

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## Generational Multiplication Garifuna Style (Part 1)

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer

The Garifuna story is one of tragedy and triumph that began with slavery in the 1700s. Shipwrecked and left to fend for themselves, the people group eventually settled in the Honduras/Belize coastal areas. They have faced — and continue to face — hardships,

including government takeover of their highly profitable beaches.

But those are not the only areas where they have settled. There is now an estimated population of 200,000 Garifuna in New York City, where BMA Missions is excited to help plant the first Garifuna-speaking congregation in America.

BMA Missions representatives recently traveled to the Bronx to celebrate and participate in the ordination of Pastor Cherry Gamboa, former co-pastor of a BMA Garifuna-language congregation in San Juan, Honduras. With a secular job for financial support, he and his family relocated to the Bronx two years ago to plant a church and immediately began building relationships, inviting people to church services and looking for a place to accommodate attendees.

After outgrowing the first location, they now rent part of a building and regularly baptize new believers. In fact, during the ordination service, five new believers came forward for baptism, which is not surprising since ethnic groups are much more responsive to the gospel than Americans. After baptism, the congregation is very intentional and proactive in discipling new converts.

BMA Missions President John David Smith says, "For me as a missionary, the most exciting thing about this church plant is the aspect of generational

### 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](http://www.BaptistTrumpet.com).

**Mike Silvey** has resigned as pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville. He will be relocating to the Hope/Texas area and is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at (870) 949-2757 or [jmichaelsilvey@outlook.com](mailto:jmichaelsilvey@outlook.com).

**Blackwell Baptist Church in Atkins** is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, contact Roy Story at (501) 242-2584.

**First Baptist Church in Caldwell** is seeking a part/full-time youth pastor. For more information, contact Michael Hight at [michaelhight@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelhight@hotmail.com) or (501) 326-0198.

multiplication. During the service, the question was asked, "How many of you were taught in Sunday School class in Honduras with BMA Missionary David Dickson all those years ago?" About half the congregation raised their hands.

"But Pastor Cherry is not a direct disciple of Brother David. He is the disciple of a disciple. Sometimes it takes a generation or so to make real progress and for that work to mature. It's just a great expression of the power of the gospel, the faithfulness of God and how He uses people to fulfill His mission."

With about 120 people in attendance, the service also included a sermon, a worship service with bongo drums, baptism, a baby dedication and Father's Day gift-giving. Then church members brought food and continued celebrating God's provision of this church in the Bronx.

### 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.

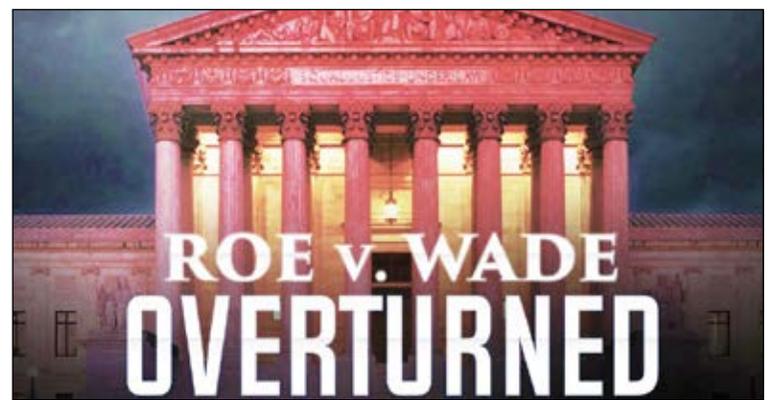


(L/R) Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge (seated), and Speaker of the House Matthew Shepherd during the ceremony certifying that Roe v. Wade has been reversed and Act 180 of 2019 is in effect.

## Arkansas Attorney General Certifies Abortion is Prohibited

On June 24, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge signed a certification that Act 180 of 2019 prohibiting abortion except to save the life of the mother is in full effect in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 180 in 2019. The law prohibits abortion in Arkansas except to save the mother's life. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade on Friday, June 24 in a 6-3 decision, paving the way for Arkansas to enforce Act 180.



## BMAA Leaders React To Roe Decision

Rejoice, and Continue The Work

By Dr. Clif Johnson, President BMA of America

On Friday morning, June 24, the people of the United States woke up to a country that no longer held abortion as a federal, constitutional

right. And the people of God rejoiced. The Baptist Missionary Association of America Doctrinal Statement declares in III.C. Man — "As the See JOHNSON, Page 2



The US Supreme Court, Dobbs and Roe

By Michael Battenfield, President BMA of Arkansas

The week of June 20-24, 2022 will go down as one of the most significant weeks of Supreme Court rulings in our lifetime, with none more significant than the Dobbs, State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et al. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization et al. (Read See BATTENFIELD, Page 8



No Paper next week due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday  
The Baptist Trumpet, BMA of Ark. Missions Office and Trumpet Printing will be closed July 4-7.



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President

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## Board of Trustee Meeting Highlights

The CBC Board of Trustees met on Friday and Saturday, June 24-25. The three standing committees of the board (Academic, Advancement and Finance) met on Friday evening to conduct business and hear recommendations from the CBC Executive Leadership Team.

The full board convened on Saturday morning. Board member Lincoln Dial opened the meeting by giving his personal testimony. All members of the Executive Leadership Team and the Faculty Council Moderator gave a report relative to his/her area of responsibility. Each committee secretary gave a report of his/her respective committee meeting, the Chair of the Assessment and Planning Committee presented a new Strategic Plan and the Board appointed a nominating committee for 2023 Board officers. The following are some highlights of the Board meeting:

#### • Approved the following from the Academic Committee:

New Courses: Coaching Sport Skills I, Coaching Sport Skills II, Introduction to Forensic Psychology, Mental Illness and Criminal Justice and Special Topics.

New Minors: Kinesiology/Education Coaching, Forensic Psychology and General Psychology.

Degree Revision: BSE Health & PE.

#### • Approved the following from the Advancement Committee:

2022-2023 Traditional Student Handbook, 2022-2023 PACE and Online Studies Student Handbook, and 2022-2023 Student-Athlete Handbook.

2022-2023 Guidelines for Facilities Use and 2022-2023 College Facilities and Events Policy.

#### • Approved the following from the Finance Committee:

Tuition & Fees and Room & Board for 2023-2024.

Current Fund Budget for 2022-2023.

## JOHNSON

(Continued From Page 1)

crowning work of His creation, God created humankind (male and female) in His own image (Psalm 8; Gen. 1:27, 2:7). Consequently, every person from conception is of inherent dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons (Psa. 51:5; 139:13-16; Gen. 9:6; Matt. 10:28-31; James 3:9)."

Furthermore, the Moral Action Agency of the BMA states, in its Ten Summary Statements (point 2) that, "We believe in the sanctity of human life, and thus support a Human Life Amendment to protect the lives of the innocent unborn."

As churches of the BMA, we must be clear in our thinking and subsequent ministries. This ruling did not make abortion illegal. The ruling simply returned to the states the authority to make decisions regarding abortion. This means our work is not finished in regard to fighting for the lives of the



**Bodcaw, Rosston** rejoices over three professions of faith; Ed Phillips, pastor.

**Landmark, England** reports five additions since last report; David Inzer, pastor.

**Shady Grove, Piggott** gained one by baptism.

**Shiloh, McRae** received one by letter; Roger Cole, pastor.

unborn. Our work continues in making sure our elected officials know that the abolition of abortion is what we seek. Additionally, churches must continue to be on the front lines in caring for foster children and supporting foster and adoptive parents.

So, rejoice? Yes! And continue the kingdom work.



## Spring Sports Wrap-up

• **Conway, June 21** — With all the postseason awards now announced, it's time for the 2022 spring sports season wrap-up. Baseball, softball, golf and outdoor track & field all had successful seasons on the field and in the classroom.

Baseball finished the 2022 season 27-28 with a trip to the American Midwest Conference (AMC) semi-finals after earning the #5 seed in the AMC tournament. **Jay French** had a fantastic season, earning both AMC Player of the Year and first-team honors as well as being named an NAIA First-Team All-American after leading the AMC in batting average, stolen bases, runs scored and hits while also setting or breaking eight new single-game, single-season or career records this past year. Seven Mustangs earned AMC all-conference honors, including first-team for both **Austin Teal** and **Ruben Hernandez** and Freshman of the Year honors for **Logan Easterling**, who also earned a second-team selection along with **Garon Johnson** and **Wille Baez**. **Slayton Holland** was the lone Mustang to earn a Gold Glove as well. And 18 baseball players also earned all-academic team selection.

Softball went 25-20 this season and finished third in the AMC. The Mustangs went 1-2 in the AMC tournament, but had one of the highlights of the season in their lone AMC tournament win, with **Averie Ayers** throwing a no-hitter, the first solo no-hitter in six years. Ayers, along with **Savannah Sanford** and **Katie Smith** earned first-team honors from the AMC, while **Lauren Anderson** and **Kirstie Blackwood** earned second-team selections. Sanford was also a finalist for the Schutt Sports NFCA NAIA Freshman of the Year and an NFCA first-team All-Region selection. A total of 23 softball players also earned all-academic team selection.

Men's golf had three selected to the AMC All-Academic team after finishing six in the AMC Championship. **Surapart Pareepart** was named the Newcomer of the Year, as well in the conference.

Women's Golf finished third at the AMC Championship and had several awards. **Alyssa Hagewood** was named the newcomer of the year and earned honorable mention honors, and **Keeley Bulza** joined her on the honorable mention team. All four women's golfers earned selection to the AMC All-Academic Team.

Track & Field ended up finishing eighth on the men's side and sixth on the women's side at the AMC Championships. **Josh Brown** highlighted the men's performances, earning a second-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles. **Ally Swaim** competed in four events, winning the 100-meter hurdles again and finishing second



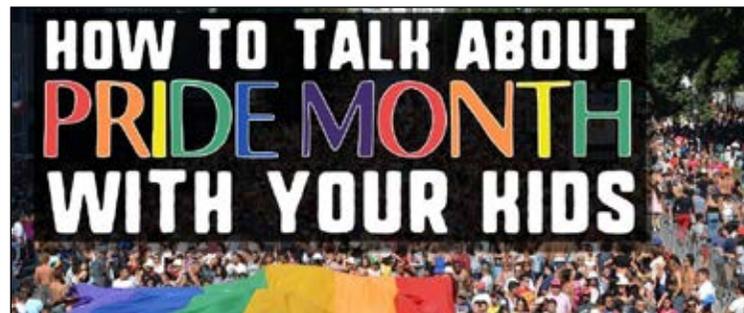
## Student Ministry Matters

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## Pride Month

As June comes to a close, we look past our culture's annual recognition of "Pride month." While we don't like to talk about the subject, it is something we must deal with. We need to have a clear understanding of how we are going to navigate the conversations with our students and communities. We don't want to be known as a people of hate, but there comes a time when we must stand for truth. So here a few tips for working with your students:

• **Speak the truth of Scripture.** Don't be afraid to share what the Bible says on the subject. Study and make sure you are accurately handling the Word. Preach truth. Even when it is unpopular, preach truth.

• **Act in love.** There is no doubt that our world and those that hold other viewpoints need an understanding of the love God has for them. Too often, the truth of the Word comes across as hate. Those connected to the LGBTQ+ community are looking for love, just like any other segment of society. It is important that we act in love toward those that might be seen as unlovable.

• **Don't expect unbelievers to act as Christ-followers.** Too often, we expect the world to act like they know Jesus even when they don't. We can guilt or pressure others into surface change, but lasting change only occurs with the power of the gospel.

• **Seek to understand.** We need to read and listen so that we will have a greater opportunity to reach those with a secular understanding of marriage and sexuality. We have a tendency to simply shut out the opposing voices we come across. There is a time for that. However, there are other times in which it is vital to listen. Sin is still sin, but listening shows care and concern. Let's listen.

The world will continue to see us as purveyors of hate speech. As we speak the truth of God's Word, we will offend those around us. We must pray for God's guidance and the courage to stand boldly as we navigate this unusual culture.

in the 200-meter race to earn Outstanding Women's Track Athlete of the Year. She also earned another trip to the NAIA National Championship in Gulf Shores, Ala. after qualifying with a "B" standard time.

### Softball

• **Conway, June 23** — We continue with our recruiting updates for June with softball. Two players signed in January and since then, four have joined the Mustang family for the upcoming 2023 season.

**Sydney Weiser** and **Aarial Brooks** were teammates at Conway High School, where Brooks was a three-year letter winner and finished in the top two in stolen bases twice. **Heather Hammett** comes to CBC from Bryant, where she was an outfielder and an honors graduate, while also participating in cross country. **Madeline Bruce** joins the Mustangs from National Park College in Hot Springs. Last season in 47 games, Bruce hit .346 with 27 runs scored, 10 doubles and 20 RBIs. Join us in welcoming these four to the Mustang softball family!



**Gospel Concert**, July 27, 7 p.m.; featuring The Kinsmen Quartet; love offering; Lemonwood, White Hall.

**BMA of Ozarks Camp**, Aug. 1-5; Ozarks Baptist Encampment, Siloam Springs.

**CBC Day 2022**, Sept. 11.  
**Student Ministry Workers Retreat**, Sept. 17; Central Baptist College, Conway.

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

**re:Charge Leader's Oasis**, Sept. 27-29; Hot Springs Hotel, Hot Springs.

**Lifeword Sunday**, Oct. 23.  
**BMA of Arkansas**, Nov. 3-4; Central Baptist College, Conway.

**National Senior Adult Conference**, Nov. 15-17; Chateau on the Lake, Branson.



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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## Revivals

**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.

**Pleasant Springs, McCaskill**, Aug. 7-9; 5 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Mon.-Tue.; Bobby Fisher, evangelist; Donnie Dillard, 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.

and standing for Biblical convictions without compromising compassion. Encourage one another by showing the same grace you desire when you are the one who has sinned. We all need grace and let's encourage one another with that truth.

Then Paul told the church in Thessalonica to put on a helmet of the hope of salvation. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and that means we must distinguish between our present state and our future fate. Our future fate is not determined by the times we live in, the culture we are enduring or the difficulties of our situation. Do not forget that God enjoys working through the critical mass of two or three. He does some of His best work in the worst places and during the most difficult times. Be encouraged by Rom. 5:8: "But God proved His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The challenge is for us to encourage one another and build one another up. I don't know about you, but I could use a little building up right now. You do not go through the battles unscathed. They weigh on you, pull you down and impact you spiritually, emotionally and even physically. Maybe we need to begin by repenting of our bad attitudes and seeking the mind of Christ. The first work of grace is the first word of grace — repent. It begins with a change of heart that leads to a change of behavior. To repent means that you adopt God's viewpoint over your own. Even your attitude. Encourage someone today with these words!

did not tell them that everything was going to work out how they wanted or that there would never be difficulty and tribulation. There was no promise that it would always be smooth sailing, but He did say in John 16:33: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Even in the midst of tribulation, God's peace is available.

To encourage means to pour courage into. Who do you need to pour courage into today? Who do you know that is struggling? All of us could use a little building up right now, to be reminded that we are not alone and that God is still in control. This is the importance of community and being connected to a church family spiritually, relationally, emotionally, intellectually and physically. We need to see one another, spend time with one another, encourage one another and build one another up. Fight the temptation to focus on yourself and begin by focusing on others who need encouragement.

During challenging seasons, the goal is not to keep up with the times, but rather to keep up with Jesus. How do we do that? According to I Thess. 5:8, we put on the armor of faith first. We approach the uncertainty of the times and the future faith-based rather than fear-based. Find encouragement in God's Word where, over and over when His people faced insurmountable odds, they were told, "Do not be discouraged! Do not be afraid!" What was happening? Courage was being poured into them by trusting in the Lord instead of how things appeared to be. Fear is real, but never forget that God is able.

I Thessalonians 5:8 also says to put love on our chests. Outrage is not a strategy and, while what you are standing for is right, you may not be standing for it in the right way. These are some of the most difficult times to navigate culturally. The real challenge forging ahead will be navigating these difficult times by showing compassion without compromising convictions



## Leading With Encouragement

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing" (I Thess. 5: 11). The times we are living in right now are difficult. The last two to three years have been one of the most difficult seasons I can remember. So many are struggling, and depression is becoming more and more of a challenge. Antidepressants are now the most widely prescribed drug in the US, according to *Therapy Culture*. Pastors and leaders are not immune to the clutches of disappointment, discouragement and depression. Yet, Paul, in light of the Day of the Lord coming, said "encourage and build each other up."

The world we live in today has produced a complete lack of trust, conspiracies galore and polarizing viewpoints. Every word spoken is scrutinized, every decision you make is challenged, and even your motives are questioned if you dare to disagree. Remember, the real enemy is Satan and we are called to be different by encouraging one another and seeking to build one another up. Let's challenge ourselves to not allow the grippy, negative, always complaining culture around us to infiltrate our church families. "And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works" (Heb. 10:24).

Encourage someone! God placed us in a church family, not to tear one another down but rather to build one another up. Who do you need to encourage today? Who do you need to say "thank you" to? Who comes to mind that you need to call or text and express your appreciation for what they mean to you? Everyone needs encouragement now and then, and our church families should be the best examples of Godly encouragement. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

Jesus was continually encouraging and challenging His disciples in their faith journey. He spoke the truth and did not back off the reality of the situation, but He encouraged them. He

*Just Thinking...*

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## Baptist Pallets, Open Windows, Funeral Home Fans and Dinner on the Ground

In recent weeks I have taken a mental stroll down memory lane, and many of our readers have taken that stroll with me. Several have shared experiences of worship from days gone by, and I appreciate each of them.

I was just thinking about some of those experiences that most today would not know about due to changes in church life over the years. In my early years, many of the church buildings, especially rural churches, consisted of one large sanctuary and maybe a couple of Sunday School rooms. Other "features" included:

- **Baptist Pallets** — Most of those old places of worship did not have nurseries. Instead, what was referred to as Baptist pallets were quite the norm. Parents would spread quilts at the front of the sanctuary and place infants and toddlers on them. The services would continue with the singing and preaching. Yes, there were times of crying and little ones crawling from one place to another, but the Word of God was not hindered. People were saved and churches grew.

- **Open Windows** — Few churches had central heat and air, so during the hot summers, churches depended on ceiling fans and open windows. Window screens were rare, and bugs were abundant. Many a pastor was known to have swallowed a bug while delivering his sermon.

Did the heat hinder the worship of God in those early days? Not at all. In fact, some of those summer revivals I wrote about previously were so well attended that on some evenings people would be outside the building and were watching and worshipping through the open windows.

- **Funeral Home Fans** — I always found it amusing that, in most towns, the funeral homes took advantage of some advertising opportunity while providing some additional cooling for attendees at church. They donated fans which were stapled to a thin, flat handle. Those usually had the name and address of the funeral home on one side, and most often a picture of Jesus on the other. Some went the extra mile and had photos of the church building printed on the fan.

In those hot and humid months, people would reach in the hymnal rack on the back of the pew in front of them and grab one of those fans. All across the building, men, women, boys and girls would be fanning. Of course, those little instruments also made some pretty good fly swatters!

- **Dinner on the Ground** — Before the addition of fellowship halls and family life centers, churches were not restricted from having potluck dinners. It was not uncommon to drive by houses of worship that were usually surrounded by spreading oak trees. Between those trees were chest high tables attached to the tree trunks. On the days of the potlucks, members would prepare for "dinner on the ground," which essentially was a churchwide picnic.

Things were also quite different in those days from what they are today. Almost without exception, senior adults were the first to be served — not like our present day when the children are the priority.

- **Change is not always bad.** I hear many say today they are resistant to change, and at my age, I can identify. But as I was just thinking, not all change is bad. While it's interesting to reminisce, most would not want to return to "the good ole days" of Baptist pallets, open windows and funeral home fans. However, since Baptists are always ready to eat — dinner on the ground might always be welcomed!

Let's be reminded of this, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).



### Circuit Court Upholds Arkansas Law

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a law prohibiting the State of Arkansas and its public entities from doing business with companies that boycott Israel. In 2017 the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 710. The law generally prohibits public entities in Arkansas from contracting with or investing in businesses that boycott Israel.

The law applies to state government, state agencies, state boards and commissions, political subdivisions of the state, public retirement systems and public colleges and universities. As a result of the law, any state contract valued over \$1,000 must contain a clause stating that the contractor will not boycott Israel. Following Act 710's passage, *Arkansas Times* and the ACLU sued, arguing that the law places an unconstitutional condition on government contracts and compels speech.

U.S. District Judge Brian Miller in Little Rock dismissed the lawsuit, but the case was appealed to the Eighth Circuit. On Thursday, June 23, the circuit court upheld the law as constitutional. The decision said the law did not violate the First Amendment, noting that, "(Act 710) does not ban *Arkansas Times* from publicly criticizing Israel, or even protesting the statute itself. It only prohibits economic decisions that discriminate against Israel." (familycouncil.org)

### Supreme Court Supports Coach's Right to Pray on Field

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered what most religious liberty advocates declared an important victory in ruling on June 27 that the post-game, midfield prayer of a high school football coach did not violate the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

In a 6-3 opinion, the justices decided the Bremerton (Wash.) School District violated the First Amendment rights of Joseph Kennedy by removing him as a coach because of its concerns his practice infringed on the Establishment Clause. In doing so, the majority acknowledged it no longer abides by a more than 50-year-old standard in church-state cases known as the Lemon test.

"A government entity sought to punish an individual for engaging in a brief, quiet, personal religious observance doubly protected by the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment," Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote in the court's opinion. "And the only meaningful justification the government offered for its reprisal rested on a mistaken view that it had a duty to ferret out and suppress religious observances even as it allows comparable secular speech.

"The Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination."

Joining Gorsuch in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote a dissenting opinion that was endorsed by Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. (baptistpress.com)

### Republicans Race to Stop Gender Experimentation on Minors

Five years ago, Chloe decided she was transgender. Last year, at the ripe old age of 16, she abandoned the flirtation with transgender ideology and embraced her natural sex. In the intervening four years, she had both her breasts removed. "I was failed by the system," she now says. "I literally lost organs."

If a new bill becomes law, teens like Chloe will soon be able to sue the doctors who performed permanent, life-altering surgeries on them while they were underage.

Senator Tom Cotton (R/Ark.) and Rep. Jim Banks (R/Ind.) have introduced legislation giving teens up to 30 years to file suit against those who performed gender-transition on them before the age of 18. The Protecting Minors from Medical Malpractice Act allows minor victims to sue for "any physical, psychological, emotional or physiological harms" caused by any gender-transition "procedure, related treatment or the aftereffects" of those actions. That category includes dosing minors with puberty blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones, and performing gender-obliterating "top" or "bottom" surgeries.

The bill also extends the private right of action to a minor's legal guardian, including his or her parent. But it would only apply to surgeries performed after it became law. The minors going under the knife "cannot even provide informed consent" for these procedures, argued Cotton. "Any doctor who performs these irresponsible procedures on kids should pay." (washingtonstand.com)

### High Court Upholds Second Amendment

Liberal states cannot require Americans to show "some special need" to exercise their constitutional right to carry guns in public for their own protection, the Supreme Court ruled on June 23. Instead, the court ruled that the Constitution recognizes each citizen's right to self-defense in public places.

The 6-3 ruling struck down a New York state gun regulation that forced citizens to prove they had a "proper cause" before obtaining a concealed carry license. New Yorkers Brandon Koch and Robert Nash brought the case after the state denied their applications, even though they fulfilled all other legal stipulations because they could not show they had a specific threat to their lives.

The 63-page ruling, authored by Justice Clarence Thomas on his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday, affirms that the Constitution respects American citizens' right to self-defense in public.

"The Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home," wrote Thomas in the plurality opinion in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

"The constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense is not 'a second-class right,' which requires Americans to provide a justification to exercise it. 'That is not how the First Amendment works when it comes to unpopular speech or the free exercise of religion. It is not how the Sixth Amendment works when it comes to a defendant's right to confront the witnesses against him. And it is not how the Second Amendment works when it comes to public carry for self-defense.'"

At least half a dozen other states, with approximately one-quarter of the nation's population, have "two-step" gun permit laws on the books similar to the New York statute, which legislators passed during the Progressive era. The ruling may affect as many as eight other states and the District of Columbia, which have a "may issue" stance on concealed carry permits.

In addition to joining the 6-3 opinion, Justices Samuel Alito and Amy Coney Barrett each filed separate concurrences, and Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justice Brett Kavanaugh's concurrence. Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the dissent on behalf of the court's liberal bloc, which cited numerous mass shootings. (washingtonstand.com)

### SCOTUS Strikes Down Law Excluding Religious Schools

Religious equality and school choice scored a victory at the Supreme Court on June 21, as justices ruled that excluding faith-based schools from a state's private school voucher program "violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment." The court's conservative-leaning bloc ruled 6-3 that state officials cannot restrict parents' use of state funds to secular schools.

"The state pays tuition for certain students at private schools — so long as the schools are not religious. That is discrimination against religion," wrote Chief Justice John Roberts in the 6-3 opinion.

Fewer than half of all school districts in Maine, the nation's most rural state with 68% of its schools in rural areas, have established public high schools. Parents in remote areas may use vouchers provided by Maine's Town Tuitioning Program, created in 1873, at the private school of their choice. But since 1981, the state has denied funds to "sectarian" (religious) schools.

The justices agreed that any program given to all people must be available to people of faith. "Maine's 'nonsectarian' requirement for its otherwise generally available tuition assistance payments violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amend-

ment," wrote Roberts. "The program operates to identify and exclude otherwise eligible schools on the basis of their religious exercise."

The reasoning follows a previous Supreme Court ruling that held a "state need not subsidize private education. But once a state decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious" (*Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*, 2020). In 2002, the Supreme Court upheld Cleveland's school choice program in *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, even though 96% of parents chose to send their children to religious schools. Since the state funds parents, whose choice allows the money to flow to Christian schools, the program does not violate the First Amendment, they ruled. (washingtonstand.com)

### Swimming Federation Tells Men to Stay in Their Lanes

The governing body of international swimming, FINA, decided to interrupt the global parade with a stunning rebuke of every rainbow the sports world is flying. Starting June 20, biological men

will be banned from competing against women at federation events, the group announced, unless they've transitioned before age 12 when the changes are less likely to give them a competitive edge. "We have to protect the rights of our athletes to compete," FINA agreed, "but we also have to protect competitive fairness at our events..."

In a landslide vote, 71.5% of FINA's members threw their support behind the "gender inclusion policy," which tries to inject some common sense into a sport rocked by Lia Thomas. Association president Husain Al-Musallam didn't mince words, saying straight-forwardly that the organization heard from experts across the scientific, medical, legal and human rights fields. By the time the working group presented their findings, the consensus was overwhelming.

Almost 20 states have come to that same conclusion, racing to stop the wave of transgender turmoil from destroying their level playing fields. And as the entire sports community tries to grapple with this brave new world, expect more drastic measures like FINA's. (washingtonstand.com)

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## A Few Good Men

“Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things. Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of Kings.” I remember singing that hymn when I was a kid. I remember hearing my dad singing with his deep, bass voice and watching his facial expression when he sang. I’m not sure why, but it always made me feel proud of him. It made me want to be like him. I wanted to be a strong and resolute man, just like my dad.

Remember when the liberal news media coined the phrase “the war on women” several years ago? It was an attempt to convince a large part of the population that the culture had stacked the deck against women and that masculinity was a toxic trait. That lie seeped into the highest levels of our government and, sadly, has also infiltrated churches. The goal of this philosophy was never to empower women. The goal was to degrade manhood.

There has never been a day when real men are needed more than they are needed today. I’m speaking of men of integrity, men of commitment, men that are ready to go to battle for their church and their families. There is an urgent need for men to stand up and speak up for biblical values. We need men to prioritize church life over everything else that the culture is foisting on our kids. We need men who aren’t ashamed to walk, talk and carry themselves like men — loving, kind, respectful, strong men.

In my early days of ministry, one of my mentors was Pastor Richard Walters. He served Temple Baptist Church for over two decades, and I served under his leadership on the Temple ministry staff. Bro. Walters was a strong man. His preaching was strong. His leadership was strong. But his demeanor was kind and loving. There was never a doubt where Bro. Walters stood on any issue, but there was also never a doubt that Bro. Walters would be your friend. When he came to visit with me about joining the Temple staff, I can distinctly remember one of the qualifications he demanded. His voice still rings in my ears. “Bro. Parrish, I only hire strong men on my staff. Real men. If you get your feelings hurt easily, you might want to pass on my offer to join our team.” God used Bro. Walters in a great way to impact thousands for Jesus in the Little Rock area, and He used Bro. Walter’s leadership to influence my life.

Don’t let the world lie to you. God wants real men on His team. This world, this country, our churches and our families need real men to lead them. We need real men to lead who are following Jesus. He was the ultimate leader, and Jesus was all man and all God.

“Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait — Your strength unequal to the task, but Christ in you is great! Lift high the cross of Christ; Tread where His feet have trod; As brothers of the Son of man, Rise up, O men of God!”



**Darrell Doss Barker**, 87 of Farmington, passed away June 10. He was a deacon at Eastside Baptist Church in Fayetteville and was a former Chairman of the Board of Lifeword Media Ministries.

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The Trumpet  
Archives at  
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## Girls Missionary Auxiliary (GMA) Update

By Charlotte Johnson,  
National WMA

I pray that your summer is going well at your houses! As I write this, we just wrapped up GMA camp. Those girls amaze me how they serve the Lord and are so talented and mature. I was privileged to install the officers and presented the GMA Coronation.

Changes were made for GMA camp next year. They are following the example of the national WMA by opening the camp to all girls of BMA churches.

There were 186 girls and counselors, and one profession of faith was announced.

The project raised over \$10,000 for BMAA Missionary to Utah Gavin Roberts. He was the speaker for camp and his family was also able to attend. The new project is for a creative access nation missionary with the goal of \$12,000.

These are things that were voted on and passed:

The name of the camp next year will be “Girls Discipleship Retreat” sponsored by the GMA. Dates are June 14-17, 2023.

We lowered the grade for officers to run from 10<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade because there are not enough girls willing to be an officer. (The older they get then they drop out of GMA.)

Theme — “Hello, I am?” (Col. 2:10)  
Day 1 — Sinner (I Tim. 1:15)  
Day 2 — Ambassador (II Cor. 5:20)  
Day 3 — Conquer (Rom. 8:37)  
Day 4 — Who is God? and Who you are? (Psalm 96)

Churches are encouraged to bring all girls from their churches that are third grade and up. You must have a counselor or sponsor for every five girls.

There will be disciple classes and breakout sessions on different topics. There will also continue breakout sessions for GMA girls and classes to introduce girls to the GMA program.

Sunbeams are also planning a retreat at that time on the other side of the camp. Sunbeams will have their own program and be separated from the GMA group.

Please begin to share information will your churches and leaders. This is a camp that your children can benefit from, so tell your youth workers in your churches. If you have questions, email me at nationalwmainfo@gmail.com.



## The Master’s Builders Work At Jacksonville College

By Nelda Malone

The Master’s Builders (TMB) had the privilege of returning to Jacksonville Baptist College (JBC) June 6-15 to work their 177<sup>th</sup> job. While there, they built a GaGa pit, enlarged the entrance to the restrooms in the cafeteria, remodeled the home and visitors’ athletic rooms in the gym, built eight decorative fences for AC unit coverage outside and built a wall in the Ragsdale dorm. A couple of our men also went to Daniel Springs Camp for a day to help with some electrical projects before camp starts there.

Thank you to those who helped make this job such a blessing for us all! Special thanks to the JBC Chef Joe Yzaquirre who prepared, transported and cleaned up after each lunch and supper meal. He was a trooper! Thanks to one of our TMB couples, Myrtle and Leo Sketo, from Leaksville, Miss., who brought fruit and vegetables for us all to enjoy while we were there. Thanks to First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas for the fellowship, the great meal and the M&M’s ladies group that always includes our ladies in their special meeting every June. Thanks to Brenda Bateman, daughter-in-law of missionary, Jack Bateman, who spoke to our ladies’ group one day. She certainly has a great gift!

Thank you to our dear friend, Randy Decker, who came and joined our men in their work. Thank you to George for **all** you do around the campus! We all feel that you are one of us now! Thank you to Craig for all the running around to get supplies for each of the jobs! And last but not least, our new friend, Heath Malinak, of Rusk, Texas, who saved our hot, tired, worn out men from the small, inadequate post hole auger! The last day was tough on them all as they struggled drilling out the post holes! Heath came and brought a beautiful green tractor with an auger on the back! Thank you, Lord, for his kindness! (You have to see Facebook to appreciate how miraculous this was!)

We ask that you pray for Joe Lightner, president of Jacksonville College and the vision he has for the college. Pray that this college will grow and be a spiritual light for the young men and women who choose to come there.

There is so much we could share on these jobs, but there’s not enough space to put it all down! We continue to ask for prayer for our men. Many of them have had health problems recently — seems stints have been rampant! However, they keep showing up to work for the Master. Pray for more workers to join us. Our faithful workers are wearing out. We trust God to supply all our needs!

If you have questions about The Master’s Builders ministry or your church has building needs, contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877 or David Axe at (903) 918-0720.





## Future Headlines: An Israel Peace Agreement

Again, this future headline doesn't come as a surprise. It's a repeat in the news cycle, for it seems every few years there's talk of some type of peace treaty in Israel. There've been several already. Yet, a major piece of the prophetic puzzle is an agreement of peace between the Antichrist and Israel.

This series is looking at geopolitical prophetic events that will occur before the end of the age and considering them as future headlines. I make the clarification — geopolitical because there are other areas of prophecy that will be fulfilled. Our publisher of the Stand Firm Blog ([blogs.standfirmministries.com/mainblog](http://blogs.standfirmministries.com/mainblog)), Lisa Gallington, recently wrote a six-part piece on 25 prophecies that must be fulfilled before Jesus' second coming. In her articles, she listed not only geopolitical prophecies of Israel, the Antichrist and other nations; but also shared environmental, astronomical, cultural and spiritual prophecies.

As we focus on end times geopolitics, the fulfillment of this peace agreement is a pivotal point. We find it most clearly written in Daniel 9, where Daniel shares an incredible vision he received that's become known as the "Vision of the Seventy Weeks." This vision uses the term "weeks" to talk about the seven-year sabbatical year cycle. Daniel is told there would be 69 of these 7-year cycles, starting with a decree to rebuild Jerusalem and running to the point the Messiah would be cut off. Think how valuable this prophecy was and continues to be. One could figure from the point of one of the return decrees from Babylonian exile, there would be 480ish years until the Messiah was cut off. This also reveals that it was part of God's plan for Jesus to be the sacrificial lamb on the cross.

Remember the vision is 70 weeks, which is 70, 7-year periods. Only 69 of them were used in the figuring the years from decree to the sacrificial death of the Messiah. The final and 70<sup>th</sup> 7-year period is on pause until the rise of the Antichrist and he strengthens a covenant with Israel.

Here's the source in Daniel 9: "After

*the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him" (Dan. 9:26-27 NIV).*

As was read in this passage from Daniel 9, this "ruler to come" (the Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with Israel for seven years but will break it at the mid-point. It seems this agreement brings peace to Israel. It likely involves use of the temple mount, maybe even the rebuilding of the temple. Whatever it is, it does not end well for Israel.

In Isa. 28:18, this treaty is called the "covenant of death." The events of the Assyrian invasion during Hezekiah's reign are forerunners to Israel at the end of the age. During the Assyrian invasion, Hezekiah did everything he could to protect Jerusalem from the invading Assyrians. He fortified the city. He strengthened his army. He made sure the city had food and water. He worked to form alliances with Egypt and Babylon. All the while, Isaiah continually called the king to just trust the Lord to fight for him. Hezekiah tried to do it all in his power. At the last minute, he turned to the Lord and the city was rescued. This scene will repeat itself once the agreement is broken.

Another interesting aspect to this future headline is that within Islamic prophecy, their Messiah, called the Mahdi, makes a seven-year peace agreement with Israel. We'll have to dive into that soon.

Each time there is a peace accord between Israel and other Middle Eastern countries, prophecy followers begin to speculate if it's the "one." Interestingly, the peace covenant could exist now because the language in Daniel is that the Antichrist strengthens a covenant.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Jonesboro District WMA**, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.; Bethany, Jonesboro.  
**SW Dist. Brotherhood**, July 12; meal @ 6 p.m., message @ 7 p.m., Shiloh Lamartine, Waldo.

**SW Dist. WMA**, July 12; 10 a.m., First, Taylor.

**Greenbrier Dist. WMA**, July 14 @ 10 a.m.; Springhill, Greenbrier.

**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.

## HOMECOMINGS

**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.

**Kaley Hill, Quitman**, July 10, 11 a.m.; lunch to follow; Jim Goodson, 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.

It doesn't have to exist, but it could. Regardless of different treaties in the Middle East, the one we're watching for is a Turkey-led coalition of nations making an agreement with Israel.

Though this event hasn't fully happened, components are in existence. This prophecy requires Jews to be in the land of Israel. It requires Jews in Jerusalem. It requires a Jewish government. All these things have occurred; therefore, we should expect the rest to also come to fruition. Here are some future headlines for when these events occur:

- "The leader of the newly formed Turkish coalition has promised to renew the accords which promise protection and peace to the nation of Israel."

- "Israeli leaders have agreed to sit down with the Turkish leader as he has promised protection and peace to the war-weary nation."

- "Today Turkish leaders and Israeli leaders agreed to a peace agreement that ensures Israel protection provided by the new Turkish-led coalition."

- "This new Ottoman-Israel peace accord has been guaranteed for seven years."

- "The peace treaty signed today in Jerusalem, not only promises to bring peace to Israel but allows for the construction of a Jewish temple."

*Jake is available for revivals and preaching learn more at [standfirmministries.com](http://standfirmministries.com).*



## Moral Action 2022

By Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

The Moral Action Agency trip to Missouri and Washington, D.C. was a delight and spiritually uplifting. Moral Action is a missionary, evangelistic and teaching work, all in one agency of the Baptist Missionary Association. Since beginning in the 1980s, the former director, the late Dr. Roy McLaughlin of Michigan, and I have carried a banner for our God and the BMA.

Our people are beginning to see that this endeavor is worthy of prayer and financial support from all our churches, pastors, deacons and other departments of the BMA. The eyes of our Savior are on this effort. We go in His name and for His cause, and that makes us glad in Christ.

Mrs. Adams (Darla) and I left for middle Missouri on Saturday, June 4 to speak at Ohlman Baptist Church in Bunker, Mo. As a fellow Southerner, I would declare — "right in the middle of the Mark Twain National Forrest."

It is a spirit-filled church under the capable leadership of Pastor Terry Sharpe. Bro. Sharpe and WMA Leader Janet Widger extended this invitation for God and Country. A gracious love offering was shared with Moral Action. They see the value of this agency for the BMA churches and its outreach to America.

We traveled from there on to Washington, D.C. before returning to Mississippi. (a total of 2,500 plus miles round trip). Staying less than 3 to 5 blocks away from the U.S. Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court, we saw America at work closely.

God allowed us to share two Facebook-John Adams films at the Washington National Cathedral to pray that our nation will return to the God of Eternity. The second film was at the U.S. Pentagon, with 800 hits on our Facebook pages. People are truly concerned.

Tuesday gave us encouragement as we interviewed U.S. Representative Brian Steil of Wisconsin. This congressman has been and is a conservative Christian who made his stand crystal clear about America needing a return to God.

We attended the U.S. Congressional Briefing in the lower Auditorium of the Hyatt Regency at Capitol Hill. Moral Action has and will stand for godly living, with biblical precedent. In the Congressional Briefing, there were positive and negative words about Roe vs. Wade, the securing of the southern U.S. borders, etc.

Having known of the work done by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), we discussed with Congressman Steil how the three-judge Ninth Circuit Court wants to remove "under God" in the pledge. We also discussed this with US Congressman from Georgia 8<sup>th</sup> District Austin Scott; Alabama 4<sup>th</sup> District Robert Aderholt; U.S. Senator James Langford of Oklahoma, who is very familiar with BMA folks, and U.S. House member Lee Zelden of Long Island-New York (who is running for New York governor). Congressman Zelden is a Jew with strong Israeli ties. We talked of our faithfulness to the nation Israel and Jerusalem and discussed:

- Maintaining the words "under God" in the pledge to our American flag;
- Having all our U.S. borders secured;
- The undying support of God's people, Israel;
- The words "In God We Trust" on our coins/currency;
- The overturn of Roe vs. Wade with the volatile subject of abortion, and
- The sins of homosexuality in men and women, etc. of moral issues.

We were not able to see U.S. Senator Ted Cruz for our visit with him. His Chief of Staff reminded us of his frequent trips to Uvalde, Texas, and the overwhelming sadness and horror of that small town and its families.

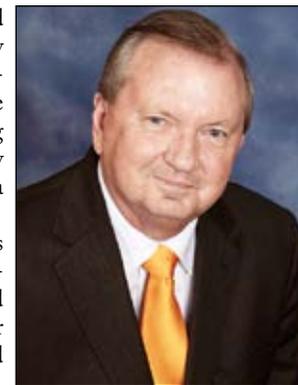
May I suggest all who read this not take our freedoms for granted. There are those who hate God, hate our nation and truly hate Christians. Our strength is in Him, the God of Heaven and Earth.

All these efforts to e-mail, text, write letters, Facebook and travel to D.C. and actually meet and talk face-to-face was and is our work for Christ. We saw the entire Briefing Legislature picture taken. Our prayers are with them. I invite you to keep praying for these leaders.

They had on their minds the end to violence on the streets of America, the border calamity, the economy and Roe vs. Wade.

Darla and I were blessed to represent godly BMA and Christian people, churches, pastors and all Christian workers. May God return us to Him and His Kingdom!

*"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence, I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before him, God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Psa. 62:5-8).*





**BMA OF ARKANSAS**  
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## (Part 2 of 2) Responding to Temptation

We must avoid the call to temptation at all costs. When we are tempted (many areas of life — fight, lie, cheat, sensual, etc.), we need to adapt the fright-flight action when we know things are not going as they should. Let's check Joseph reaction to Potiphar's wife's actions: *"But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master woteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Gen. 39:8-9).

Here we see a couple of things:

• **Shut out the call to temptation.** Realize the jeopardy that yielding to temptation could bring to one's success. Joseph verbally reaffirmed his great success and why giving in to temptation can not only ruin a career, but it may even wreck a family. Stop and imagine what this will do to your spiritual life. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? It's interesting to notice that Joseph did not say Potiphar, but God for sin in any form is against God. Joseph knew, like all sins, there is always a price one must pay, a judgment one must face.

So, friends, when all else fails to shut out the call of temptation just remember God's judgments and every son He loves, He chastens.

• **Learn to resist the clutches of temptation.** When temptation grabs you with all the forces of Hell, how does one resist? Verses 10-12 describe the only successful strategy: *"And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out"* (Gen. 39:10-12).

We must not dwell on the temptation for, as here, it came to pass day by day and he continued to turn her away. He did not dwell on her flattering requests, but he pushed them out of his mind. But why? Because *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23:7). Joseph knew the destructive power of imagination and the effects of dwelling on it. If Satan can get you to spend time on evil fantasies, he has most of the battle won. One needs to have awareness of the intent of others and must concentrate on your daily duties. In verse 11 it says, *"he went in to do his business."* The modern workplace is often a hotbed for temptations.

• **Depart as quickly as possible.** Joseph ran out quickly! He was literally running for his life. He did not try to reason with her. When the fires of passion are aflame, there is only one way to survive and that is to run for your life. In this situation, running was the only successful strategy conceivable. It was not cowardice; it was courage and conviction and right thinking.

We must remember that God promised to deliver us. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (I Cor. 10:13). When a Christian yields to temptation, it is not because he has no choice. As a believer, we can choose to resist temptation because God will provide a way of escape. The problem is not lacking an escape route; the problem is not looking for it. We are made to marvel at Joseph's great strength and character and, if we will follow his strategy, we will be assured victory.

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Last week, we assisted a family that had stopped attending church. They were in crisis and needed spiritual support, so we accompanied them and brought the Word of God to their home. The reaction was very positive. The kids came to the youth meeting on Wednesday, and on Sunday, Diego, the oldest of the siblings, was reconciled with God. Let us pray for this family, praying to God

that through this situation all of them will commit to the Lord.

"We are ready for the 'Called' SOAR Student Conference. Registration and hotel reservations were made in a timely manner. We will be taking school supplies for 15 backpacks, and driving two vans to Dallas, Texas. We are very excited and have been praying a lot for the participants and the event in general. This weekend we had 14 people confirmed, and 3 to be confirmed. Please pray for us, that we will make good use of the time and we

do not have mishaps."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "On Sunday, we continued with our sermon series on biblical characters. We got to learn about Elijah during a time when the northern kingdom went astray in trusting in a god like Baal, and we learned how Jehovah taught Israel that He alone is God.

"I went to the Travelers stadium after our Celebration Service to give the same teaching to the Hispanic players. On Monday, I will be having lunch with a player from the team, and it will be a good opportunity to present the gospel to him.

"I will also be giving a training on what the Bible Discovery Studies are and what is a Gospel Movement. My hope is that each participant will be able to depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see their 'where' and 'who' to minister and reach with the gospel message.

"On Thursday, I was with the Alcazar family. I ask for your support in prayer for this family as the enemy is attacking them economically, spiritually and emotionally. It is a difficult time for this family.

"Thank you for your prayers and support. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had another great week at Faith Chapel! We had several out again for various reasons, but still had a good number with several returning and one first-time visitor.

"We had a great Bible study Sunday evening from Acts 17:10-15 on Paul in Berea which was very appropriate. It was titled 'They Searched the Scriptures Daily.' The main application being that it is my responsibility to teach the truth, but it is everyone's responsibility to make sure they learn the truth. There are too many false teachers out there, and we have to diligently study the Word to make sure, as Luke wrote, 'whether these things are so.' I love it when both members and visitors are engaged and involved in the study. We all get so much from it.

"Please continue with us in prayer for both our July 3<sup>rd</sup> outreach and our VBS with our mother church, The Bridge. Pray that both events will indeed further the kingdom of God, and be to His glory.

"Thank you all for all of your prayers, for us, for our members and visitors, for Flippin, and for fruit in the work that He has sent us to. They mean so much to us, and He is answering them."

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "This last week was packed with meetings. Monday, I met with one of our members who is currently staying with some friends an hour away, and it was a great time to catch up. Monday was also our normal 8.5-hour community event. We are making so many new relationships and seeing many more being formed in front of us. We are so excited to see how these relationships are already creating opportunities to tell of Jesus Christ.

"I am saving money on gas by biking as many places as I can. Tuesday, I met with a local church-planting pastor and discussed some of the ways God has blessed their ministry. While I was there, the Springdale Cycling Club showed up and I heard of a special group ride to encourage a local family whose 10-year-old boy was just diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer. I ended up biking in that ride and talking with many of the contacts that I formed last year.

"Wednesday, I had several meetings via phone calls. DeAnna went to our bi-weekly ladies' Bible study. I am so excited to see how many new faces are part of that. They are studying through the book of Ephesians. In the evening, I biked out to my bi-weekly men's Board Game Bible Study and we are going through *The Presence Centered Church* by Bill Elliff.

"Thursday, I met with Drew and started prepping for some upcoming meetings and some vision, jumped on to Larry Barkers Pastoral Zoom (a great blessing, attend if you ever need encouragement or just fresh ideas), sat down with a local pastor/church planter of Hope City and got an inside look into what he hopes to accomplish for the kingdom of Heaven in Johnson, Ark. and hosted a meeting between Drew and one of our newer members who is a former church pastor and leader. We wanted to interview him and see where he hoped to be used within The Table. It was so good to see the interaction between him and Drew. I am so excited to see what God has in store within these relationships and giftings.

"Friday was another 'pedal to the floor' kind of day. Lots of planning for the weekend, more meetings via phone and some work got done on our storage room to help us organize for the future. In the evening, I hosted a meeting with Drew and another one of our folks who has an amazing idea on how to build bridges to other church ministries. We talked some great strategies and how to make the idea even more accessible for our folks to do. So excited to see what we are going to be doing with these cool ministries. After that, DeAnna and I hosted our newly married college couple late into the evening.

"Saturday, after doing our normal routine, we got ready for a housewarming party for our newly moved music leader. This was such a great time of fellowship and unity building. I love to see our church get together and interact. There was singing, sharing

how God was working in our lives and some great moments of unity.

"Sunday, we got ready for our evening service, and it was amazing. We jumped into the book of Hebrews and had some great conversations afterward about the eternality of God and the power of Jesus Christ. The church service starts at 6:20, but people show up at 5:50 to hang out and set up, and then many of them stay until 10 p.m. I love seeing these people coming together over a love for God and a love for His people."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "This week at Faith Journey we continued our outreach in the community to let people know that we are in the area and ready to serve them. We started going to local businesses to introduce ourselves. At one business, we were able to provide them with a Sonic drink for their employees, because let's face it, nothing shows how much 'we love you' better than a good ole Sonic drink!

"We spoke in our weekly worship service about besetting sin. Besetting sin is described as a type of sin that is habitual, no matter how big or small it may be. Sometimes these sins may be small things that we do not typically think are barriers between us and God, but in reality, all sin separates us from our Father. We discussed that we are to give up sin, no matter how insignificant the sin may seem to be, so we are able to have a personal relationship with Christ. Our challenge for each other this week is to ask God to reveal besetting sins to us so that we may begin to remove them from our lives to move us closer to a deeper relationship with Him. Have a great week and keep following Jesus!"

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "Psalm 37:34 has helped me understand the way in which I should do anything, but especially when we are in the field planting a church in the midst of a people who do not know God. It is the delight, joy, my adoration, intimacy and time with Him that will make the fuel to carry out the mission. It would be very sad and make us forget the reason why we go looking for the people lost, if I forget what the correct motivation is. I would lose the joy, passion and fuel for which I go. So, my strength, joy and passion to go I have through my delight in Him. Missions is done out of delight in God.

"This week, I continue the work of building trust and friendship with five men that I am fervently praying for every day on my prayer list. We continue the discipleship with the woman who gave her life to Christ in our apartment, and the Lord by His infinite grace has allowed us to take the discipleship to practical levels. What does that mean? Well, her car broke down and now every day Patty takes her to and picks her up from work. Because discipleship is to show people the gospel, it is service, it is compassion to accompany them in situations and her husband, who is not interested in hearing the message

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# BATTENFIELD

(Continued From Page 1)

that decision at [supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\\_6j37.pdf](https://supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf).

This single decision of the US Supreme Court to actually apply the US Constitution answered the prayers of millions of professed believers. As an association of churches, we ought to celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God for this somewhat surprising turn that strikes down the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that has led to nearly 65 million unborn babies being destroyed in the womb, joining another landmark overturning of the 1857 Dred Scott v. Sandford case (that had ruled the US



**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.

**Prospect, Jonesboro**, July 18-21, 6-8 p.m.; theme — Celebrating God's Creation.

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

**Dickinson, Harrell**, July 18-22, 6:30-8:15 p.m.; theme — Make Waves.

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

**Bridge Church/Faith Chapel**, July 23; 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; theme —

Constitution was not meant to include citizenship for people of African descent, whether free or slave). The BMA of Arkansas, along with the BMA of America, has made the ending of abortion a consistent resolution at our annual meetings and, indeed, this is an issue that has been one of the most important.

At the same time, we must understand that, contrary to the protests and even credible threats of serious violence, this decision in no way abolishes the practice, but simply returns the matter to the states (under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution). Yes, for states that had passed laws to slow or stop most abortions, with a “trigger” for implementation being the overturning of the



**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](mailto:rkeycabinets@yahoo.com).

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

**Fairview Baptist Church in Jonesboro** is seeking a bi-vocational youth

Survive the Jungle.

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

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

Roe v. Wade, significant protections are now in place, but we must understand that this is only the beginning. Even in the most restrictive states, there remain loopholes. The other very real threat is that those seeking to terminate the life of their unborn baby will simply travel to other states where abortion is still legal.

So, yes, believers ought to celebrate this won battle, but be prepared for an even more difficult next step — ministering to women and families that are caught in-between. The media doesn't regularly acknowledge the efforts of churches and church families to help mothers. While the pregnancies are sometimes the result of sin, will we use the means of conception as an obstacle to shut out women who might then

minister. For more information, contact Pastor Gary Henderson at (870) 935-0266 (church office), (870) 974-1996 (cell) or [pastorgaryhenderson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hbctexarkana@gmail.com).

**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.

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

**Victory Baptist Church in Gentry** is seeking a pastor. Call or text Mark Betts at (479) 752-7140 for more information.

seek to end that pregnancy? I pray it wouldn't be so.

It is also time to work with your elected officials to streamline the adoption process, so that more children can find loving homes. And may we never forget, “...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).

# MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 7)

of salvation, now by the grace of God is seeing love in practice. “Also on Friday, a woman visited us with her two children who have little time in the city and we have been talking with her and her husband. Patty also continues to make connections with several women who have witnessed to them.”

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