the souls of every person of every nation. He died for the whole world. We should, as our Lord Himself instructed, remember His death until He comes.

So, as I said, I was just thinking about these things. I hope you will think about them as well. May Memorial Day be for you, your family, your community and your church a true time of remembering those who died while in the military service — defending against all enemies, both foreign and domestic and both seen and unseen.



By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

Prayers Appreciated

Many of you may have seen my posts on social media about my mom over the last few weeks. Almost a month ago, mom had a full hip replacement. (Her second in less than four years.) After spending about 12 days at in-patient rehab, she came home on Friday, May 13 with a plan to continue with at-home rehabilitation. After the initial evaluation on Monday, May 16, she was scheduled to have her first session with the physical therapist on Thursday, May 19.

When the physical therapist arrived and did his pre-session evaluation, he thought she needed to go to the emergency room due to a possible heart episode. It "just so happened" that Kristin and I were both almost at the house when he called to tell us, so we were able to begin making the arrangements to head to the hospital. After a phone call to her heart doctor's office, we headed to the Arkansas Heart Hospital emergency room, where they determined she had pneumonia and began treating her with IV antibiotics.

While they began to deal with the infection, they then began to look at her continuing elevated heart rate (AFIB). Over the next few days, they attempted to reduce her heart rate with medication and eventually the use of TEE cardioversion. The procedure was initially successful, and her heart returned to a normal rhythm, but it soon reverted to AFIB. As I write this note, they are giving her a different medicine and her heart rate is on a downward trend.

Please join me in continuing to pray for a return to normal rhythm so she can then go home and return to her physical therapy for her hip replacement. I am so thankful for the many friends that have reached out by text message, phone calls and messages on social media, letting us know you are praying. It is humbling to know that so many are lifting up your loved one before the throne of God.

Special Emphasis Update

I want to share an update on our Special Emphasis for 2022. While our official time of Special Emphasis is in the months of March and April, we will continue to count all special offerings toward our goal through the end of the fiscal year (Aug. 31). At this time, we have only raised 44% of our goal (\$19,904.03), but we completely trust that God will provide what we need for this ministry when we need it. Would you pray with us that He will not only give us wisdom as we make important decisions regarding the future of the *Baptist Trumpet*, but that He will also provide for all financial needs according to His will? For an update on where we are on raising funds, please visit baptisttrumpet.com/se2022.

Thanks to these that have given since our last report.

2022 Special Emphasis • Goal — \$45,000

Previous Balance (April 27)	\$12,471.03
Mary Fleming	\$500.00
First Baptist WMA Circle One, Magnolia	\$325.00
Eastside, Lonoke	\$150.00
Landmark, England	\$450.00
Michael Gray	\$1,110.00
New Caney, Gurdon	\$200.00
New Home, Quitman*	\$84.00
Lakeside, Newport	\$200.00
Macedonia, Magnolia	\$500.00
Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	\$565.00
Sand Springs, Damascus	\$206.00
Broadway Ave, Bay	\$500.00
Church at Willow Beach, North Little Rock	\$606.00
Larry & Mary Williams	\$100.00
Patricia Simmons	\$400.00
Summers, Summers	\$225.00
Haynes, Haynes	\$100.00
Dewey Kelley	\$25.00
Cross Roads, Warren	\$777.00
Celebration, Haskell	\$300.00
Charity Heights, Hot Springs	\$110.00
Total	\$19,904.03

*Have given previously



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Planned Parenthood to Spend \$16M on Pro-Abortion Advertising

This spring, Planned Parenthood Federation and Planned Parenthood Action Fund announced that they would spend a total of \$16 million on pro-abortion paid media advertisements. According to a press release, the multimillion-dollar ad campaign will "educate and increase urgency around the abortion access crisis facing the country." The ads reportedly are intended to reach minorities and young adults across the nation.

This is not the first time that Planned Parenthood has used its financial resources to promote its pro-abortion agenda. In April, Family Council reported that Planned Parenthood has spent nearly \$3,000 electioneering in Arkansas this year alone.

In 2020, Planned Parenthood Federation announced it would spend at least \$45 million in an effort to unseat pro-life lawmakers and elect candidates who support abortion. As part of that plan, the group used its political action committee in Arkansas to support candidates for state and federal offices.

Despite significant pro-life victories, Planned Parenthood remains active in Arkansas and elsewhere, and it could show more activity in the coming months. (familycouncil.org)

Texas Town Becomes 50th City in America to Ban Abortions

The Sanctuary City for the Unborn movement reached a major milestone on May 19 when a Texas city voted to become the 50th to adopt a pro-life ordinance outlawing abortions.

Mark Lee Dickson, director of Right to Life of East Texas and founder of the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn initiative, said the City Council of Normangee (population 778) approved the ordinance in a unanimous vote.

Normangee is the 50th city in the United States and the 44th in Texas to pass a Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinance, which bans the killing of unborn babies in abortions within city limits. There is no abortion facility in Normangee, but the ordinance will prevent one from opening there. It also will combat the rise of mail-order abortion drugs, which the Biden administration began allowing late last year.

In Arkansas, 19 counties and 10 cities and towns have passed pro-life resolutions, according to Family Council of Arkansas. (lifeneews.com)

Disney Launches LGBT Clothing Line for Kids

Disney has released a new "Pride Collection" clothing line for children amid controversy surrounding the corporation's reaction to Florida's new

parental rights in education bill and reported efforts to include LGBT advocacy in its children's programming.

The family entertainment company launched the new fashion line on May 16, featuring merchandise such as sweaters, T-shirts, baby clothes and other items, all bearing the rainbow pride flag that symbolizes the LGBT movement. The collection's launch comes two weeks before the start of so-called pride month, which LGBT activists recognize each June.

Many of the products also include LGBT-themed images of iconic Disney character Mickey Mouse and the company's Star Wars, Marvel and Pixar franchises. The company is selling the items through its "shopDisney" online store, Disney retail shops and theme parks.

In an opinion piece published by *The Daily Citizen*, Zachary Mettler, staff writer and communications liaison for the Christian organization Focus on the Family, contended that Disney is "targeting" children with an LGBT agenda.

He further suggested that Disney is trying to plant the idea into children's heads that same-sex couples marrying is morally the same as a marriage between a man and a woman. He said the family entertainment company is attempting to teach children that gender is malleable, something he envisions will "confuse" and negatively impact them when they become young adults.

In its announcement of the clothing line, Disney pledged to donate the entirety of the collection's proceeds now through June 30 to various LGBT activist organizations....Mettler views this as a sign that the corporation has become more vocal about its stance on LGBT issues than in previous years. (christianpost.com)

Reassess, Be Vigilant, Church Security Experts Advise

(See related article on page 5 of this issue) Churches are taking another look at their security plans after recent shootings when 10 died at a Buffalo, NY, grocery store and another the next day at a California church. While variables can exist from church to church in establishing or modifying those plans, the concerns and preparation are largely consistent, one expert said.

"It's a matter of scope, of scale," said Mike Everett, director of security services for Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis. "With churches, it's the same way. We all face the same issues, whether it's budgetary or congregation size or the number of people you have to serve on your security ministry."

Everett was working with a company that had given a security assessment at Bellevue before the church approached him with a job offer that he accepted in September 2021. Prior to that, he had served 23 years in law enforcement in southern Illinois as a patrolman and three-term sheriff.

Bellevue already had an established security team before Everett's arrival. In 2016 that team took action in subduing a heavily armed man who entered the sanctuary during the church's 11 a.m. Easter service. An alert greeter

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JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor
editor@baptisttrumpet.com

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

ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor
associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com
(mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

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

Celebration, Haskell added one by baptism; Allan Eakin, pastor.

scenarios can help volunteers become more accustomed to controlling their emotions. As a result, they can think more clearly and stay focused on safely resolving the confrontation. This helps protect the volunteer, the ministry, and the individual causing the disruption.

Adding to Your Team If you need to replenish your security team volunteers, consider adding the following interview questions to your onboarding process:

- Tell me about a time when you were under a lot of stress. How did you manage the stress?

- Tell me about a time when someone was really upset with you. How did you work through that situation?

- Have you ever had a disagreement with someone at work? How did you resolve the issue?

Make sure your volunteer team is covered for costs resulting from injuries and damaged equipment with security operations coverage from Brotherhood Mutual. Ask your insurance agent for more details.

Training Scenarios

The following scenarios test “tactical communication,” which is how your team uses words strategically to get individuals to willingly comply with a request. While this is a good place to start, get creative, adding variables and new scenarios as your team becomes more proficient. Here are a few examples:

- **Sanctuary** — During regular church service, an individual draws the attention of your security team. He’s not disruptive, but he is acting abnormally. He’s wearing sunglasses, a ball cap and a long coat. He’s mumbling to himself. What’s your plan for monitoring him? What’s your plan if he walks toward the stage or retrieves something from his vehicle? How will you engage him in conversation?

- **Youth Room** — A father thinks his daughter’s boyfriend is a bad influence and asks that she not see the teen anymore. The teen shows up to a Sunday service and is stopped by the father in the lobby. An argument breaks out.

How will your team navigate this potentially volatile situation? Who is the aggressor? What is your goal for this situation (What’s Important Now)?

- **Lost Child** — Following worship, a mom attempts to pick up her daughter from the nursery. The volunteer is unable to find the child. The mom immediately becomes frantic. The dad learns of the situation and becomes outraged.

How do you get productive info from the upset parents? How will your team locate the child? How will you coordinate bystanders that want to help?



Master's Builders Complete Job in Texas

By Nelda Malone

On May 12, eight Master's Builders traveled to Latch Baptist Church, just west of Gilmer, Texas. They were there to help build a much-needed closet for storage in their Family Life Center. The closet was 44' x 3' with six double doors. This will hold tables, chairs, game items, etc. and give the church much more usable space in their activities area.

We enjoyed our time with this sweet church and their pastor, Leon Ross and his wife, Johnnie. They provided a delicious lunch meal, breakfast and break snacks. We all agreed that the lunch meal was one of the best we've had in a long time. Thank you to Mary, Rachel, Debbie, Jo, Johnnie and others that sent food. Y'all are awesome!

The Master's Builders plan to be at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas, on June 6 to begin work. Please pray for our men as they work.

If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877 or David Axe at (903) 918-0720. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Singing, June 4, 6 p.m. (no meal); Haley Creek Boys; Faustina, Hampton.

Deacon Ordination, June 12, 5 p.m.; Valley View, Jonesboro. Reagan Lee, pastor.

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,

Deaths

Billy Ed Pennington, 60 of Waldo, passed away May 19. He was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Bobbie Jean Edwards, 74 of Magnolia, passed away May 19. She was a member of College View Baptist church.

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.

Check Out The Trumpet Archives At baptisttrumpet.com



Practice Turns Chaos to Calm: Benefits of Scenario-Based Training

“The body won’t go where the mind has not already been.” We’ve heard a lot of security professionals say something very similar to this statement when they talk about how important it is to not only train, but to practice different scenarios that could happen at your church or school. While training for a high-impact situation like an armed intruder is key, safety and security teams also should practice scenarios such as a medical emergency, disruptive individual, severe weather and lost child.

“This helps pressure test your policies and practices to improve your team’s effectiveness,” said Eli Hernandez, pastor and head of safety for Bridgeway Community Church in Maryland. “When we train at our church, it’s designed to keep our volunteers engaged and to think through how we can better serve our people.”

Setting up scenarios in the environment where the event is likely to occur helps volunteers see the opportunities and challenges in that space. For example, practice disruptions in the sanctuary, kid-based scenarios in the children’s ministry area, or medical emergencies in gathering spaces.

“Training is the learning ground, it’s where you can make mistakes and explore ways to improve,” said Craig Cable, a church safety specialist and professional trainer who works for the American Church Group of Colorado.

Whether it’s a couple arguing in the parking lot, a disruptive individual during service or a custody dispute in the children’s wing, emotionally charged situations can quickly escalate. If volunteers aren’t trained to deal with the added stress, their own emotions can take over, leading to poor decisions and the potential for injury or liability for your ministry.

Training also is an opportunity to see how team members will react dur-

ing stressful situations. This enables the team to practice appropriate responses to verbal challenges and allows participants to adjust their approach to help calm the situation. It also helps volunteers see the ministry opportunity in helping people through stressful or emotional situations. “We want our volunteers to see the person, not just the problem,” said Pastor Hernandez.

“Using your words to help find common ground, and getting people to comply with the ask, can resolve issues peacefully, and that’s what we call the WIN,” said Cable. WIN stands for What’s Important Now, and it’s a helpful reminder to maintain proper perspective. For most situations, Cable advises, “You need team members who can pull back on the things they want to say and focus on the things they need to say.”

To help security team volunteers learn how to safely de-escalate potentially threatening situations, they need to first learn how to control their natural reactions. Realistic training scenarios introduce stress in a controlled environment, helping your team prepare to handle chaotic scenes with composure and calm. Using this de-escalation strategy can equip your volunteers to approach scenes with a heart for ministry and a clear goal of protecting your people.

Stress Inoculation

Without proper preparation, even small disagreements can turn into full-blown shouting matches. What starts as a request to leave the building can end in a physical altercation. Even mild-mannered volunteers can unintentionally escalate a situation if they lack the training to keep their emotions in check. To help successfully resolve situations, security team members need to be inoculated from the stress. Using realistic training



Future Headlines — Middle East War

This isn't a shocker — a war in the Middle East. Of course there would be war in the Middle East. When has there not been a war in the Middle East, right? Yes, this is the modus operandi of the area, but Scripture details a future war between modern-day Iran and modern-day Turkey. This war is part of the rise of the Antichrist and is a future headline. This series of articles lays out future headlines gathered from Bible prophecy and especially related to the Antichrist's rise. These are headlines you can bet on.

Of the future headlines in this series, I'd bet on this one, but it would be a conservative wager because the interpretation of this war presented in Daniel 8 is a novel interpretation. I'd argue a responsible interpretation, but I'm in the minority with this view.

Daniel 8 retells a vision that Daniel had while in Persia, which is modern-day Iran. Not only does the chapter recount the vision, but the angel, Gabriel interprets the dream.

Daniel's dream is of a two-horned ram and a one-horned goat. The ram was powerful — it charged to the north, south and west and defeated all it came against. Then the one-horned goat rose and defeated the ram. The goat then rose to power and spread its power throughout the area.

Following the goat's domination, its horn broke off, and in its place grew four horns. From the four horns grew one horn that rose to power. That one horn came against the beautiful land (Israel) and the sanctuary (the temple).

Daniel admitted this is a wild dream. Though wild, it provides incredible insight. Gabriel told Daniel that the ram with two horns represented the Medes and Persians, while the goat represented Javan. Most English translations have Greece in place of Javan, but Javan is the word in Hebrew. Though some connect Javan with Greece, it's best associated with modern-day Turkey.

The angel went on to say that the Medes and Persians would rise to power and spread that power across the region. Eventually, a prominent leader would arise in Javan, and he would lead Javan

against Persia and win. That prominent leader would then be disposed of in some way. In his footsteps, there would arise four leaders and from that four there would come one. This one would come against Israel and commit the abomination in the temple. From the terms used to describe that "little horn," it's obvious that he is the Antichrist. The terms match other descriptions in Daniel of this final ruler.

In the preceding chapter of Daniel, it is said that in the final empire there would be 10 leaders (or nations), then 3, and the 3 would be replaced by a "little horn." In Daniel 7, that little horn is shown to be the Antichrist, as speaks boastfully to God.

In Revelation 17, we find a succession of 10 leaders or nations leading to the rise of the Antichrist. There's much evidence connecting the final horn in Daniel 8 to the Antichrist. Also, as mentioned in a previous series, Scripture provides ample support that the Antichrist's kingdom would be headquartered in modern-day Turkey (Javan).

There isn't much debate in commentaries about the final horn being the Antichrist. Though the end of the vision is accepted to be the Antichrist, predominantly the rest of the passage has been understood to detail the history of the rise of Alexander the Great. In this historical view, the prominent horn is Alexander, the four horns that replace him are his generals that took over his conquest. This historical approach does match the passage. Therefore, most commentaries say Daniel 8 should be understood as having two parts, half in the past and half in the future. It could be, but multiple times throughout the chapter, Gabriel stressed that these events will take place in the latter days. The language he used points to the end of the age.

I believe a more accurate interpretation of the passage is that all the events in the chapter take place in the future at the end of the age, but there has been an **almost** fulfillment in the past with Alexander the Great. My friend, Daniel Secomb uses the term "pattern" prophecy. We see throughout Bible prophecy that

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

had noticed a pistol sticking out of the man's jacket. Upon being interrogated by Bellevue's then-director of security Andy Willis, a reserve officer with the Memphis Police Department, an automatic rifle and "lots of ammo" were found in the man's backpack.

An intrusion doesn't have to involve a gun. Recently, pro-abortion protestors disrupted the services of a Catholic church in Colorado over the leaked Supreme Court opinion pointing to the possible overturn of *Roe vs. Wade*.

When it comes to firearms, both recommend checking with the church's insurance company and applicable laws. "It's an administrative decision that needs to be made through prayer," Everett said. "Whatever your governing body is, they need to decide with the proper information."

Central to any security ministry or team is training. Diligence is wise when researching church security firms.... The Department of Homeland Security provides guides and resources for faith-based events and houses of worship. (baptistpress.com)

there are near fulfillments, but eventually, there will be one ultimate fulfillment.

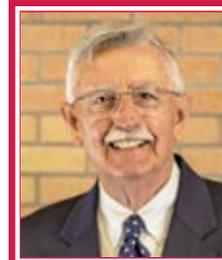
In the futuristic view, Iran (Persia) will spread its power throughout the Middle East until Turkey (Javan) comes against Iran. A prominent leader leads Turkey to begin to conquer or continue conquering. Eventually, that prominent leader dies or is disposed of, and in his place, multiple leaders arise. Likely it's not just leaders but a coalition of nations. From that group, the Antichrist rises and eventually ending the sacrifices that have restarted.

Though the futuristic view is a minority view, it is gaining steam. I believe it's important to consider the futuristic possibility of Daniel 8 because, out of all the future headlines, it's the most detailed and likely the first to appear.

Therefore, we should expect to see future headlines like:

- Iran continues to gain power and control in the region.
- Iran has a wide reach in the Middle East, either through their army or proxies.
- A prominent leader in Turkey desires to expand its borders.
- Turkey has declared war with Iran.
- Turkey defeats Iran.
- Turkey is heading up a new coalition of nations in the Middle East.
- The prominent leader in Turkey has passed, and his coalition of nations will rule through a council of leaders.
- The Turkey-led Middle Eastern coalition has consolidated power with one man.
- The Turkey-led Middle Eastern coalition has turned its sights on Israel.

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



Leave it to Cleaver

By Dr. Tony Cleaver
726 Walnut Dr. • Killeen, Tex. 76549
jstmcleaver@gmail.com



Will You Die to No One's Regret?

"Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king; he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. He died to no one's regret and was buried in the city of David but not in the tombs of the kings" (II Chron. 21:20). Did the Bible really say what I just read? Yes, it did. It said plainly: "He died to no one's regret..."

What do you want said at your death? Of all the things you may want said, you do not want anyone to say the words of this Scripture: "He died to no one's regret."

As a pastor, U.S. Army chaplain and minister, I have stood at many gravesides, hoping for some words of comfort to bring to a family. Most of the deaths were not problematic because the loved one's life was a Christian life. However, on occasion, if the truth be known, some days I have been at gravesides when the words could be said, "He died to no one's regret."

We write our own eulogy, even today. Printed obituaries often tell us of the deceased relatives, business, civic honors and other accomplishments. Yet if the truth be known, did this person have any positive, lasting impact on anyone's life? Did he die to no one's regret?

— *This is an excerpt from a new book that is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2022 by Dr. Tony Cleaver. The current working title of the book is, "Life Coaching: From the Historical Books."*



Center Point, Nashville, June 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Milligan Ridge, Manilla, June 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; theme- The Mighty God.

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.

Bodcaw/Corinth, Rosston, June 13-17; 6:30 – 9 p.m.; theme – Zoomerang.

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

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, June 6 @ 6:30 p.m.; Harmony, West Helena.

Mt. Vernon Youth in the Harvest, Aug. 22 @ 6:30 p.m.; Fourth St., West Helena.

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Missionaries



Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984
 Clinton Morris, The Table, Springdale; (870) 316-1519
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton/Saline County; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Northwest Arkansas; (936) 202-7988

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

Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



PAUL WHITE
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 arstamis@comcast.net

True Christian Liberty

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not (use) liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13).

Everybody looks for different things in the Ten Commandments. Some look for divine guidance, some look for a code to live by, but most of us are looking for loopholes.

In 1982, ABC Evening News reported on an unusual work of modern art ¾ a chair affixed to a shotgun. It was to be viewed by sitting in the chair and looking directly into the gun barrel. The gun was loaded and set on a timer to fire at an undetermined moment within the next 100 years. The amazing thing was that people waited in lines to sit and stare into the shell's path! They all knew the gun could go off at point-blank range at any moment, but they were gambling that the fatal blast wouldn't happen during their minute in the chair.

Yes, it was foolhardy, yet many people who wouldn't dream of sitting in that chair live a lifetime gambling that they can get away with sin. They ignore the risk until the inevitable self-destruction. There are different opinions to what Gal. 5:13 means. One says “I have liberty, so I can do whatever I want to do.” People have told me “If I believed once saved always saved, I would go out and do whatever I wanted.” I tell them “If you believed like I do, you would do more than you want to.”

Another sees the wrong and begins to apply the law on everybody. Somewhere between license (can) on the one hand and legalism (must) on the other hand is true Christian liberty. Paul then issues a caution: “Don't allow your liberty to degenerate into license!” There are false teachers who “change the grace of our God into a license for immorality.” Certain individuals whose condemnation was written about a long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people who “pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ, our only Sovereign and Lord” (Jude 4 NIV). Paul's caution is a valid one. Christian liberty is not a license to sin but an opportunity to serve. This leads to a commandment: “By love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13). The key word, of course, is love. The formula looks something like this: liberty + love = service to others or liberty — love = license (slavery to sin).

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “We visited two mobile home parks this week to deliver some donations and making connections with the families that reside there. People received us very well. Pray that relationships will grow, and that we will have the opportunity to share the gospel with them, leading to an invitation to join us.

“Friday night, we had a prayer meeting and enjoyed spending that time of fellowship with God and the church. The Bible institute is still going strong. In three more weeks, we will finish book one — *Methods of Biblical Study and Rules of Interpretation*. Once book one is finished, we will start book two with this group, and we will open a new class with book one, to give the rest of the church the opportunity to have leadership training. Please pray for the institute's students, (currently five) and the future students of the next stage.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “This week has been a full schedule of activities in the different ministries I serve. Ebenezer,

Baseball Chapel and Novo (novo.org) occupied much of my week. Monday through Friday, my day starts at 4:30 a.m. to exercise both spiritually and physically. My regular schedule begins as early as 8:30 a.m.

“The Berean Groups (home groups) continue to develop, only the Berean Group in Bryant needs to be activated. Pray that God will remove all obstacles and they will return to all their activities. The group in Bryant is where we, as a family, participate and support, both my wife and my children are edified there. At the moment, the host family has had some difficulties in activating it. I ask for your prayers.

“We have also been busy with all the preparations for my son, Ruben Alexander's graduation — taking pictures and making a postcard to give to the families of the congregation. Last Saturday was his graduation ceremony from LISA West High School. It was a blessing to see him finish an important stage in his life well.

“Next Sunday, we will have our Celebration Service with prayer for the two boys who graduated, Jeremiah and Ruben. Thank you for your support of

our mission. To God be the glory!”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “I am writing this report from North Little Rock this week. Mom is in the hospital with pneumonia. She was admitted Wednesday night, and I came and spent the day Thursday, but had to go home and perform a wedding for one of my oldest friends' sons. It was a wonderful time.

“We had a great worship service on Sunday morning with good attendance and some first-time and return visitors. Then at 2 p.m., we met again at the Cotter Spring on the White River to baptize our two newest members who were saved at our last baptism 2 weeks ago. That was not only an amazing and joyful experience, but it was downright fun! I do believe the White River is a lot colder than it was the whole time I was growing up, but it was worth it! Praise God, what a day!

“After the baptism, I loaded up and came back to North Little Rock to see mom at the hospital. I think she may be starting to improve a little. Please pray for her.

“Thank you for your prayers for us, my mom, Flippin and the mission. Please continue, and thank God for answering them because He truly is!”

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, “It was so good to see our guests from last week come back this week. They are fitting into our mission and people are welcoming. We also had another guest this week and there is much interest from several others about potentially attending either the mission or one of our other events. Keep praying for these people and these relationships as they continue to form.

“Pray for DeAnna and I, as we are going into three crazy weeks with travel, meetings and evangelistic opportunities. We head to Tyler, Texas next week to celebrate the wedding of one of The Tables' college couples. I am so excited to see this stage of their life and be there as they are planning the next stages of their life alongside of The Table.

“There are many people traveling during the month of June, and we are going to be running fewer people most of the month. It is good to see the seasons of a church family and to understand how best to keep people connected, even when they are temporarily apart.”

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, “Keeping in line with true Baptist tradition, Faith Journey

Opportunities For Service

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

had their first fellowship this week. We served an amazing BBQ pulled pork with all the fixins' prepared by Pastor Allan Eakin from Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell. The turnout for this week was great. We had 22, with 8 first-time visitors, and everyone seemed to enjoy getting to know each other better. It's been said, ‘Feed them and they will come!’

“One of the main reasons we wanted to have this fellowship was to give the owners of the facility where Faith Journey meets weekly an opportunity to share their testimony and talk about the ministries that they are building at The Cabin 3H in Benton. Roy and Melaine Hale started 3H Ministries with God's vision of Hope, Healing and Happiness.

“Roy and Melaine travel with a group of families every year to the country of Belize to minister to people on the island of San Pedro. They focus on sharing the gospel through helping with service projects in the community, providing encouragement to the local churches and Christian preschool and developing relationships in the hope of planting a seed to help expand the kingdom of God through sharing God's message of salvation. Roy and Melaine have been a huge blessing to Faith Journey by helping provide the use of their building, leading our weekly worship time and even using their facility to help advertise for Faith Journey. We are very blessed that God has used them to help grow Faith Journey Mission.”

Hispanic Mission, NW Ark Area: Roberto Marcelletti writes, (5/15) “We were in the neighborhood near the church this week, doing a prayer walk and reconnoitering the land and trying to make connections with Hispanics in the area. We also made a connection with a family from the community college. They may visit us on Friday at our home, for which we ask for prayers. They are Richard and Marget, and a man who works with

(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.

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.

Hispanics in the area (Héctor), and we continue working with the Rodríguez family who have already visited us three times in our apartment. The list of people with whom we have made connections continues to grow ¾ there are 22 people, of which 2 families are interested in learning more about the Bible and Jesus Christ. *My prayer is that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints' (Eph. 1:18).*

(5/22) “This week we were meditating on Psalm 119:49: *Remember the word given to your servant, in which you have made me wait.*”

“The Lord reminds us of the goodness of knowing how to wait on His promises. This brings us hope and confidence in the midst of the struggles and circumstances that are experienced on this side of eternity. We had a pleasant visit this week with State Missions Executive Director Paul White. It was a very good time where he expressed his love and the support of the BMA of Arkansas to the mission that has been entrusted to us. We were also able to learn more about his ministerial experience. We feel very loved and encouraged to continue in the work the Lord has given us to raise work for Him in Northwest Arkansas. Thank you very much for the support and love. His visit was a blessing.

“This week, we continue to work with the family that God, in His grace, has allowed us to connect with. We pray that they will make a firm commitment to follow Jesus Christ. We were sharing the message with two of my wife's colleagues from Community College, and we invited them to our house this week to continue talking.

“I also ask for your prayers since, on Friday, we were invited to a Hispanic event that will take place in Springdale where Hispanic leaders from the area will attend. May God fill us with grace and favor from Him to continue making connections.”



Free E-Trumpet

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Two Teams Become One

By Holly Meriweather

Ukraine and Romania are separated by less than 400 miles. Although Poland is closer, for those who are fleeing the war between Russia and Ukraine, many are seeking refuge in Romania, and they are being met with open arms and hearts by the Romania team based in the Braşov area. My husband, John and I had the privilege of bringing four large suitcases full of gifts for them from the States, being welcomed into their homes, eating their delicious meals and helping them with security plans should the need arise.

The Team

Bryan Risner and Cristian Martinez met in 2020 at BMA Missions housing in Conway during the Risners' furlough, just as they were considering a new field once their ministry transitioned to Romanian ChangeMakers. At the same time, the Martinezes were preparing for Romania, their new mission field. As the two men visited and discussed ministry plans and next steps, they realized God was leading them to become a team of two families and two young women — Brian and Pam, their teenage children (Melody, Lindsey and Landon), Cristian and Vanessa Martinez, their young children (Joellyn and Ethan), Candra Barnett and Sara Filimon (Vanessa's sister).

Cristian's ministry vision is to reach college students from surrounding countries who take advantage of Romania's inexpensive, first-class universities and then return to their countries. That vision has not changed, but God has opened new doors they did not anticipate. The main one is a coffee shop where Cristian and Sara work part-time. The owners had been praying to connect with Christian employees who could use their facilities to share the gospel. Located in Old Town Braşov directly on the city's plaza, the coffee shop is an opportunity to not only share the gospel but to use it for small group meetings.

John and I were honored to be part of their second coffee shop worship service, made up of young Romanians and families with small children. Some of them were childhood friends of Vanessa and Sara. Cristian and Bryan conducted the service, and each team member had a role, from serving coffee and pastries to taking care of children upstairs. After worshipping together and the final "amen," people did not want to

leave. It was a sweet time of fellowship and forgetting that a war raged nearby.

The Camp

The team members attend services at Hope Church (and have built friendships and ministry partnerships with the church's staff), which includes a once-abandoned campground. Bryan has led efforts to help with refurbishing Camp Hope and Romania team members visit the camp regularly to build relationships. There are mostly women and children there, and Pam Risner has started a women's Bible study. They have recently exchanged its bunk beds for family-sized ones and made other improvements so families fleeing the war can be comfortable long term.

One of those women, Luba graciously allowed Candra and me to ask about her experiences since the war began. She told us her husband, who can't leave Ukraine, basically forced her to leave their war-torn city with two small children. After tearfully explaining that he was everything to her and she couldn't imagine being separated from him, she told us they packed their bags for what ended up being a three-week journey. It was obvious the memories still haunt her — three nights of sleeping on the freezing cold floor of the train station, walking many kilometers and almost running out of food. The final leg of her journey brought her and other refugees to Camp Hope for who knows how long. (After returning to the States, we received news that Luba's husband Deema, who is still in Ukraine, is having trouble finding food.)

The Plans

David Dose is BMA Missions' security consultant, and one aspect of his job is creating contingency plans for missionaries in the unlikely case that they must leave the field immediately. There are obvious reasons for swift departures, one of those being if war comes to their doorstep. To monitor possible risks, he goes directly to the field in question. David casually visited with each family and individual on the Romania team. He asked questions, noted each home's security and presented different "if/so" scenarios for them to consider. Then we prayed together.

For me, it was enlightening and incredibly helpful as one of many support staff individuals at the Global

Ministry Center. Our missionaries are in good hands.

The Gospel to Romanians

This Romania team is a diverse one. All eleven of them speak at least two languages and represent three nationalities — Mexican, American and Romanian. The preschoolers speak three languages, and Vanessa and Sara speak four.

Although I had written each of their stories as they prepared for their chosen fields, I did not know their various backgrounds, personalities, talents, skills, quirks and mannerisms. It was great fun finding out who they really are, making memories together and, most importantly, feeling and understanding their collective heart for the Lord.

We only talked about it briefly, but the war is always on their minds and not because they think about the "what ifs." It is because they see the urgency of spreading the gospel in a much more tangible way than we do. They see it in the eyes of those who are displaced and hurting and have no idea when or if they will return home.

Please pray for this team as they meet believers and non-believers, share the gospel with them and begin their church planting vision.

Revivals

Union Grove, Blevins, May 29-June 1; 6 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Donald Thompson, pastor.

Sulphur Springs, Fordyce, July 21-23; 7 p.m.; Eddie Raynes, evangelist, Sam Hobson, pastor.

Bodcaw, Rosston, July 11-13; 7 p.m.; Bruce Porter, evangelist, Ed Phillips, pastor.

Bluff Springs, Rosston, July 17-20; 5 p.m. - Sunday; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Kenneth Bobo (Sun.), David Dillard

(Mon.) Neal Riddling (Tue.) and Frank Henson (Wed.), evangelists; Donnie Dillard, pastor.

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

Center Point, Nashville, July 31-Aug. 3; Shawn Kemp, evangelist; Jaron Tipton, 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.



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Ruben, Korina, Zuly & Ruben A. Isturiz
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Karen & Johnny Shew
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Paul & Vicki White



Bryan Clay
Faith Journey Mission • SW Saline County
Kelley & Bryan Clay
(501) 912-7476 • bryandclay@gmail.com



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