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Groundbreaking for Lifeword

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer

Lifeword 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.

George Reddin, who served as Lifeword 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 Lifeword.

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, Lifeword moved into internet ministry, which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeword'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 Lifeword 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 Lifeword to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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



Jimmy Walker, former missionary to the Philippines, has accepted the pastorate of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Waldo, where he had been serving as interim pastor. He will continue to serve as superintendent at Columbia Christian School.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to Immanuel Baptist Church Search Committee, P. O. Box 212, Nashville, Ark. 71852.

nations and to play a role as the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeword 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 Lifeword four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeword," said Executive Director Donny Parrish. "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 Lifeword. 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!



2022 re:Charge Leader's Oasis

By Nick Jacobson, BMA Conferences Manager • BMA of America

Mark 3 describes Jesus withdrawing from the crowds that had begun following him everywhere. It was the most important time in history. The Messiah had come to save the world and He would soon appoint the Twelve. He would teach mankind the most radical ideas ever heard, and Jesus took time to get away and pray, to reset and refocus. If the Son of God took time to do so, how much more should we look for opportunities to change our pace and reframe our minds.

Re:Charge Leaders Oasis is scheduled for Sept. 27-29 at the beautiful Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs. Bill Elliff, pastor, author and speaker will be speaking this year. Travis Sellers, worship arts pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway will lead worship and funny man Brad Stine will be our dinner entertainment one evening.

For more information, registration and hotel reservations, go to bmaamerica.org/recharge.



We're All Postmodernists Now

By John Stonestreet & Shane Morris • The Colson Center

Recently, a colleague noted how a growing number of conservative-minded people he encountered on social media, some of them Christians, were refusing to believe stories about Russian atrocities in Ukraine. Some even rejected that the invasion was an unjustified war of aggression by Russia. When he asked the reason for their doubt, their response was simply because the stories were reported in the "mainstream media," which has done nothing but lie to us for years.

I share suspicion for certain sources — major networks, news outlets and their reporters have forgotten the difference between journalism and opinion writing. And, of course, their biases tend to lean in the same direction. Christian conservatives rarely get a fair shake on self-described neutral outlets, such as CNN or *The Washington Post*, let alone overtly progressive outlets such as *Vox* or MSNBC.

However, when our suspicion about truth-telling becomes suspicion of truth itself, we've become postmodernists. Christian writer Samuel James calls this bad habit "negative epistemology." This is the idea that we don't need to figure out what's true, we only need to believe the opposite of whatever our political enemies say.

Of course, this is only part of the overall and pervasive collapse of trust

See **POSTMODERN**, Page 5

Missionary Committee Meeting

Chairman David Inzer has called for a meeting of the State Missionary Committee on Thursday, July 14 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall at South City Church in Little Rock (10710 I-30) to consider adding a new full-time missionary. (see Missions article on page 7 for more information)






CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE
PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President



2022 Student Orientation Staff Announced

Central Baptist College is pleased to announce the 2022 Student Orientation Staff (SOS), a group of upperclassmen students whose primary role is to help new students feel welcome at CBC. SOS team members are selected based on maturity, work ethic, friendliness and value-driven leadership. New students entering CBC are faced with numerous questions related to registration, housing, financial concerns, personal identity, academic survival and other challenges related to starting a new chapter on their own. Each SOS member plays a vital role in helping answer these questions and navigating college life.

SOS is led by Student Activities Coordinator Blake Pittman. Under Pittman's leadership, SOS members are empowered to plan and implement activities to help new students become a part of the CBC family.

This year's Senior Team Leader is **Autumn Herring**, a senior from Maumelle. The Senior Team Leader serves to help coordinate SOS trainings, support Team Leaders and oversee and encourage SOS members.

This year's Team Leaders are: **Austen Krisell**, a senior from Greenbrier; **Allison Mantooth**, a senior from Helotes, Texas; **Ben Stevens**, a junior from Lake Charles, La.; and **Hannah Varnado**, a junior from Franklinton, La. Team Leaders with the help of their team members, are responsible for coordinating events for MUD (Mustangs Under Development) week, such as karaoke night, theme night and MUD night.

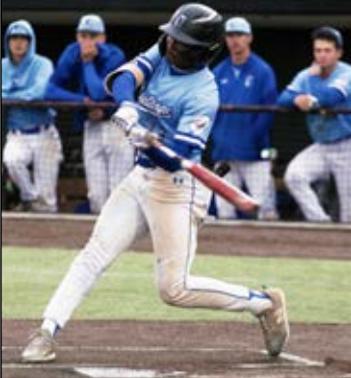
The 2022 SOS Team Members are: **Caleb Allen**, senior from Rogers; **Anna Atwood**, sophomore from Little Rock; **Callum Bisset**, junior from Arbroath, Scotland; **Eden Brister**, sophomore from Conway; **Sierra Burrow**, junior from Quitman; **Mason Crymes**, sophomore from Timbo; **Nathan Dodson**, junior from Greenbrier; **Dillon Hall**, junior from Damascus; **Rebecca Hanry**, sophomore from North Little Rock; **Kane Harrell**, sophomore from Conway; **Kim-brow Harrell** sophomore from Conway; **Hannah Hearst**, senior from Conway; **Landon Hitchcock**, sophomore from Broken Arrow, Okla.; **Aubrey Jackson**, junior from Traskwood; **Mollie Johnson**, sophomore from Texarkana; **Bryson Jones**, junior from Conway; **Jayla Kramer**, junior from Conway; **Julian Lilley**, senior from Dardanelle; **Frederick Marsh**, junior from Rison; **Melanie Phillips**, sophomore from Dudley, Mo.; **Sheridan Rogers**, sophomore from Russellville; **Caroline Skinner**, sophomore from Bryant; **Heath Truett**, sophomore from Conroe, Texas; **Grace Vandergriff**, sophomore from Lufkin, Texas; **Abigail Weihe**, sophomore from Alexander; **Ashanti Williams**, junior from Jonesboro; **Abby Wilson**, sophomore from Lufkin, Texas.

The SOS members are present during Connect Days to begin making connections with new students. SOS members coordinate MUD week events and build relationships with new students.

All new students must attend one Connect Day to register for classes. The 2022 Connect Days are scheduled for June 21, July 19, Aug. 2 and Aug. 22. To RSVP for Connect Day, visit cbc.edu/orientation. For questions about Connect Day, contact Director of Student Services Marieca Ashworth at (501) 205-8826 or mashworth@cbc.edu.



Sports News
By Erik Holth



NAIA All-American Honors

• **Kansas City, Mo., June 8** — The accolades continue to roll in for CBC outfielder **Jay French**. He was named a First-Team All-American by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

French becomes the second first-team All-American in program history and the third All-American overall after **Jalin Lawson** was a first-team selection in 2016 and **Ben Madison** earned honorable mention honors in 2018.

French was also named American Midwest Conference (AMC) Player of the Year and a first-team All-AMC selection after he led the conference in batting average, runs scored, hits, steals and on-base percentage. He also led the nation in steals with 61, simultaneously setting a new state record in Arkansas and is ranked 11th nationally in hitting (.441), tied for seventh in runs scored (76) and 16th in on-base percentage at .528!



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.

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



Student Ministry Matters

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Director **BMA of Arkansas Youth Department**
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Dan with his son, Riley (left) and daughter, Kat (right).

Your First Student Ministry Worker

Whether you grew up in a small church or a big church, I can probably tell you who your first student ministry worker was. It was your dad. Now, you could make an argument that it was your mom, but let's be honest. Your mom was there to keep you alive. She fed you, cleaned you and made sure you looked cute in the church nursery. It was your dad that would throw you up in the air and try to make you laugh. That sounds a lot like many of the student ministry workers I know. But in all seriousness, our fathers are called to pour into our lives spiritually. Hopefully, that happened in your home. It doesn't always happen that way, but it doesn't change the responsibilities we find in God's Word. The Bible says:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deut. 6:4-8 ESV).

That transfer of knowledge and understanding happens in two ways:

• **It is taught.** As fathers, we are to teach our children the truth of God's Word. That doesn't mean we have to sit in a formal setting and draw out diagrams, but it does mean we have to talk about it. We have to use words and communicate the reality of our faith with the little people God has put in our lives. If we don't, they will never understand how important that relationship is. As this passage describes, it is a matter of continual conversation that happens as we navigate the day-in and day-out responsibilities of life. For some of us, it is easier to talk about the Razorbacks or our favorite hobby than to talk about our relationship with Jesus. It is important that we make a change in that area. We need to make Jesus big in our lives and talk about Him every day.

• **It is caught.** What we do in this life matters. If we have children in our homes, there are little eyes always watching and little ears always listening. If you make Sunday worship a priority, your children see that. If you spend time in the Word, your children see that. If you choose to use "colorful" language, they see and hear that as well. What you do will be "caught" by the children in your life.

Philips, Craig, and Dean released a song several years ago called, "I want to be just like you." It shared the idea that the children in our lives will want to be just like us, so we must pray and ask God to help us be "just like You because he wants to be just like me." That is my prayer for you as you lead the children in your lives. Ask the Father to shape you, so your influence will be for the good.

Special Recognition for Fathers

I want to thank the WMA of Prospect Missionary Baptist Church of Jonesboro. They recently made a donation of \$120 to the work of the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department in honor of the fathers of their church. This is a special blessing for our ministry as we start preparing in earnest for our annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat on Sept. 17. I am so thankful for this WMA group and all of our fathers as they invest in the spiritual development of their children.



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Mt. Vernon Men Meet

By Lance Madden, Reporter

The Mount Vernon District Brotherhood met Monday, June 6 at Harmony Baptist Church in West Helena for their quarterly meeting. There were 25 in attendance and an offering of \$298 was collected for the *Baptist Trumpet*.

The host church fed the men a delicious fish and chicken meal with all the trimmings. After congregational singing, Terry Garrison and J.E. Hughes blessed the meeting with special music. Luke Watson, pastor of Elaine Baptist Church, preached a powerful message from Acts 4 about the need for men to be bold and Spirit-filled.

We voted for our officers to stay the same for the next year and added Lance Madden as our reporter. Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12 at Central Baptist Church in Hughes at 6:30 p.m. Our offering goal is BMA of Arkansas State Missions.

compassion. It is not easy, but it is possible because of the power of the Holy Spirit living within us. Anything less is actually a very poor excuse at best and a real lack of faith at worse. I John 4:4 reminds us that "...greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world." You can live a victorious life because of this truth.

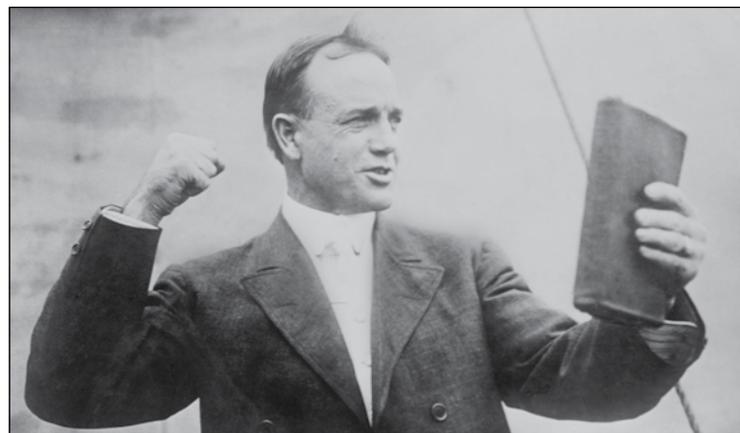
In *The Stressless Life*, Vance Pitman reminds us of Jesus visiting two sisters, Mary and Martha. Unfortunately, Martha catches far too much criticism without careful examination of our own hearts. Martha, I am sure, wanted to spend time with Jesus if she had time. Pitman states, "Sadly, I'm afraid that's the way many of us approach our schedules as followers of Christ. We say, Jesus, you're welcome to stop by — as long as I have time." The difference in Mary was that Jesus' presence was her plan. Henry Blackaby reminds us, "A love relationship with God is more important than any other single factor in your life."

King David said, "*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple*" (Psa. 27:4). Maybe we should look a little deeper into these statements in the Word of God: To **dwell** in the house of the Lord; to **abide** in Christ; and husbands being told to **live** with their wives. Make sure that Jesus is the author of your story and that the Holy Spirit is the editor!

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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Evangelist William Ashley "Billy" Sunday (Nov. 19, 1862 – Nov. 6, 1935)

The Evangelists And Revivalists

In last week's column, I wrote about summer revivals and outdoor baptisms. As a result, several reached out to me saying they fondly remember some of those. However, there were some who said the evangelists really scared them! I was just thinking about some of the evangelists and revivalists who preached in BMA churches over the years.

Some of them preached Hell so hot the lost could almost feel the flames. Others preached to the churches, encouraging them to devote themselves to carrying out the Great Commission. That pretty well categorized the evangelists and revivalists.

I will mention some whom I heard preach over the years. I know there are many whom I'll fail to mention, but that will be due to lack of memory and certainly will not be intentional.

One of the earliest revivals I remember at Central Baptist in Ashdown was preached by Dr. D.N. Jackson. I couldn't have been more than six years old. I vividly recall him entering the pulpit with Bible in hand, placing the Bible on the pulpit, and never opening it during the sermon. But he quoted his usually lengthy text, word for word, and then quoted his proof texts throughout the sermon. He did that every night for seven nights!

When I was a freshman at CBC, Central Baptist Church of Conway had Dr. Harold Brunson as an evangelist. I was impressed by his dapper dress as, each evening, he preached powerful messages from God's Word. He, too, often quoted long Bible passages as he preached. (I have never been able to do that!)

During those days at CBC, "youth revivals" were quite popular in the churches, and spanned only a weekend in most situations. Two young preachers who were in great demand due to their dynamic preaching were William Willis and Mike Harmon. They were preaching somewhere almost every weekend.

It would take far too much space for me to write about each preacher, but your memories might be jogged if I just mention a few others whom our Lord has used to win souls to Christ and to challenge churches to revival. Some of these have already been promoted to Heaven, others remain with us, though they may not be quite as active as in days gone by. Men like Harold Leytham, A.D. Livingston, Jerry Jolly, Jim Sayers, Jurl Mitchell, Alfred Wayne Darst, A.D. Stuckey, Dr. Wassell Burgess and Dr. Harold Cooper traveled our state and nation doing exactly what they promised God they would do... preach the Word!

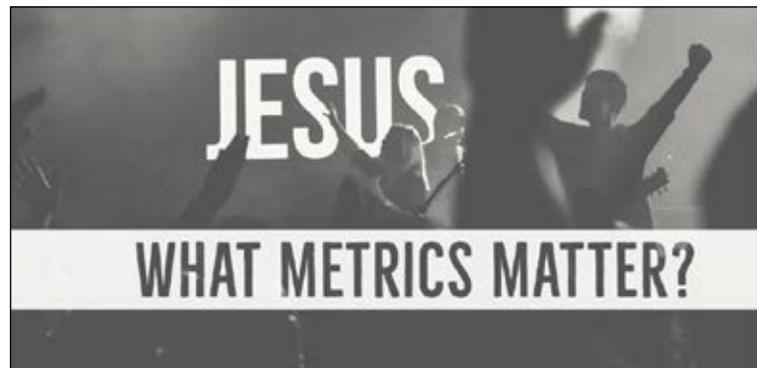
Aren't you glad they did? If you have a precious memory from a meeting with some of these who are still with us, why not write a note, make a call or send a text. You never know how such a gesture might be encouraging medicine for them!



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Leading With the Right Metrics

Leadership expects success and sometimes even demands it. Unfortunately, our self-worth and value can be wrapped up too much in success. Image is very pervasive in our culture to the misperception of your believing that our worth is based on how successful others view us. You must fight the temptation to draw your identity and worth from whether others see you as successful or unsuccessful. You are not worth more or less depending on how someone sees and views you if your identity rests securely in Jesus. Colossians 2:10 says, "*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*"

Make sure your metrics are measuring what really matters. Leaders can focus on bodies (the size of the congregation), bucks (the size of budget and offerings) and buildings (the size and beauty of their campus). None of these are wrong, in and of themselves, but they can be very misleading and do not measure what matters most — things like spiritual health, faithfulness, disciples not decisions, making disciples who make disciples, leadership reproduction, multiplication and obedience to the Great Commission. Remember, your worth is found in Jesus Christ and being complete in Him.

• First metric, **are you thriving in Christ or are you just surviving the demands of ministry?** If you have not read the article from the May 25 issue, *Leading From the Overflow*, you should. Your spiritual health is the first casualty in leading if you are not very careful. You begin to believe you cannot be delivered from worry, anxiety and stress, but that is denying the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. God would not tell us about joy and peace if it were only a pipe dream. Your ability to thrive in fellowship with other believers is founded in your thriving in daily fellowship with Christ.

In *Rings of Fire*, Leonard Sweet reminds us that "Whoever you allow to author your story is your authority. Let Jesus be your author and let the Holy Spirit be your editor." Your journey can be difficult, and none of us have figured

it all out nor do we have all the answers. Moving forward requires constantly being in His Word and crying out to Him for His direction. You can focus so much on what God wants to say to your church that you miss out on what He is saying to you. Surrendering your life to Him makes you pivot to focus on Him as "*the author and finisher of your faith*" (Heb. 12:2).

• The first correct metric is your personal soul care but the second is **the care of your marriage and family**. Refuse the temptation to sacrifice your family on the altar of ministry. There are areas of your life that only you can take care of, like your spiritual walk, relationship with your wife, relationship with your children and the care of your family. It will not always be easy, but wisdom tells us to put God first and family second. The family is under attack and the minister's home is no exception. Know this, the temptation is inevitable and it will consistently keep knocking at your door. You are not immune to temptation.

Are soul care and family care the first two priorities of your daily life and walk with Christ? Here are some great questions to help you evaluate:

How is your prayer life?

Do you enjoy your quiet time and long to abide in Christ?

How is your marriage and does your wife realize how much you love her?

Are you having a date night on a regular basis?

Does your family have your undivided attention when you are home or are you always distracted?

Do you sit down together as a family to eat so you can share stories, concerns, burdens and victories?

What story is God authoring in your home and are you talking about that consistently?

• The third metric is **faithfulness to God and His Word by standing for truth while speaking it in love**. The greatest challenge, especially in today's culture, is navigating today's issues by showing compassion without compromising convictions and standing for convictions without compromising



By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

A Blessed Visit

I was privileged to have the opportunity to preach the message at Center Grove Baptist Church in Cord for their 164th Homecoming service on Sunday (June 12). This is such a great group of people along with their pastor, Barry Anderson. As I prepared to go to Center Grove for this milestone celebration, I decided I would go into the *Baptist Trumpet* archives to see what I might be able to find related to this church. Below is a list of some interesting and noteworthy things I found:



- **April 30, 1947, *Temple Trumpet*** — Center Grove is listed by missionary-elect to the Philippines Sidney Cook as supporting the work of taking the gospel overseas.

- **Oct. 19, 1949, *Temple Trumpet*** — Deacon Ordination of four men announced by Frank Bullington (a descendant of John Bullington, the missionary who planted the church in 1858).

- **Jan. 16, 1951, *Temple Trumpet*** — Center Grove is listed among those that sent funds to help pay for the new Central College property.

- **April 15, 1970, *Baptist Trumpet*** — Center Grove is mentioned by Central Baptist College President Gerald Kellar as a great supporter of the college, and a CBC Student, Roger Cole, was pastor at the time.

- **Nov. 24, 1970, *Baptist Trumpet*** — In the “Gleanings from the Churches” column, Center Grove, Newark reported the following: “The church met on a Wednesday night for the purpose of electing a new pastor, not knowing a squirrel had climbed the high line pole and threw the switch on the transformer. We had no lights, but we were so determined to go ahead with the conference. I suggested that we use candles which were left at the church after a wedding. It worked out fine. We called a pastor. He accepted. The Lord is blessing, and we have had three additions.” Bill Hunter, pastor; Ola Bullington, assistant reporter.

- **Dec. 1, 1971, *Baptist Trumpet*** — CBC President Wassell Burgess mentions the faithfulness of Center Grove to support the Lord’s work.

- **Oct. 2, 1985, *Baptist Trumpet*** — There is a story about how Center Grove was rebuilding after their building was lost in a fire in February 1985. Jimmy Thompson was pastor at the time.

- **Sept. 18, 1991, *Baptist Trumpet*** — Charles Bullington’s ordination by Center Grove is reported.

- **Sept. 30, 1992, *Baptist Trumpet*** — Center Grove advertised a youth revival to be held at the Independence County Fairgrounds.

- **May 21, 2008, *Baptist Trumpet*** — An article celebrating Center Grove Baptist Church in Cord for 150 Years of Service is featured.

- **Feb. 20, 2019, *Baptist Trumpet*** — A note about Roger Cole being honored for 50 years of service pastoring churches in Texas and Arkansas, noting that his first pastorate was at Center Grove Baptist Church in 1969.

The faithfulness of Center Grove is evident as they are mentioned by many department leaders as a church that faithfully supports the ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association, especially in Arkansas. There have also been many leaders in our association who have been associated with Center Grove.

If you have not spent some time looking through the *Baptist Trumpet* archives, why not head over to BaptistTrumpet.com/archive and check it out today. You really never know what you will find! Access to the archives is free for anyone, but you must register. If you are a subscriber, you can use your customer portal credentials for access. If you need help with your log-in information, reach out to us at the office at (501) 565-4601, editor@baptisttrumpet.com or associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com.

Special Emphasis Update

We are still getting some Special Emphasis offerings in the mail. There may or may not be some shouting happening when we open the mail to see how God continues to use His faithful people to meet the needs of this ministry. As mentioned previously, we will continue to count all special offerings toward our goal through the end of the fiscal year (Aug. 31). Thanks to the additional funds received, we have now raised 63% of our goal (\$28,314.03). The remaining 37% (approximately \$17,000) is designated to go toward the software

See JOURNEY, Page 8



Walmart Shareholders Defeat Pro-abortion Proposal

On June 1, Walmart held its annual shareholder’s meeting and voted on a proposal designed to pull the company into the abortion debate against state-level protections for the unborn. The proposal was defeated overwhelmingly, receiving fewer than 13% of the votes cast. The measure was placed on the ballot by a left-of-center pro-abortion group called Clean Yield Asset Management, which placed similar measures on the ballot at FedEx and Cigna, where they were also defeated.

The proposal called upon Walmart to “publish a report on the potential risks and costs to the company of state policies that restrict reproductive healthcare...” Reproductive health care is a common euphemism for abortion. The call for a study of risks is a standard form used by activists to influence companies in their preferred direction. There is a precedent of the SEC upholding proposals of this format as appropriate topics for shareholder votes.

The proposals suggested that Walmart might have trouble recruiting workers in Arkansas should Roe v. Wade be reversed and abortion outlawed. This amounts to a suggestion that the company threaten to punish states by closing (or not expanding) business in those states, a tactic which has been used effectively against states which passed religious freedom laws at odds with the desire of the LGBTQ lobby.

T.J. Maxx had a similar abortion-related proposal on the ballot on June 7, put forth by a different group of activists. It was also defeated. (christianpost.com)

Premature Baby Born Defies the Odds to Survive

British infant Elsie Dutton weighed just 1 pound, 2 ounces when she was born prematurely in December. The tiny baby girl survived while her twin (Doty) did not, and doctors initially warned Elsie’s parents that she might die, too, according to the *Daily Mail*. But after spending five months in the hospital, Elsie’s parents said she is home now and thriving.

Elsie was born at 23 weeks, four days of pregnancy, weighing 1 pound, 2 ounces, after her mother went into premature labor, according to the report. Because the girls were not yet 24 weeks (which is the legal abortion limit in England), Amy Dutton said Doty was described as a miscarriage, not a stillbirth.

The difficulties continued for the family. According to the report, Elsie immediately was placed in an incubator, and her parents could not hold her for the first month of her life outside the womb. When she did get to hold Elsie, the effects of the mother-child bond were apparent.

After four months in St. George’s,

Elsie finally grew well enough to go home. Her parents said she has survived so many odds and her health is improving every day.

More premature babies are surviving and thriving thanks to modern medicine. In November, Guinness World Records recognized an Alabama boy who was born at 21 weeks as the youngest premature baby to survive. Curtis Means was born weighing 14.8 ounces at 21 weeks and one day in July 2020. In 2017, the journal *Pediatrics* highlighted the story of another girl who survived after being born at 21 weeks and four days of pregnancy. (lifefews.com)

Trauma Survivors Flourish by Scripture Engagement

Trauma survivors who regularly engage in Scripture flourish more than survivors who are biblically disengaged, the American Bible Society (ABS) said in its latest revelations from the 2022 State of the Bible report.

While a third of study participants have personally experienced trauma in their lifetime, those characterized as “Scripture-engaged” scored higher on a 10-point scale that measured flourishing in 6 areas.

Scripture-engaged respondents scored 19% higher than Bible-disengaged respondents on the six-domain human flourishing index measuring happiness and life satisfaction, mental and physical health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, close

social relationships and financial and material stability.

Scripture-engaged trauma survivors scored 8.1 on the 10-point human flourishing scale, compared to a 6.9 score for the Bible disengaged, the ABS said, with the largest advantage seen in the area of meaning and purpose.

When Bible engagement is not considered, trauma survivors in the general population fare lower in human flourishing, ranking 6.5 in happiness and life satisfaction, for example, compared to 7.2 among the general population.

ABS defines trauma as “extreme violence, abuse or a near-death experience that produces a response of intense fear, helplessness and horror.” A third of respondents in the study had experienced trauma in their lifetimes.

The report’s third chapter, “Better Living Through Bible Reading,” also reveals findings of how Bible engagement impacts human flourishing among the general population, asserting that Scripture-engaged people ranked higher in five of the six domains. Only in financial and material stability did the Scripture-engaged rank lower, ABS said.

The 2022 report, conducted in collaboration with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, is based on 2,598 responses from a representative sample of adults 18 and older in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The study was conducted online and on the telephone Jan. 10-28.

ABS will release additional chapters of the study monthly, focusing on the Bible and society, faith across generations, speaking of faith in America, the Bible and technology

See NOTES, Page 8

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ATTORNEY GENERAL LESLIE RUTLEDGE

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TIKTOK
TIKTOK is a popular app among kids that is used to create and share short videos with limited privacy controls. Users are vulnerable to explicit content and cyberbullying.

SNAPCHAT
SNAPCHAT is a photo & video sharing app that promises users their photos or videos will disappear even though it doesn't. Snapchat stories allow users to view content for up to 24 hours and share their location.

YUBO
YUBO is a social media app that allows users as young as 13 to create a profile, share their location, view other users' profiles in their area and view livestreams. Substance use, profanity, racial slurs and scantily clad people are common.

TUMBLR
TUMBLR is a blogging app and website that allows users as young as 13 to create an account. There are very few privacy settings and pornography is easy to find. Most posts are public and can't be made private. This app was removed from the Apple App Store in '18.

DISCORD
DISCORD is a voice and text chat tool that allows gamers to communicate in real time. Users can chat, add friends one-on-one or in larger groups. This app discusses content geared towards adults, but allows users as young as 13.

YOUTUBE
YOUTUBE is a video sharing app that allows users as young as 13 to create an account. Inappropriate content can be found using innocent search terms. Lack of parental controls that can be avoided.

WHISPER
WHISPER is a social network that allows users to share secrets anonymously and it reveals the users' location so strangers can meet.

CALCULATOR%
CALCULATOR% is one of several "yik yak" style apps that appears to be a harmless app, but it used to take photos, videos, files, and even browser history.

WHATSAPP
WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app allowing users to text, send photos, make calls and leave voicemails worldwide.

MONKEY
MONKEY is an app that allows users as young as 12 to chat with people all over the world during a brief introductory call, then users are given the choice to add each other on SNAPCHAT.

CHATOUS
CHATOUS is a messaging app that allows users to chat and share images. This app makes it easy for predators to engage in age-inappropriate conversations with potential victims.

HOUSE PARTY
HOUSE PARTY is a group video chat app that allows users to communicate via live video chats and texts. There is no screening and the video is live. Users can also communicate with people they don't know.

LIVE.ME
LIVE.ME allows users to livestream videos using geo-location to share the videos so other users can find the broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" to "pay" minors for photos.

BUMBLE
BUMBLE is a popular dating app that requires women to make the first contact. It is common for minors to use this app and falsify their age.

TINDER
TINDER is a dating app that allows users to "swipe right" to like someone and "swipe left" to pass. Users can falsify their age, share photos, message and meet.

GRINDR
GRINDR is a dating app for LGBT adults, not children. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet with people based on a smartphone's GPS location.

Ensure Your Child is Safe Online

Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is sending an important warning for parents to take time to monitor their child's internet usage and social media accounts. Social media sites are a valuable resource for learning and connecting with others, but these platforms also enable bullying, anonymous messaging and exploitation of children by criminals.

"While technology can be an invaluable resource for learning, it can also expose your child to criminal or inappropriate activity," said AG Rutledge. "It is important that we all take the necessary steps to protect our most precious Arkansans from those who want to do them harm."

AG Leslie Rutledge urges parents to familiarize themselves with these phone apps that may make children vulnerable to dangers online:

• **Bumble** — Bumble is a popular dating app that requires women to make the first contact. It is common for minors to use this app and falsify their age.

• **Chatous** — Chatous is a messaging app that allows users to chat and share images. This app makes it easy for predators to engage in age-inappropriate conversations with potential victims.

• **Discord** — Discord is a voice and text chat tool that allows gamers to communicate in real-time. Users can chat and add friends one-on-one or in larger groups. This app discusses content geared toward adults but allows users as young as 13.

• **Grindr** — Grindr is a dating app for LGBTQ adults, not children. The

app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet with people based on a smartphone's GPS location.

• **Houseparty** — Houseparty is a group video chat app that allows users to communicate via live video chats and texts. There is no screening, and the video is live. Users can also communicate with people they do not know.

• **Live.Me** — Live.Me allows users to livestream videos using geo-location to share the videos so other users can find the broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" to "pay" minors for photos.

• **Monkey** — Monkey is an app that allows users as young as 12 to chat with people all over the world during a brief introductory call, then users are given the chance to add each other on Snapchat.

• **Phony Calculator App** — Most phones have a calculator. However there are many third party calculator apps that actually serve as a "vault" where the user can hide photos, videos, files and even browser history data.

• **Snapchat** — Snapchat is a photo and video sharing app that promises users their photo or video will disappear even though it does not. Snapchat stories allow users to view content for up to 24 hours and share their location.

• **TikTok** — TikTok is a popular app among kids that is used to create and share short videos with limited privacy controls. Users are vulnerable to explicit content and cyberbullying.

• **Tinder** — Tinder is a dating app that allows users to "swipe right" to like

someone and "swipe left" to pass. Users can falsify their age, share photos, message and meet.

• **Tumblr** — Tumblr is a blogging app and website that allows users as young as 13 to create an account. There are very few privacy settings and pornography is easy to find. Most posts are public and cannot be made private.

• **WhatsApp** — WhatsApp is a popular messaging app allowing users to text, send photos, make calls and leave voicemails worldwide.

• **Whisper** — Whisper is a social network that allows users to share secrets anonymously, and it reveals the users' location so strangers can meet.

• **Yik Yak** — Yik Yak is a social media app that allows an individual to anonymously chat with other app users within a five-mile radius. Due to its anonymous nature, bullying, sexually explicit or other graphic content is often encountered on the platform.

• **YouTube** — YouTube is a video sharing app that may not be age appropriate for kids. Inappropriate content can be found using innocent search terms, but with parental controls this can be avoided.

• **Yubo** — Yubo is a social media app that allows users as young as 13 to create a profile, share their location, view other users' profiles in their area and view livestreams. Substance abuse, profanity, racial slurs and scantily clad people are common.

Parents should follow the following tips to monitor their child's online activity:

POSTMODERN (Continued From Page 1)

throughout American society, specifically trust in institutions. We are rightly concerned about misinformation, the frequently shifting landscape of rationale for dealing with COVID-19 and claims about election fraud. But beneath all of these specific examples is a cultural landscape that treats truth and truth claims as nothing more than power plays.

This isn't a new idea. During the confirmation hearings for current Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, concern was raised over a speech she had given at UC Berkeley. In it, she stated that "to judge is an exercise in power." That idea leads activists to dismiss opponents by pointing out the color of their skin instead of addressing their argument. We see it every time cancel culture comes for a speaker or author on a college campus who says something that doesn't support their team. In other words, behind the collapse of trust in American society is a collapse of truth — the very possibility of truth.

For more than a century now, academics have been preaching this kind of extreme skepticism, suggesting that all truth claims are really impositions of power. This belief was at the heart of a worldview known as "postmodernism," initially conceived by mid-20th century French philosophers and eventually expressed in late-20th century pop culture. Today, Eminem and Nirvana are considered "classics," but the facts that so much of our culture is reduced to political power plays and so many people decide what's true by asking who believes the opposite, only proves that, to some extent, we are all postmodernists, now.

For people whose faith teaches that truth is knowable and that it **doesn't** depend on the source but a reality external to ourselves, this is a road we simply cannot continue down. Once we embrace the idea that all claims are mere power plays, there's no room for reason, revelation, persuasion,

• Talk to children about sexual victimization and the potential of online danger.

• Keep the computer or laptop in a common room of the house, not in a child's bedroom.

• Utilize parental controls available from internet service providers or use blocking software.

• Always maintain access to a child's online account and monitor text, email and other message inboxes.

• Teach children the responsible use of online resources.

• Familiarize yourself with computer safeguards being utilized at school, the library and at friends' homes.

• Never automatically assume that what a child is told online is true.

Arkansans can report child exploitation by calling the National CyberTipline at (800) 843-5678 or visit CyberTipline.com. In the event of an emergency, dial 911 or call local law enforcement.



Annette Rowlette, 91 of Quitman, passed away June 11. She was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Guy.

Bobby Vaughn, 81 of McNeil, passed away June 7. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Earl Austin Daniel, 97 of McNeil, passed away June 7. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

thinking or looking at God's world to know something about it and Him. Instead, we employ a version of a tactic promoted by postmodern English professors called "the hermeneutics of suspicion." We become suspicious of everything and, in the process, destroy the possibility of knowing anything.

I'm not the first to make the following literary connection, but we'd do well to learn from the Dwarfs described in C.S. Lewis' *The Last Battle*. Having been deceived once by their enemies, these sadly memorable characters decided they would never believe a non-Dwarf again. Terrified of being "taken in," they retreated into a tribalistic huddle, and ultimately became blind to the world around them. Their suspicion of everyone and everything became their prison, and in the end, it deprived them of Lewis' equivalent of Heaven.

If we come to believe that truth is **only** a matter of who's talking, that Vladimir Putin must be a good man because CNN says he's not or that an unjust war must be just if a president from the other party condemns it, we have retreated into that same, fatal huddle. We have lost our ability to talk meaningfully about right and wrong, and even to persuade others of these moral realities. We have traded a Christian worldview for a postmodern one. In our fear of being "taken in" by a lie, we have blinded ourselves to the truth.

Let's not make that mistake.

— Copyright 2022 by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Reprinted from BreakPoint.org with permission. The original article can be found at breakpoint.org/are-we-all-postmodernists-now. John Stonestreet serves as president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He's a sought-after author and speaker on areas of faith and culture, theology, worldview, education and apologetics. John is the daily voice of BreakPoint, the nationally syndicated commentary on the culture founded by the late Chuck Colson. He is also the voice of the Point, a daily one-minute feature on worldview, apologetics and cultural issues. Shane Morris is a senior writer at the Colson Center and host of the Upstream podcast as well as co-host of the BreakPoint podcast. He has been a voice of the Colson Center since 2010 as coauthor of many BreakPoint commentaries and columns. He has also written for The Gospel Coalition, The Federalist, The Christian Post, and Summit Ministries. He is currently studying theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and lives, with his wife, Gabriela, and their four children, in Lakeland, Fla.



Future Headlines: Jews Return to the Land of Israel

If you're gracious or curious enough to read this column regularly, you may be weary of another article about the rise of the Antichrist and future headlines. I get it. I'm itching to write about something different, but I will continue for a few more weeks because I want you to see the overwhelming evidence and in-depth picture we're given in Scripture. It's remarkable. I'm thankful the Lord sent me down a path to reevaluate Bible prophecy—to realize I'd only been rehashing what I'd heard people say and not dove in for myself. And when I did study Bible prophecy, I read in my preconceived views rather than letting Scripture dictate my view.

This series is on prophecies that tell us future headlines. These are events that will happen, well, except for this event. This isn't a future headline—but it was. Let me say that again. Isn't this incredible? The headline of "Jews Return to the Land of Israel" is no longer a future headline. Many of you might not know this was ever a headline, but it was.

Before 1917, and especially 1948, this was a future headline. This is a prophecy that has been fulfilled right before our eyes. A quote taken from a Charles H. Spurgeon sermon in 1855 expresses this being a future headline:

"The hour is approaching, when the tribes shall go up to their own country; when Judea, so long a howling wilderness, shall once more blossom like the rose... I think we do not attach sufficient importance to the restoration of the Jews. We do not think enough about it. But certainly, if there is anything promised in the Bible it is this. I imagine that you cannot read the Bible without seeing clearly that there is to be an actual restoration of the Children of Israel" (Charles H. Spurgeon, 1855).

He talked about this future time of Jews returning to the land oc-

curing. Also note the importance and Scriptural prevalence Spurgeon pointed to about the nation of Israel. Spurgeon also shared that there would be a future headline of Jews returning to the land, but there would also be a Jewish-governed state:

"There will be a native government again; there will again be the form of a body politic; a state shall be incorporated, and a king shall reign. Israel has now become alienated from her own land. Her sons, though they can never forget the sacred dust of Palestine, yet die at a hopeless distance from her consecrated shores. But it shall not be so forever, for her sons shall again rejoice in her: her land shall be called Beulah, for as a young man marrieth a virgin so shall her sons marry her. I will place you in your own land, is God's promise to them... They are to have a national prosperity which shall make them famous; nay, so glorious shall they be that Egypt, Tyre, Greece and Rome shall all forget their glory in the greater splendour of the throne of David... If there be anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of this passage (Ezek. 37:1-10) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualized away must be evident that both the two and the ten tribes of Israel are to be restored to their own land, and that a king is to rule over them" (Charles H. Spurgeon, 1864).

This now historical headline was prophesied throughout Scripture. Here's one such place in Jeremiah: "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number" (Jer. 23:3 NIV).

The Old Testament prophets said that beyond the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles, there would be an ultimate scattering and gathering of the Jewish



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

Sulphur Springs, Quitman, June 20-24, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Celebration, Haskell, June 26-29, 6:30-8:00; MegaKids Camp.

First, North Lewisville, June 27-July 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; theme — The Mighty God.

Garner, Garner, June 27-July 1, 6 -8:20 p.m.; theme—Under Construction.

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.

Temple, Rogers, July 10-14, 6:10-8:50 p.m.; theme - Norb-E.

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.

Kaley Hill, Quitman, July 18-22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Family Night, July 24; theme—Farm Fresh Faith.

Friendship, Greenbrier, July 23, 1-5 p.m.; family & friends cook-out to follow; theme — Friendship with Jesus.

Liberty, Stamps, July 25-29, 6-8:30 p.m.; theme Sparks Studio.

people. Then one day they would be brought back and restored to God through Christ. Though this present-day return is part of the fulfillment, the ultimate fulfillment will come at the return of Christ following the time of Jacob's trouble. Yet, what has happened so far is mind-blowing. It's proof the Word is true. It's proof we can trust Scripture for future headlines.

In 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, dispersing Jews around the world. Following World War I, through the Balfour Declaration, Jews were allowed to return to the land of Israel. For the most part, from 70 A.D. to 1917 the land was void of Jews. The aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust accelerated Jews returning to the land. In 1948, Israel became a Jewish-governed state.

Events have continued to occur fulfilling prophecy. In 1967 through the Six-Day War, Israel gained control of Jerusalem. In 2007, for the first time since 70 A.D., there were more Jews in the land of Israel than any other one place in the world.

These events are still occurring, but what was once future headlines are now history.

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



Bogdan Bilav (far left) and other ministry leaders pass out relief aid to Ukrainian refugees.

Sharing the Gospel in Romania

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer

Since 2021, Lifeword Global Partner Bogdan Bilav has worked toward creating a Bible translation of the Romani-gypsy language. Since that time there have been obstacles like COVID and the war in Ukraine, but with the help of Wycliffe and gypsy translators, they have begun the lengthy process of sharing the gospel in the heart language of the Roma people.

Early on, Bogdan decided to record the audio version first instead of waiting on the print version. Shoni, one of the gypsy ministry leaders, is recording that translation for the Roma beginning with the Gospels. Bogdan believes those recordings are the best way to get the gospel to them quickly, then he will focus on translating a print version. He and his team are also discussing ways to extend their programming to reach children.

They have had several meetings with Wycliffe representatives regarding the Romani language Bible translation, and are determined to intensify their work. Bogdan says, "We started a while ago and up until now there is not much result, but we are praying for this project to come to a final end and to have the entire Bible translated and available for all the gypsy communities to use."

Bogdan is currently helping with relief aid to Ukrainian refugees as they cross the border into Romania, often in transit to other countries. Others, however, are unable to go any further and require long-term aid. Please pray for the gypsy recordings to be completed and for refugees with whom the gospel is being shared.

Team Lifeword Information

Lifeword Sunday 2022 is Oct. 23! If your church would like to schedule Lifeword Executive Director Donny Parrish or another team member to share what God is doing through Lifeword's ministry, contact Director of Church Connections Jennifer Harrell at jennifer@lifeword.org.

Please pray for continued provision and protection for Lifeword global partners in Ukraine and surrounding areas. Churches are continuing to house refugees and provide supplies for those in need. Also pray for team members working with a new mission in El Salvador who are using Lifeword to expand their gospel reach in their area.

Join us in praising God that Tanzania is using Lifeword programming to reach surrounding countries. Many are making professions of faith each week because of local radio programs. Praise Him also that, despite the military coup in Myanmar and communications lines being commandeered, the gospel is still heard by hundreds of thousands through videos posted on social media outlets.

MEETINGS

Marcus Hill, Enola, June 26, 10 a.m.; lunch followed by singing. Kim Leach, pastor.

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

Friendship, Greenbrier, July 10, 11 a.m.; lunch and singing to follow; James Crews, pastor.

Immanuel, Jonesboro, July 17, 11 a.m.; potluck meal to follow; Charlie Dixon, pastor.

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



Barney, Enola welcomed two by letter; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

Bethany, Jonesboro added one by letter; Mitch Doss, pastor.

Calvary, Warren witnessed one by baptism; Rocky Goodwin, pastor.

Cathedral, Jonesboro reports five additions since last report; Ken Beaver, pastor.

Shiloh, McRae reports on profession of faith and on by baptism; Rodger Cole, pastor.

Southside, England rejoices over one by baptism and two by letter; Robert Alberson, pastor.

Zion, Fordyce welcomed two by letter; Scott Smith, pastor.



Missionaries

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BMA of Arkansas State Missionaries pose with their "catch" during their retreat in Tyler Texas.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Last week was the time for our Missionary Spring Training retreat. We all loaded up and headed to Tyler, Texas. After being delayed by the terrible wreck on I-30 for five hours, we finally arrived just before midnight.

We had a wonderful time singing, praying, hearing devotionals and a great session with Hershel Conley on sharing your faith, which was very challenging as well as convicting.

Thursday morning, we ventured out on Lake Palestine and experienced five hours of sweet fellowship while taking our bottled-up aggression out on some delicious fish. We came away from this training encouraged, as well as challenged.

Called Advisory Committee Meeting

David Inzer, chairman of the Missionary Committee, has called a Special Meeting to be held on Thursday, July 14 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall at South City (former Temple) next to the BMA building. Our address is 10712 I-30, Little Rock. The Advisory Committee will be presenting Jake McCandless as a candidate for a full-time missionary position to serve in Pea Ridge located in the very northwest part of the state.

I encourage our pastors to make every effort to attend. Not only do we have to have at least 15 for a quorum, but your presence will be a tremendous encouragement to Jake.

Oak Grove Jonesboro

I had the privilege to share State Missions and preach on Sunday at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Pastor Wynndel King is a long-time personal friend and is doing a great job there. We were blessed to receive an offering for our Special Emphasis. Thank you, Oak Grove, for your love for Missions.

From Our Missionaries

Hispanic Coordinator: Michael Hight writes, "We had a wonderful time this week on a spiritual retreat with the other BMA of Arkansas missionaries. We were challenged repeatedly on the need to evangelize. I am so grateful for what God is doing with our mission program.

"In Central Arkansas, they are working on a concerted effort to have a joint Bible Institute among the Hispanic churches. This is with the hope of having future leaders and church planters. Guilmar and the mission in Alexander are planning their first Vacation Bible School. Pray for them as they take this leap of faith. I am so thankful to have a small role in our Hispanic leaders' lives.

"Our church, First Baptist Church of Caldwell, will be extending the arm

to the Creciendo en Cristo Mission, and we are excited about what God is doing with this mission. Please pray that there will be an infusion of missionary zeal on all our behalf!

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "From Wednesday to Friday, I participated in the training for Arkansas missionaries that the office prepared. It was an excellent time of fellowship, our bonds of friendship were strengthened and the teaching strengthened our missionary call.

"Normally, I am with the youth on Wednesday nights, but this time they held the meeting without my support. It was a good opportunity to practice their service to the Lord and continue to develop their leadership.

"The ladies had their meeting on Saturday afternoon and finished their

study on Abigail. They will study Esther at the next meeting.

"I will appreciate your prayers for the families of the church, some are being stalked by the enemy."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, (6/5) "On Sunday, May 29, we remembered our soldiers as we remembered that freedom is not free. We also celebrated the Lord's Supper, remembering the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are praying for two young men who made the decision to serve our nation. One is going to the Army and the other to the Air Force. They are two young men I have watched grow up, and it is a blessing to pray for them.

"On Sunday, June 5 we had our celebration for those who graduated this year — Jeremiah Rodriguez and my son, Ruben Alexander Isturiz. We gave them gifts and prayed that God will continue to guide their steps. The sermon was based on Ecclesiastes 12, 'Remember Your Creator.' It was a good time with good encouragement.

"The Berean Groups (home groups) are finishing their discipleship cycle. During the summer, we will be doing Discovery Bible Study (DBS). According to our experience, many will be on trips, in and out of town, so the Berean Groups enter into a more relaxed period where fellowship is very important, while still sharing the Word of God with the DBS. Pray for the summer season that God will continue to manifest Himself in every believer in Ebenezer.

"On Sunday, June 12 we had an inspiring service. We are in a series on Bible characters, and we talked about the life of King Saul and the desire of Israel to have a king after their own heart. Next week, we continue with David.

"After Ebenezer, I went to Travelers stadium for my chaplaincy time with the Hispanic players. God is blessing this ministry, and there is a thirst for the Word of God among the players.

"I have one more month of training with Novo.org. It has been very edifying and challenging. We are talking about Gospel Movements. I hope to see a Gospel Movement in Ebenezer and to see how every Ebenezer believer practices missional work in their life contexts.

"Pray for my health, my wife's work and Ebenezer. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "I had a great time of fellowship with my fellow BMA State Missionaries, mixed with learning and

Opportunities For Service

Beacon Baptist Church in Gravette is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Roy Key at (479) 787-5173 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@

even a little bit of fishing this week. Thanks to an anonymous donor that earmarked their donation to give us that gift — what a kind and generous gesture! The Lord gave us safe travel and blessed us all in so many ways. We are also all thankful to Him for this time we shared. I returned home with strengthened relationships and a common sense of purpose with all of the other missionaries. I also thank Paul White for being such a good friend and mentor to all of us, and Hershel Conley for the evangelism training.

"We had a great service Sunday with a good number and a new family visiting us for the first time. They returned Sunday night and say they will come again. They have been looking for a church, had watched our online service and then just happened to meet one of our members who invited them. I love the way the Lord brings us together, putting us where He wants us to serve and showing us how to use the individual gifts He has given us to build His church and bring the gospel to the lost.

"Thank you for your prayers for Karen and me, for Faith Chapel, for Flippin and for all the BMA state missionaries and State Missions staff. God is hearing them and answering."

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "There has been tons of driving these last few weeks. I am so glad all my trips are now over for a while. We had some great meetings.

"One of my folks has left for the summer. Pray for him as he seeks where God wants him to go. The mission is about to implement the Good Soil Training for our people, as well as some hands-on training with unsaved and saved people.

"Drew led the services this Sunday, and everything went great. So good to see how God is moving in that family's life."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "Over the last 17 years, I have had the opportunity to watch and be inspired by men who are missionaries with the BMA that I consider godly men and great role models of how to be a church planter and pastors of thriving churches in our state.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

SW Dist. Brotherhood, July 12; meal @ 6 p.m., message @ 7 p.m., Shiloh Lamartine, Waldo.

Central Ark. Brotherhood, July 18 @ 6:30 p.m.; North View, NLR.

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

Mt. Vernon Dist. Brotherhood, Sept. 12 @ 6:30 pm; Central, Hughes.

gmail.com

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

This week, I was able to take part in a retreat with some of these gentlemen and, boy, was it a blessing! We were able to spend time in the Word, fellowshiping and mentoring one another. A great time was had by all!

"The informational flyers we had printed for Faith Journey came in this week. They look great! We plan to start going door-to-door in the neighborhoods to try to reach out to let folks know we are here in the community and are ready to meet the needs of those in the area. We want to show them the love of God through Scripture, prayer and service. We want to be a shining light in our city. Please pray that God will go before us and open the hearts of people as we begin this outreach."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "This week, I am very grateful for the sweet time and the benefits that, by the grace of God, we were able to spend together in our retreat with the team of state missionaries of the BMA of Arkansas. The training and our fishing time (by the way, it was the first time I fished) were wonderful. Thanks to each brother on the team. They blessed my life with their words of encouragement and blessing.

"I was sharing with a classmate this week about the importance of the Word of God to be able to fulfill our life's purpose as believers. I was also in contact with two other men who have been exposed to the gospel, and we are also very happy because we already have our first disciple — the woman who gave herself to Christ last week began the discipleship process. On Thursday, Patty shared discipleship with her and on Friday we were both talking about II Cor. 5:17 and how dangerous it is to identify as Christian without being one and that we deceive ourselves when we do that, that our eternal destiny is at stake and that the believer must bear fruit worthy of repentance. Patty is working with two women with whom she shared the gospel this week and she also works in a WhatsApp group where she sends devotionals every day. They are around 60 women, 10 from the NWA and the others are all over Latin America and Texas."

JOURNEY (Continued From Page 4)

improvements that will allow us to reduce our monthly expenses significantly.

Please continue to pray that God 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 (May 25)	\$19,904.03
Antioch, Conway	\$100.00
Calvary, Morrilton	\$1,000.00
Calvary, Whitehall	\$1,535.00
Diane Jackson	\$250.00
Peggy Lee	\$5,000.00
Unity, Dardenelle	\$200.00
Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	\$300.00
Immanuel, Greenbrier	\$25.00
Total	\$28,314.03

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)
and generosity. (baptistpress.com)

Rays Players Opt Out of Pride Jerseys

Recently, several players for the Tampa Bay Rays major league baseball team opted out of wearing rainbow logos for "Pride Night." Pitcher Jason Adam represented those players to reporters, saying that while players want all to feel "welcome and loved" at games, "We don't want to encourage an LGBTQ lifestyle if we believe in Jesus, who's encouraged us to live a lifestyle that would abstain from that behavior. Just like (Jesus) encourages me as a heterosexual male to abstain from sex outside of the confines of marriage."

According to Tampa Bay Rays manager Kevin Cash, instead of causing dissension, the opting out "has created... a lot of conversation and valuing the different perspectives inside the clubhouse but really appreciating the community that we're trying to support here." (familycouncil.org)

Churches and Pro-Life Organizations Attacked 41 Times in 40 Days

The Washington Stand has found that there have been at least 41 separate incidents of violent attacks against churches, pro-life organizations and pro-life property across the country since the May 2 leak of a draft Supreme Court decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that indicated the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. These attacks include arson, vandalism, property theft and property destruction.

These incidents do not include at least nine other occurrences of physical violence against pro-life advocates, threats of violence against churches and illegal disruptions of church services that have unfolded within the same time frame.

The recent spike in attacks against churches and pro-life organizations is part of a wider pattern of violence that has seen a marked uptick in the last two years. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released a report in early June

that cataloged "at least 139 incidents... across 35 states and the District of Columbia since May 2020" against Catholic churches and organizations, including "arson, statues beheaded, limbs cut, smashed and painted, gravestones defaced with swastikas and anti-Catholic language and American flags next to them burned, and other destruction and vandalism." (washingtonstand.com)

Biological Men Have Won 28 Women's Sports Titles Since 2003

A biological male athlete who identifies as transgender, as well as transgender activists, recently stated grievances against sports governing bodies like the NCAA for "regressing" from "efforts to create a safe and inclusive environment" for male athletes who identify as transgender. The complaints come despite an increasing number of girls' and women's sporting events being dominated by biological males.

The Washington Stand has found that there have been at least 28 separate girls' and women's sports titles that have been won by biological males (or have included biological men as part of a winning women's team) in the last 19 years, with the trend accelerating exponentially in the past three years.

These do not include the multiple second place, third place and other finishing spots in women's events awarded to biological males that would have been won by biological females had the events been for biological females only.

A growing number of female athletes are voicing their concerns about letting biological males compete in women's events. Before the University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas—who is a biological male who spent three years on the men's team—won the women's 500-yard Division I NCAA swimming championship in March, 16 women on Penn's swim team wrote a letter saying that Thomas should not be allowed to compete women's events. The letter notes the ranking updating from #462 as a male to #1 as a female.

Recent poll results indicate that the American public largely agrees with this sentiment. When asked in a poll commissioned by Family Research

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Lifeworld 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.

Council Action if biological males should be allowed to compete against biological females in women's K-12 and college sports, a significant majority (61%) disagreed, while just 18% agreed. (washingtonstand.com)

What I See

By Stuart Estes, Ministry Team Leader • The Hedge, Univ. of Ark., Fayetteville

The end of the spring semester is always a bittersweet time. It's sweet because students feel the excitement of a break and new adventures. It's sweet because students are wrapping up their classes, and they can breathe a sigh of relief. It's sweet because we get to celebrate another year of hard work and accomplishments and work the Lord has done in us.

But it's bitter, too. It's a time of saying goodbye. It's a time of walking into the unknown. For some it's a final few minutes before they jump into a career. But for all, it's a time of transition, and transitions are rarely easy.

One evening last month, Hanna, our kids, and I went to eat supper with a group of our students. It was a spur of the moment thing, but as I think back on that meal, I'm so happy the Lord brought us together. We were all happy to be together, and as we left, we said our goodbyes knowing we might not see each other for a while.

Truth is, I'm not impervious to these feelings. Sure, I continue the work of ministry over the summer months, but I also feel the highs and lows of the students who the Lord lets me serve as they leave for their summer plans.

I think in moments like this we must remember what the Lord said through Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing" (Eccl. 3:1, 4-5 ESV).

Life is cyclical. We experience many different emotions and events, but we experience them in the time the Lord would have us. All things are for His purposes and under His authority.

As Solomon goes on to say in Eccl. 1:14: "I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him."

The spring semester of 2022 had bittersweet moments, but there's nothing bitter about the enduring work the Lord chose to accomplish at The Hedge. All told, I think the sweet outweighs the bitter.

That's what I see when I look back on the last month at The Hedge.

GOAL

\$50,000

BMA of Arkansas State Missions

2022 Special Emphasis

PAY IT FORWARD

Caldwell, Flippin, North Little Rock, Rogers, Springdale, SW Saline County, West Little Rock and beyond...

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