

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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Student Ministry Workers Retreat 2022

By Dan Carson, Director • BMA of Ark. Youth Department

This year's Student Ministry Workers Retreat is just around the corner. On Sept. 17, student ministry workers from across the state and beyond will be meeting at Central Baptist College for our fifth annual event. The day consists of featured speakers, break-out groups, worship and connecting. This year's featured speakers are Samuel

Bierig and Dr. Jared Bumpers.

Samuel Bierig serves as vice president of Undergraduate Studies, dean of Spurgeon College and assistant professor of Biblical Studies at Spurgeon College. He also serves as an elder at Liberty Baptist Church in Liberty, Mo. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Theology at Midwestern and holds degrees from Southern Seminary and Ouachita Baptist University. He recently released a book with Rainer Publishing entitled *No Neutral Words* and is the editor of *Fulfill Your Student Ministry*. He is also a regular contributor at ftc.co. He is married to Mallory, and they have three children with a fourth on the way.

Dr. Jared Bumpers is the director of Student Life and Events and serves as assistant professor of Preaching and Ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the team at Midwestern, he served for over a decade as a student pastor, then as an associate pastor of preaching, at a church in southwest Missouri. He has also served as an interim pastor and spoken at numerous conferences throughout the United States. He holds a B.S. in Pastoral Ministry from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo.; an M.Div. from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.; a Th.M. in Biblical Studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va.; and a Ph.D. in Christian Preaching from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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.

Terry Jackson (age 65) is available for preaching appointments, revivals, Sunday School workshops and prayer workshops. Contact him at (870) 949-4446 or (870) 894-3969.

County Line Baptist Church in Nashville is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to Jack Lovelis, County Line Baptist Church, 196 Hempstead CR 351, Nashville, Ark. 71852.

His doctoral research focused on the hermeneutic and homiletic of John Albert Broadus. Jared and his wife, Kimberly have four children — McCartney, Rush, Maverick and Jett.

Our breakout groups will include a session from Dr. Bumpers focused on preaching, a session with Temple Carson and Sidney Vines about surviving as a youth pastor's wife and a session on prayer with Heidi Sorrells. Jake McCandless, BMA of Arkansas state missionary and executive director of Stand Firm Ministries, will also be sharing in one of our breakout sessions.

This year's goody bags will include at least four books and a handful of other fun things. Register by Aug. 15, and you will also receive a t-shirt. Throughout the day, we will be giving away a variety of door prizes.

As a part of the connection piece, we are planning a student ministry workers' hangout on Friday night before the retreat. Information will be shared through our social media as we get closer to the retreat.

Right now, there are still \$25 early bird specials available, but once those are gone, regular registration is \$30 per person and will go up to \$40 on Aug. 16. We do have special pricing for college and seminary students of \$20 per person. If you are a student or staff member at Central Baptist College, it is only \$15 per person. However, the t-shirt deadline of Aug. 15 doesn't change. To register, visit our Facebook page, website or go directly to our event registration at [SMWR2022.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Please contact me at bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com if you have any questions.

CBC Announces Scholarships For First-time PACE Students

Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow has announced that a new student discount has been approved for the Fall 2022 semester of the PACE (Professional Adult College Education) program.

CBC is currently celebrating a huge milestone. It's been almost 70 years since the first day of class on Sept. 15, 1952. To celebrate this anniversary, CBC has announced a first-time scholarship for new PACE students. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option.

"Adult students are often reluctant to go back to college. It is a huge decision to take on college classes, but we know it can transform your life. But it can also be expensive. We want to make that decision much easier for adult learners by offering this \$1,400 scholarship," said Kimbrow.

"There are many reasons that prevent adults from obtaining a college degree. Sometimes it's family and job obligations, but our flexible degree options in PACE can accommodate busy schedules. Sometimes it's the cost, or it could be the fear of going back to school. If either is the case, we can help overcome those issues by offering a \$1,400 scholarship. Let CBC pay for your first class and let us help you achieve your dream of earning a college degree," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister.

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, Page 2



Arkansas Launches Grant Program For Pro-Life Pregnancy Resource Centers

By Jerry Cox, President • Family Council

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration is accepting grant applications from pregnancy help organizations across the state. Act 187 of 2022 budgets up to \$1 million in state funds to provide grants for organizations that assist women with unplanned pregnancies, including pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes, adoption agencies and social services agencies.

These organizations provide women with real options besides abortion, and they help women and families as they navigate unplanned pregnancies. According to the Department of Finance and Administration, pregnancy help organizations can use the funds for projects and expenses such as:

- Activities in direct support of pregnant women,
- Project material and supplies,
- Advertising of available services,
- Brochures and publications explaining services and available resources,
- Rent of facilities where services are provided,
- Utilities of facilities where services are provided,
- Contracts for client-focused professional services (counseling, etc.) and

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Terry Kimbrow
President

Central Baptist College

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August Registration

For traditional college-aged students, Aug. 15-17 is the last opportunity to enroll at CBC for the fall semester. Visit cbc.edu/apply to submit your application for admission and connect with a personal admissions counselor. Scholarships are still available!

For questions, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@cbc.edu or (501) 329-6873.



PACE Program Registration

Our adult and online degree program, PACE is now registering new and returning students for the third-course block of the fall semester. The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 12, and the payment deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 14.

This program allows busy adults to enroll throughout the year. Courses are five weeks and are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option to fit any schedule. Choose from one of eight enrollment periods per year to get started again when your schedule permits.

Take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church, Ministry Tuition Grant, student referral grant or Veterans Tuition Grant. For a full list of fall course deadlines, visit cbc.edu/calendar.

Visit online.cbc.edu to apply or learn what PACE can do for you. If you have questions, contact the PACE Enrollment Team at pace@cbc.edu or (800) 441-5106.

CBC Hosts the Chamber of Commerce CEO Luncheon

Central Baptist College was pleased to recently host the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Luncheon. CBC welcomed over 150 community and business leaders from across Central Arkansas. The featured speaker was Pete Tanguay from Rock Pond Pros of Conway. Lunch was provided by CBC Dining Services under the direction of Director of Dining Services Billie Rodriguez.

Save the Date for Youthfest 2022

Join us on the CBC Campus, **Saturday, Aug. 27** for a one-day youth conference for grades 7-12. The day will be filled with various workshops, followed by a Night of Worship under the stars. Sign up today for a **free** t-shirt.

For more details or to register, visit cbc.edu/youthfest.

SCHOLARSHIP (Continued From Page 1)

To take advantage of the one-time \$1,400 tuition discount, first-time entering or transfer students should apply for admission and complete the registration process. The application deadline for our next block is Monday, Sept. 12 with classes set to begin on Sept. 19. To learn more or to complete an application for admission, visit cbc.edu/pace or contact the Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873. Use the code "MUSTANG" when you apply to claim your scholarship.

PACE offers an Associate of Arts in General Education and Business and an Associate of Science in Military Technologies degree. Bachelor of Science degrees offered are in Church Administration, General Studies, Human Resource Management, Leadership, Leadership and Ministry, Management Information



First, Bald Knob gained one by letter and one by baptism; Matt Grantham, pastor.

First, Damascus rejoices over one by baptism and two by letter; Daniel Williams, pastor.

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

Sand Springs, Quitman reports two by letter; Gaylon King, pastor.

Woodberry, Hampton received one by letter; Loren Strickland, pastor.

Systems, Organizational Management and Psychology. CBC also offers a Bachelor of Business Administration. These include Business Administration, Business Analytics and Business Information Systems.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Greenbrier Men's Fellowship, Aug. 20, 8 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier. Contact Reed Rust @ (501) 730-2524.

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

Mount Calvary — Sept. 8, 7 p.m.; Letona, Letona; Bill Goodwin.

BMA of the Ozarks — Sept. 9, 2 p.m., meeting; 5 p.m., dinner; worship following dinner; Springdale, Springdale; Wes Hulvey.

Mt. Vernon — Sept. 10, 10 a.m.; Rondo, Lexa; Marty Cantwell.

United — Sept. 10, 10 a.m.; Denver Street, Greenwood; Derrick Bremer.

Mt. Vernon Dist. Brotherhood, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m.; Central, Hughes.

Central Arkansas — Sept. 22, 10 a.m.; El Faro, Little Rock; Gary Lambright.

South Arkansas — Sept. 23, 7 p.m.; Blanchard Springs, Junction City; Mike Senn.

Columbia — Sept. 25, 5 p.m.; Macedonia, Magnolia; Paul Bullock.

Clark — Sept. 27, 7 p.m.; New Caney, Gurdon; Kenneth Anderson.

Union — Oct. 2, 3:30 p.m., meeting; 6 p.m., worship service; Riverside, Fulton; Larry Byers.

Central Ark. WMA, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.; South City, Little Rock.

Greenbrier — Oct. 9, 3:30 p.m., Missionary Committee; 4 p.m., general session; 6 p.m., message; First, Damascus; Danny Paul.

Harmony — Oct. 9, 6 p.m.; Spring Lake, Texarkana; Don Embry.

Central Ark. Dist. Brotherhood, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.; Village Creek, Mabelvale.

Judson — Oct. 15, 9 a.m.; Bethel #1, Rison; Rick Bolin. **(Date Change)**

Jonesboro — Oct. 15, 10 a.m.; Prospect, Jonesboro; Ken Beaver.

Arkansas Prairie—Oct. 21-22; 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday; Forks of Lague, Dewitt; Robert Wade.

Howard — Oct. 22, 10 a.m.; Centerpoint, Nashville; Chuck Reel.

HOMECOMINGS

Barney, Enola, Aug. 14; 10:30 a.m. worship; Bill Goodwin, message; lunch and singing in the afternoon; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

Beacon, Taylor, Aug. 14; 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship; 11 a.m. fellowship; Noon, singing and church history; Kerry Easley, pastor.

Bethany, Jonesboro, Aug. 14; 10 a.m. worship; 11:30 a.m. lunch and singing to follow; Mitch Doss, pastor.

181st Homecoming, Macedonia, Jonesboro, Aug. 21; 11 a.m. worship; Noon, lunch; message, Don Seat, pastor.

Faustina, Harrell, Aug. 28; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 11 a.m. worship (Russ Hopper); potluck lunch to follow. Gene Boyette, pastor.



Did You Know That?

By Dr. Rick Caracciolo

Did you know that there is a possibility that your neighbor might be one? Your co-worker, small group leader or even your best friend could be one. In fact, there is a strong possibility that you could be one, too. We are talking about being a caregiver. A caregiver is a family member or paid helper who regularly looks after a disabled child, adult or elderly person.

The number of Americans providing unpaid care has been on the rise since 2015. The number of caregivers has risen from 43.5 million to over 53 million. This equates to some staggering statistics that will continue to rise for the next 12 years. Almost one in five (20%) are unpaid for the care they provide to an adult with a functional or health need, and these numbers do not include children under the age of 18 who need a similar type of assistance because of a disability or accident. There was over a 6% rise in the number of Americans caring for more than one person from 2015 to 2020.

At first glance, you might not find those numbers to be too taxing but think about this — the numbers are not declining but staying steady with seniors aging at the rate of 10,000 per day for the next decade. The necessity of caring for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's disease has increased by almost 5% over the last few years. Family caregivers reported a 7% increase in having difficulty coordinating care, while over 20% report their own health as fair to poor. They also reported having at least one financial impact from being a caregiver. Over 61% of the caregivers are employed outside of the home.

When you begin investigating all the data involving caregiving, you begin to realize caregivers are the unsung heroes of the family. In fact, many of them belong to the "sandwich generation" — when a caregiver is raising children or grandchildren at home and is also caring for an older adult such as a parent or grandparent. Many of these caregivers also have outside employment. By the year 2030, one in every five Americans will be 65 years or older. This is when the last of the Baby Boomers will have turned 65 years old.

As we age, our functioning may be diminishing due to the normal aging process. On top of that, many individuals have an illness, chronic disease, cognitive decline or injuries limiting their physical abilities. Human life expectancy is the overall health of a population. It represents the average number of years of life remaining. The average life expectancy is about 78 years, however, there is no guarantee we will live to a particular age.

While Jesus hung upon the cross, He spoke to His beloved disciple John and asked him to care for His mother. From that time on, John took Mary, the mother of Jesus into his home and cared for her. Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to John. Jesus was the eldest male child, and it was His responsibility to care for His mother. Jesus was concerned about her spiritual well-being and economic welfare. It was an honor and a responsibility for John to be asked to be the caregiver for Mary. The siblings of Jesus had not believed He was the Son of God. While He was on the cross dying for our sins, He was also providing for His mother and her earthly future. The concern Jesus showed for His mother is a vivid example to us that taking care of a parent or loved one is a tremendous responsibility and honor at the same time.

Respite Care — Caring for the Caregivers

As we travel down the path of caregiving, we will discover that the circumstances in which a caregiver must make decisions are different for each person. Being a caregiver is not an easy task. It is tiring, frustrating, demanding and just hard work. Being a caregiver is also rewarding, fulfilling, satisfying and gratifying. Caring for a parent or a loved one can be very taxing and trying for the caregiver and family.

Not everyone can be a caregiver, but we can help those who are caring for our loved ones. We might live miles away or have a job or responsibilities that do not allow us to have large chunks of free time, but the time you can give to provide the primary caregiver an opportunity to rest is best for all. If you can provide 1, 2 or 4 hours one or two times a month, that will be appreciated and this gives the primary caregiver a chance to get away, relax and give the care receiver the opportunity to connect with other individuals besides the primary caregiver. If several family members or friends

See CAREGIVERS, Page 8



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Youthfest (a one day youth conference for grade 7-12), Aug. 27; Central Baptist College; visit cbc.edu/youthfest.
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.

David Markham & Truth Infusion, Sept. 18, 10:45 a.m.; pot luck and an afternoon of singing to follow; Liberty, Stamps.

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.

lost people as we see in John 3:16-17.

Most of all, trust in the power of the Holy Spirit and His Word (Jer. 23:29 and Heb. 4:12-13). Be in the Word and increase your time in the Scriptures. Without knowing the Scriptures and without having the text in your heart (Deut. 6:6) it is very difficult (virtually impossible) for the Holy Spirit to move you to make the right decision. This is especially true during temptation, points of pain and when conflict is occurring in the church. If your people do not know the Word of God and have the Word of God in their hearts, they might have one hour of inspiration on Sunday morning with seven days of temptation in between.

Preach the Word, which is a message of truth and grace. Bill Elliff said it well, "Never underestimate the power of persistent preaching filled with truth and grace." He continued, "If you are a pastor, take your preaching seriously and approach it prayerfully. God knows what the people need. Let Him say what He desires."

Allow your preaching to be personal and transparent by sharing your struggles and challenges. People relate well to your spiritual growth and journey in the same way you look to those who have gone before you. Do not be afraid to be transparent about how the Word is shaping and molding you.

Your preaching should not be just academic. The goal is not information transfer but life transformation. Paul shared his challenges very openly and you should consider allowing your people to see yours as well. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures."

How has your faith increased? What experiences did God use to increase your faith? How have you struggled with forgiveness and what has God shown you about the importance of forgiving others? Be scriptural and be real!



I was just thinking, as I heard some children singing "Zacchaeus," that sometimes we just have to make the commitment to do whatever it takes.

There's a song with those words as its title. Some of the lyrics are, "For whatever it takes to draw closer to you, Lord, that's what I'll be willing to do. And whatever it takes to be more like You, that's what I'll be willing to do."

The Bible says this of Zacchaeus: "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way" (Luke 19:1-4).

Getting Our "Want To" Fixed

Howard Cottingham was a fine deacon in Central Baptist Church of Prescott and was very wise. Often as he shook my hand while departing a service, he would say, "Pastor, sometimes we just need to get our 'want to' fixed!" That has stuck with me for years.

Indeed, the wealthy and well-known Zacchaeus could have said, "I'm too busy, and I don't want to see this Jesus." But he got his "want to" fixed, humbled himself, climbed a tree and he not only saw Jesus, but ended up hosting Him at his house. He had done whatever it took to get close to Jesus.

Just after Jesus had fed the 5,000, He told His apostles to get in a boat and go to the other side of the lake ahead of Him. Late in the evening, the Lord walked out to them. While all were terrified, thinking they were seeing a ghost, Peter got his "want to" fixed and requested that Jesus call the disciple to Him. We know that Peter walked on the water until he began to fear again. Then as Jesus pointed out Peter's lack of faith, the Lord drew the sinking disciple to Himself.

The lesson for us is that just as Peter was willing to do whatever it took to be close to Jesus; in 2022, we need to do the same.

Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Council, knew his reputation and standing would be at stake if he were seen with Jesus, but he wanted to see the Lord. So, under cover of darkness, he went to Jesus. He did whatever it took to draw close to Christ. Later the result was evident when he and Joseph from Arimathea gently took the Lord's body from the cross and placed it in Joseph's new tomb. Nicodemus was no longer hiding that he was a follower of Christ.

Getting Close to Jesus is Getting Close to God

Three men — a tax man, a fisherman and a councilman — all did whatever it took to see Jesus. Each is in Heaven with the Lord today.

It is essential that not only Christians do whatever it takes, but that those who are lost without hope do the same. "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

May each of us be willing to do whatever it takes, whether it is humbling ourselves no matter our positions, stepping out in faith despite our fears or coming to Jesus no matter the time of day.

GRANT (Continued From Page 1)

• Staffing for the duration of the project.

Now that *Roe v. Wade* has been reversed and Arkansas has prohibited abortion except to save the life of the mother, we need to step up and help women with unplanned pregnancies. Providing grant funding for pregnancy help organizations is part of our long-

term strategy to reduce the demand for abortion in Arkansas. This grant money could be a game-changer for many pro-life charities.

Pregnancy help organizations can apply for grant funding through the Department of Finance and Administration. Pregnancy resource centers can contact the ARFuture Foundation in Little Rock for additional information about applying for this grant and others in Arkansas.

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

We know what to do... will we do it?



Ministry Adjustments

All living things, including your church, progress through predictable stages of growth and decline. Churches are living things. The Bible calls the church a body. Colossians 2:19 (HCSB) says, "He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God." A body can be healthy or unhealthy, in shape or out of shape, growing or shrinking, thriving or dying. The lifespan of a church is determined by many factors but is greatly impacted by the strength and foresight of its leadership.

There are many skill sets that are useful to leaders and churches.

- Are you listening to the Lord's directions? Is every move you make God-initiated?
- Are you determined to continue and endure hardships as good soldiers of the Lord?
- Are you willing to make whatever changes He instructs you to make? Are you willing for those adjustments and changes to begin with you?

In most churches, the growth of the church is directly related to the growth of the leader. God is far more interested in the work He is doing in you than through you. Make sure you are growing as a child of God and as a leader.

Jesus challenges seven churches to renewal and revival in Revelation 2 and 3. He emphasized the need for consistent biblical evaluation to assess if the church is on the right track and what adjustments might need to be made. Repentance is key to the process and that requires constant confession of sin in our individual lives and in the life of your church. Are there any barriers or obstacles in your life or in your church that are holding back the manifest presence of the Lord? Many churches have allowed strongholds to be established and to remain that hold

back the presence of the Lord.

Revelation 3:17 is very sobering: "Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." Bob Roberts Jr. said, "There is only one thing worse than God's judgment on the church, and that is His absence from it." J Oswald Sanders put it this way, "We are, at this moment, as close to God as we really choose to be." What adjustments do you need to make for revival to begin in your heart and life? What adjustments does your church need to make for God's manifest presence to return?

In *Presence Centered Church*, Bill Elliff asks you to consider what kind of letter would Jesus write to your church. What would He point out? "Your humility or your pride? Your generosity or your materialism? Your brokenness or your stubbornness? Free-flowing forgiveness or judgmental unforgiveness? Holiness or immorality? Surrendered, willing service or selfishness? Edifying words or gossip and slander? Unconditional acceptance of others or proud prejudice? A burden for the lost or self-absorbed inwardness? Courage to follow Christ at any cost or fearfulness and timidity?" Go ahead and answer.

Where are you and where is your church in these areas? These are heart issues that must be addressed with a biblical prescription. Here are five ways God will work on your heart and the heart of your church:

- Lead your church to become others-centered by focusing on Phil. 2:3-4.
- Build courage and Holy Spirit-led risk by living by II Tim. 1:7.
- Allow God to mold you into the leader He desires you to be by focusing on II Tim. 3:6-4:2.
- Build up your confidence by trusting in Rom. 5:3-5.
- Ask Him to give you a heart for



By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

Blessed to Serve

I am blessed to be able to serve, first and foremost, the Lord, but also the people and churches of the BMA of Arkansas. I have enjoyed the past few months as I have had many opportunities to visit churches and share an update on the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet* and a message from God's Word.

The latest visit was at Grace Baptist Church in Russellville on July 31. I was able to share and fill in for Pastor Roger Pearce in his absence. This is a great church that is faithful in supporting the *Trumpet*.

I look forward to visiting with many of you in the coming months as we begin to gather for the local association meetings. You can find each association's meeting information in our District Calendar listing each week in the *Trumpet*. I encourage you to check it each week as we will update the information as needed. Just this week, the Judson Association meeting was moved from Oct. 8 to Oct. 15.

Almost Out of Time

We are just a few weeks away from the end of our fiscal year (Aug. 31). Up to this date, we count all special offerings we receive outside of the regular giving toward our Special Emphasis for the year. As I have shared with the churches I have visited lately, God has been faithful to supply our needs through the faithful giving of His people. We are still short of our goal of \$45,000, but through the *Trumpet* Team and the first portion of our Special Emphasis funds (\$20,000), we were able to make up the planned deficit for the year.

As you may remember from last year, after calculating our production and post-production costs, we realized that we were bringing in around 45¢ per issue per subscriber, but our total cost was right at 90¢ per issue per subscriber. That is why we implemented a rate increase of 15¢ to help alleviate this deficit.

The remaining \$25,000 of our Special Emphasis is designated for a special software and website project that will help us with long-term stability. You may remember that, a few years ago, we changed the software we use to manage our subscriptions. While that change was good and, for the most part, is working well for us, it comes with a price tag of around \$600 per month. Thanks to a connection with a member of one of our churches who has a software development business, we are working to develop our very own program. Not only will this allow us to save quite a bit per month, but it should also allow us to further reduce some redundancy that takes place now in managing our subscriptions and donations.

As of today, we are 70% of the way toward meeting our goal. That means we were able to cover the expected deficit by completing the *Trumpet* Team funding and have some funds from Special Emphasis (around \$12,000) to put toward our software project. We will trust that the Lord will meet our needs in His time.

Special Emphasis Update

Thanks to these churches and individuals that have given since our last report:

2022 Special Emphasis • Goal — \$45,000

Previous Balance (July 20)	\$30,672.03
Grace, Russellville	\$500.00
Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	\$100.00
Old Hickory, Hattieville	\$250.00
Hershel and Bonnie Newton	\$200.00
Total	\$31,722.00



Group Sues to Place Marijuana Amendment on Arkansas Ballot

On Aug. 4, attorneys for Responsible Growth Arkansas filed a lawsuit against the Arkansas Secretary of State arguing that a proposed amendment to legalize marijuana should appear on the November ballot. On Aug. 3,

the State Board of Election Commissioners had voted unanimously not to certify the marijuana measure for the ballot after determining that the measure's ballot title was insufficient.

Funding in support of the measure has come primarily from medical marijuana businesses. If enacted, the

proposed amendment would make sweeping changes to Arkansas' medical marijuana laws and also allow medical marijuana businesses to grow and sell recreational marijuana. It is unclear just how far-reaching some of these changes to the Arkansas Constitution may be. (familycouncil.org)

Ark. Senator Proposes Preventing CCP From Buying U.S. Farmland

Last week U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R/Ark.) introduced legislation to prevent members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from purchasing farmland in the United States. According to a US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) report, approximately 1.1 million acres of agricultural land in Arkansas is foreign-held — mostly from Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. Arkansas Act 1046 of 2021 generally requires foreign landowners to file reports with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

The CCP has blocked internet access for its people, caused food shortages in its own country, engaged in espionage, allegedly tried to influence public policy in America and imposed forced abortions and sterilizations on minorities. With that in mind, it is concerning to many Americans that the Chinese Communist Party might try to purchase and control farmland in the U.S.

The Securing America's Land from Foreign Interference Act prohibits members of the CCP from purchasing any land in the United States. China's agricultural investments in countries around the globe grew more than tenfold from 2009 to 2016. China's Ministry of Agriculture claims the country had over 1,300 agricultural, forestry and fisheries enterprises with registered overseas investments of \$26 billion at the end of 2016. Chinese investments in U.S. agriculture may provide the CCP with undue leverage over U.S. supply chains and access to sensitive information critical to U.S. national security.

While Chinese entities held slightly less than one percent of all foreign-held acres in the U.S. in 2020, the volume of their holdings increased dramatically over the last decade. According to USDA reports, Chinese investors' holdings of U.S. agricultural land surged from 13,720 acres in 2010 to 352,140 acres in 2020. The USDA's most recent report on foreign landholding through Dec. 31, 2020 shows foreign investors now hold an interest in nearly 37.6 million acres of agricultural land in the U.S. — an area larger than the state of Iowa.

Approximately 14 states have some level of foreign ownership restriction, yet there are no federal restrictions on the amount of private U.S. agricultural land that can be foreign-owned. Land grabbing by foreign actors will become a greater threat in the coming years. With an aging population of American farmers (one-third over the age of 65), millions of acres of U.S. farmland are expected to change hands in the next decade. (familycouncil.org)

New Pro-Life Movie "Lifemark" Promotes Adoption

A new pro-life film "Lifemark," based on the true story of a young man reuniting with his birth mother, is coming to theaters on Sept. 9. Starring Kirk Cameron and produced by the Kendrick Brothers ("War Room," "Fireproof"), the movie celebrates the life-giving choice of adoption through the story of Louisiana native David Scotton and his family.

Adopted as an infant, Scotton grows up in a loving home. At age 18 and about to graduate high school, he unexpectedly receives a message from his birth mother, asking to meet him. With the encouragement of his adoptive parents, the young man embarks on a journey that reveals the truth about his past, including his mother's brave choice as a scared young teenager. The film is based on a true story, as told in the documentary "I Lived on Parker Avenue," produced by Louisiana Right to Life.

The film is rated PG-13 for thematic elements. The creators said the rating is based on a scene when a woman makes a decision inside an abortion facility, but "nothing shown or discussed is graphic."

"This movie celebrates everything we are believing in: faith, family, freedom, forgiveness and love," Kendrick told Focus on the Family in a video on Facebook. "We want to ask if you would please join us in praying that God mightily uses this movie to impact our culture for such a time as this." (lifefews.org)

Dept. of Education Title IX Changes Proposed

The Biden administration's attempt to change a half-century-old

civil rights law protecting all students from discrimination on the basis of sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity is "not fair to students," according to a conservative critic. Under a new rule proposed by the U.S. Department of Education, colleges would be required to identify students based not on biological sex, but on their preferred gender identity.

The proposed rule was opened for public comment on July 12, with the comment period ending on Sept. 12. Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 is the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in educational institutions or any activity receiving federal funding. Under Title IX, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The law does not apply to education institutions controlled by a religious organization if the law's application would not be consistent with the religious tenets of the organization.

Critics believe this will only serve to undermine those students for whom Title IX was made to protect. The Department of Education issued a "Notice of Interpretation" last year announcing that it has determined that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibiting discrimination based on sex also "prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity." The notice cited the United States Supreme Court decision *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which found that discrimination based on sexual orientation and

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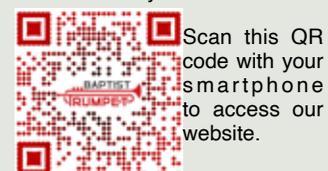
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What's the Deal with so Many People Quitting Their Jobs?

By Stephen Castleberry, Experience Pastor • Antioch, Georgetown, Texas

Brett Cooper, from *The Daily Wire*, recently said there are three types of resignations going on: early retirements, burnout career changes and entitlement—that last one is my word, not hers. I love that some people have worked hard enough and saved well enough to retire early—I'm planning for that to be me one day.

I also understand burnout. The pandemic added a lot of stress to most jobs with vaccine mandates, masking, extra precautions, thin workforces due to illness leading to longer hours and more. I know many people from all sectors—like education, healthcare, retail, service and even pastors—are all feeling the pressures brought on by the past two years. Everyone is stressed and doing things outside their normal, so I completely understand taking time off due to burnout and even switching careers if the stress in your current job is too much.

But it's the last one with which I have a problem. Many people—especially those in early adulthood—are simply quitting the workforce and living on the hard work of others.

Now, I know I'm old—I was born in the late 1900s—but that's dumb. An "anti-work" movement? Quitting because you can't use your phone? Put your phone down and work hard. Humanity will never progress beyond the requirement that we must work for a living. I don't care what Marx said.

But it's not just Americans that have this mindset—it's the Chinese, too. I think it's funny that it was Marx who said that we will progress beyond work, yet the Chinese Communist Party is fighting this tooth and nail. That really tells you everything you need to know. But all that aside, why now?

Why work when you can make the same or even more by not working? It's a good question. It works on an individual level but literally collapses civilizations if everyone stops working. If there is no one to produce, there's nothing. We need farmers and ranchers to produce food, factory workers to process it, truck drivers to deliver it,

retailers to sell it and garbage collectors to discard the waste. If everyone stops working, the world stops working. If society "lays flat," mankind flat lines.

So what should Christians—people of the Bible—think about all this? Can believers be anti-work? Can Jesus followers lay flat?

But wait, wasn't part of the curse in Genesis 3 that we now had to work? We'll get to that in just a second, but let's start even earlier than Genesis 3—Genesis 1. What do we see God doing in Genesis 1? Working. He created everything and He called it "good." He did this in six days and then rested on the seventh—that is why we have a work week and a rest day, it's modeled after God. God works.

But what about work being a part of the curse in Genesis 3? Let's read it: "...the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. By the sweat of your brow you have food to eat..." (Gen. 3:17-19). God didn't curse mankind with work. The curse is that our work will be difficult—we're going to sweat, and things will not always go right. In the Garden of Eden, work was effortless; now work is toil, challenging and exhausting.

But, no work in Heaven, right? Isn't Heaven a place of rest? Therefore, we should make Heaven on Earth by not working? Heaven is actually a place of work. God is working. Jesus said: "My Father is always working, and so am I" (John 5:17). Jesus taught, in the Parable of the Three Servants—you know the one where the master gives five bags of silver to one servant, two bags to another and one to the third—that when our life is over, God will say to those who use well what they have been given: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." We know that part, but here's the next sentence: "You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities."

But here's the good news. Work in Heaven will be like it was in the

Garden of Eden—before sin and the fall of man. It will be perfectly fulfilling, immensely satisfying and wonderfully effortless. Heaven will be a perfect society—free from sin, corruption and death—and Murphy's Law will be nowhere to be found.

But Genesis was in our past and Heaven is in our future, if we are in Christ, so what about in your life this week? What does Scripture say about work? Well, it's pretty harsh on laziness and not working. Here's just one proverb on the subject: "A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things" (Prov. 18:9). Remember what I said earlier: "If society 'lays flat,' then mankind flatlines?" Solomon agrees with me.

The New Testament isn't any less harsh. Paul tells Timothy, on the subject of people not working and therefore neglecting to take care of their families, that "those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers." (I Tim. 5:8).

Paul turns the heat up even more to the church in Thessalonica: "And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: 'Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.' Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living" (II Thess. 3:6-12). The Bible isn't unclear about this—Christians (who are able to work) are to work and work hard, or starve—their choice.

Even the welfare system laid out for Israel in the Old Testament still required work. Talking to those who owned farms, God commanded: "When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you" (Lev. 23:22). Those in need still had to put forth an effort to go out and collect the intentionally left behind portions of crops—no handouts to those who were able.

So what should believers do?

- Provide for yourself by working hard.
- Honor God by working hard.
- Enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes: "...people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God." There is a satisfaction that comes from a good day's work. There's also dissatisfaction—a nagging in your soul—for being a lazy mooch. So work hard, honor God and enjoy the fruit of your labor!



Pastor's Father, Longtime BMA Officer Dies

John Henry Allen, 78 of Bentonville, passed away on Aug. 7. He placed his trust in the Lord at a revival at his church in 1954, at the age of 10. Bro. Allen served as clerk/treasurer for the Baptist Missionary Association of the Ozarks for over 40 years, on the board of the BMA Theological Seminary for 10 years, Ministers Resource Services for 10 years and also served many years at his church, First Baptist Church of Cave Springs, in several positions, including deacon, teacher and worship leader.

After graduating Bentonville High School in 1962, Bro. Allen attended Central Baptist College for two years before transferring to the University of Arkansas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1966.

He was a Certified Public Accountant at his private practice for over 40 years and received several public service awards from the Springdale Chamber of Commerce and the Arkansas Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He served as president of the Springdale Lion's Club and was granted an honorary lifetime membership. He also loved being outdoors, fishing, hunting, camping, golfing and caring for his perennials, especially his irises.

Survivors include: his wife of 57 years, Linda; two daughters, Amanda (Chris) Pauley of Statesville, N.C. and Janna (Jason) Burns of Farmington; a son, BMA Pastor and Former BMAA Missionary Wade (Joanna) Allen of Rogers; a sister, Nancy Evans; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Circle of Life to support patient and family care at Circle of Life, 901 Jones Road, Springdale,

NOTES
(Continued From Page 4)
gender identity violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as justification.

Other organizations, such as The American College of Pediatricians, also accused the department of rewriting federal civil rights law with the notice, saying that it "mandates a false definition of sex upon American students." "Schools will now be forced to allow biologically male students access to all female-only spaces," stated the American College of Pediatricians. "They will be housed with females during overnight school trips and events, participate in female-only sports, and displace females from female-only sports teams. This interpretation is unscientific and a clear threat to the health and safety of female students." (christianpost.com)



Charles Ritchie, 89 of Benton, passed away August 5. He was a member of Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell.

Virgie Sommers, 96 of Morrilton, passed away August. She was a member of Hattieville Baptist Church in Hattieville.

Kaygen Bowman, 15 of Nashville, passed away August 2. She was a member of Center Point Baptist Church.

Rachel Winberry, 77 of Greenbrier, passed away July 7. She was a member of Springhill Baptist Church.

Helen Craig, 87 of Milligan Ridge, passed away June 29. She was a member of Milligan Ridge Baptist Church.

Dave Owens, of Helena, passed away June 14. He was a member of Fourth Street Baptist Church in West Helena.

Vernell Britten, 93 of Newport, passed away June 2. She was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church.

Ark. 72762 or GiftsToCircle.org.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Aug. 11 at First Baptist Church in Cave Springs with Wade Allen and Michael Battenfield officiating. Interment will follow at Elm Springs Cemetery under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Springdale (memfuneral.com).

Spotlight on Missions

is a column that highlights the ministries of our BMA missionaries.

Send 300-400 words as a Word document to editor@baptisttrumpet.com.

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STAND FIRM & Live EPIC
HELPING YOU NAVIGATE SUCH A TIME AS THIS
By Jake McCandless
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Future Headlines: Many Will Be Deceived

There are two biblical warnings at the heart of Stand Firm. They are the reasons I believe followers of Christ need to be spiritual preppers. These warnings aren't merely future possibilities but, due to the nature of Biblical prophecy, we can know with certainty these are future headlines. The events warned about will happen. They don't have to happen to you, but they will happen to **many** as the warnings say.

I previously wrote about the first of these two warnings found in Matt. 24:10 — that “many will turn away.” This turning away isn't a vague in-general event, but the context surrounding the prophecy says it will be due to persecution even unto death that causes the turning away. As we go throughout the rest of the New Testament, this warning and its context takes on more flesh and we see this persecution as the beheadings that come with the rise of the Antichrist. The remedy of the turning away is found later in verse 14, which urges believers to stand firm.

The second warning is found in II Thessalonians: “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (II Thess. 2:9-12).

The warning found in verse 11 is that there will be a great delusion or deception. Like the dangers of the Great Apostasy, there will also be a Great Deception. Likely hearing about such a warning, your mind jumps to other New Testament warnings — like the warning that people will no longer listen to the truth. There are also many other warnings in Scripture to beware of false teachings and deceptions. This world constantly faces dangerous deceptions for it's the M.O. of Satan. He

is the Father of Lies, as Jesus said.

Though there are warnings in Scripture that people will no longer listen to the truth and that false teachers will arise, this Great Deception in II Thessalonians is specific. Just like the Great Turning-Away is tied to particular events, so is the Great Deception. Like that warning in Matt. 24:10, the context of the Great Deception is with the rise and reign of the Antichrist.

In verse 9, Paul refers to the Antichrist as the Lawless One and says that with his rule there will be “all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.” Paul goes on to say that people's belief in Satan's lies through the Antichrist and their wickedness will lead to God giving them over to that deception.

This isn't the only place within Scripture where we see signs and wonders connected to the Antichrist and the deception of people in the last days. Jesus warned of this in the Olivet Discourse: “At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matt. 24:23-27).

Jesus indicated that in these last days there will be false messiahs and false prophets performing great signs and wonders that deceive. The order of events of Matthew 24 indicates this to be the same time of the Antichrist's rise and rule. The Lord provides even more detail of this specific deception in His revelation to the Apostle John.

“Then I saw a second beast... It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast... And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because

Opportunities For Service

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

Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information call or text Rodney Cooper at 870-278-1797 or email at cooperr@manilaschools.org.

Fellowship Baptist Church in Marion is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to Fellowship Baptist Church, P.O. Box 66, Marion, Ark. 72364 or fellowship.marion@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.

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.

Weddington Baptist Church in Fayetteville is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. For more information, visit weddingtonbaptistchurch.com.

of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth” (Rev. 13:11-14).

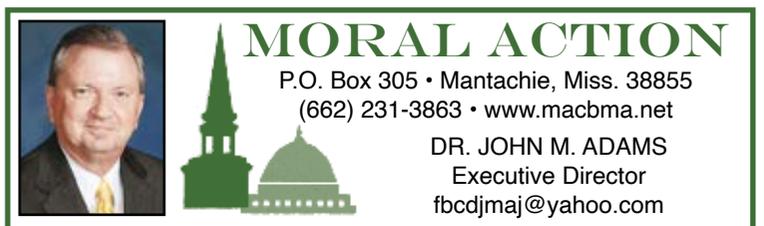
In Revelation, John refers to the Antichrist as the First Beast or Beast Out of the Sea and with the Antichrist is another figure that has become to be called the False Prophet. John the Apostle called him the Second Beast or Beast of the Earth.

The False Prophet performs miracles and great signs on behalf of the Antichrist which deceives the world to worship the Antichrist. This deception performed by the False Prophet parallels the warning in Matthew 24, as well as the details of the Great Deception in II Thessalonians.

Future headlines won't point out that a False Prophet is performing miraculous signs in the desert, rather they will proclaim the true Messiah has been found. This miracle-performing Messiah claims to only be a prophet to the true Messiah. Unfortunately, the future headlines won't tell that this false messiah is the Antichrist. As this event occurs, the world will be deceived on a level never seen in history.

A Great Deception is coming. We need to know the truth. We need to be prepared to Stand Firm. Even if we're not the generation to face the Great Deception, there is a coming generation that will. Let's faithfully pursue the Lord and truth now so we can help them prepare.

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



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Solomon and Morality

“The Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven; this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight, and that which is wanting cannot be numbered” (Eccl. 1:12-15).

Have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life? Does your life lack the meaning and purpose you desire? Hear the words of Solomon and let them encourage you to place your trust solely in the Lord.

We all desire to have meaning in life. This search often takes us along winding paths filled with satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fade. It's satisfying to see this from reading Ecclesiastes. We relate to the journey of Solomon because, for so many of us, it is our own. When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, commitment to a job or intellectual depths, we all eventually find each of these pursuits to be a dead end.

Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective. Surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life's ultimate emptiness, we find in Ecclesiastes a worldview tempered by experience and ultimately seen through colored lenses. Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God's intervention. We must choose whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands.

Scholars and writers (even from Wikipedia) disagree about the themes of Ecclesiastes. Whether it is positive and life-affirming or deeply pessimistic, coherent or incoherent, insightful or confused and whether the book's ultimate message is to copy the wise man or avoid his errors. At times, he doubted every aspect of religion, from the very ideal of righteousness to the traditional idea of divine justice for individuals. The Talmud even suggests that the rabbis considered censoring Ecclesiastes due to its seeming contradictions. One suggestion for resolving the contradictions is to read the book as the record of Ecclesiastes's quest for knowledge. It is only at the conclusion that the verdict is delivered. (Copied)

The subjects of Ecclesiastes are pain and frustration. In the morality of Solomon, he meditates pervading the world, the uselessness of human ambition and the limitations of worldly wisdom. The phrase “under the sun” appears 29 times in connection with these observations. This coexists with a firm belief in God, whose power and life without the sun has no meaning or purpose; the wise man and the man who does not study wisdom will both die and be forgotten; man should be reverent (“Fear God”). But in this life, it is best to simply enjoy God's gifts.

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil” (Eccl. 5:1).

Revivals

Flat Rock, Quitman, Aug. 29- Sep. 3; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Myle Evans, evangelist/pastor.

Macedonia, Jonesboro, Aug. 29-31; 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Larry Merrill; Tues., Gary Gibson; Wed., Don Howard; Don Seat, pastor.

Fourth Street, West Helena, Sep. 18-21; 5 p.m. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Luke Watson, evangelist; Lance Madden, pastor.

Liberty, Stamps, Sep. 19-22; 7 p.m. nightly; Roger Copeland, evangelist; Adam Rogers, pastor.

Antioch, Hampton, Oct. 16-19, 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist.

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

Landmark, England, Aug. 14- 17; 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Master's Voice (in concert); Ricky Capps, evangelist; David Inzer, pastor.

Beacon, Taylor, Aug. 15-19; 7 p.m.; Daniel Williams, evangelist; Kerry Easley, pastor.

New Liberty, Emmet, Aug. 22-26; 7:30 pm; Dr. Neal Clark evangelist; Billy Compton, pastor.

Faustina, Harrell, Aug. 29-31; 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Gene Boyette, pastor.



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Part 3: Has Our Salt Lost Its Saltiness?

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matt. 5:13).

Many are good mixers — preaching the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man — but it is every member’s duty to cry out when wolves attack the flock. We sure can hear them — down with the slaughterhouse religion, tear out the altars, throw out the prayer benches and run to take anyone who calls themselves religious but we must be careful because the Lord adds to the church those that are saved.

Many religions today are trying to develop a salt-free gospel and compromise will lead to any church’s demise. Religion has become big business and a religion minus love and devotion to Jesus is a vain religion.

Whether table or spiritual salt, if it has lost its savor, it’s good for nothing. Such things may seem harmless at the time, but they will destroy your usefulness to God. It’s sad that so many so-called ministers take up the ministry as a lawyer takes up law — as an occupation or a profession and not a calling. Someone has said, “I looked for the church and I found it in the world, and then I looked for the world and found it in the church.” Sadly, this is more truth than poetry.

Christians ought to be different. Our presence should bring conviction and uneasiness to the lost because we clash. This wave of “lovey dovie” brotherhood of men, everybody is good, nobody is bad age we live in causes sinners to feel at ease, even at church functions. This type of religion is good for nothing but to bring false security to the lost. If there ever was a time when we need to be salt, it’s now! We need to stop excusing the wrong actions of others and start rubbing a little salt. It would pay us to examine and ask ourselves this question: “Am I a salty Christian or am I good for nothing?”

May God help us to be examples of His grace and not to be a disgrace.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “Last week, on Aug. 2, Sayra and I celebrated 25 years of marriage. I thank God for the wife He has given me — a woman who fears God and is committed to the formation of her children and to the mission God has given us.

“We decided to celebrate our anniversary with the church on Saturday, Aug. 6 with a thanksgiving service. We invited Roberto Marcelletti to preach. He and his wife, Patricia sang some special songs. Our children, María Fernanda and Jose Carlos, also praised God with songs alluding to gratitude.

“It was a good opportunity to celebrate the marriage and bear witness

to the church that it so badly needs to strengthen this divine institution in these times when the enemy is fiercely talking it.

“Thank you for your prayers for my family and the ministry God has given us.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “On Tuesday, Aug. 2, we were visited by the missions director and the Advisory Committee at our mission facilities at Chenal Valley Baptist Church. It is always a privilege to receive them and to be able to tell them what God is doing in our midst. It is a great encouragement for every missionary to have this visit, although, I must confess, it is a challenge for me because of my very basic level of English. But the brothers have always been

very kind in trying to understand me.

“Last week was a time for VBS for the American church. My wife, Kory was able to help and get involved as a volunteer. My wife has a special gift for teaching children. That is the area God has called her to serve Him. She had the privilege of speaking to the children about missions. Of course, my wife is perfectly bilingual, she doesn’t have the hindrances that I have in moving from one language to another.

“Kory gives classes to the Hispanic children during the sermon time. There are very few children, so we are praying that the Lord will bring more of them to hear the Word of God. It is very important from the beginning of a mission to sow the Word of God in the hearts of the children.

“Pray for the plans we presented to the Advisory Committee. May God guide each step as we want to glorify Him with what we do. In the end, planting a new church is not about us (men), it is about God being glorified among us so that all Hispanics (or any ethnicity) will know that He is God. To God be the glory!”

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, “Drew preached this Sunday and led all aspects of the service. It has been good allowing him to feel the load of ministry and navigate any issues that may arise.

“I had so many meetings with people this last week that it has been a blur. I am looking for things to settle down to give us a chance to breathe.

“Several of the folks are feeling ill. We also had several out due to the last week of freedom from school.”

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, “This week at Faith Journey we sure had a lot to celebrate! We had a ‘birthday’ fellowship on Sunday to celebrate those who have birthdays in August. Of the 21 that have been attending our services, a third of them have birthdays this month. How fun is that! We served up a Mexican feast for everyone, and it sure was a hit!

“We were able to contact several local organizations this week to seek speaking opportunities within the community. With school getting ready to start back, many districts have on-campus ministries we can support and help to spread the gospel to those students. Any chance to get God’s Word poured into the lives of children is a great thing!

“We were blessed this week to have the Advisory Committee come and visit

2022 State Missions Special Emphasis Goal — \$50,000

Thank you to all who have already sent in donations. Receipts through Aug. 4 are **\$17,771.00:**

Big Creek Valley, Jonesboro	\$2,000.00
Bodcaw, Rosston	\$200.00
Calvary, Morrilton	\$1,000.00
Church at Willow Beach, NLR	\$500.00
Crockett Bluff, DeWitt	\$500.00
Crossroads, Warren	\$1,400.00
Fellowship, Bella Vista	\$1,000.00
Fourth Street, West Helena	\$816.00
Friendship, Greenbrier	\$100.00
Grace, Russellville	\$350.00
Gum Springs, Arkadelphia	\$243.00
Immanuel, Greenbrier	\$570.00
Jerry Clements	\$1,000.00
Kellogg Valley, Sherwood	\$150.00
Liberty, Buckner	\$500.00
Macedonia, Magnolia	\$500.00
Mt. Nebo, Hope	\$500.00
New Caney, Gurdon	\$200.00
North Hills, Sherwood	\$100.00
Oak Grove, Jonesboro	\$500.00
Park View, North Little Rock	\$50.00
Pleasant Grove, Black Rock	\$1,487.00
Pleasant Grove, Carlisle	\$437.00
Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	\$1,350.00
Sand Springs, Damascus	\$227.00
Springhill, Greenbrier	\$1,000.00
Tenth Street, Paragould	\$163.00
The Bridge, Mountain Home	\$928.00

Faith Journey to see where we are currently meeting in the Benton area. We were able to show The Cabin 3H to the committee, where we have our services, and it has been a blessing to have such a great place to meet. When visiting with these men, you know that they have a heart for missions, and they are such a great encouragement to missionaries.”

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, “This week, we had the visit of the Advisory Committee and were able to expose what we have been able to accomplish in the time we have been in Northeast Arkansas. We have had contact with 50 Hispanic people in the area, most of them from the Rogers area where we live and, at this moment, we have three discipleship groups on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. I told them about my church planting project, which came from meditating and studying Acts 14:21-23. The vision is also to be a community that exists to make the gospel known and that people are transformed into disciples of Jesus who make other disciples from Northwest Arkansas to the ends of the earth.

“We also shared our philosophy of ministry which is the way we work — relate or connect with the community that is around us; evangelize; discipleship (this includes baptism, membership and leadership); send out and establish new churches; follow or repeat the process in another area.

“Finally, I told them we needed certain things to be able to develop the project — a portable sound system with two microphones and two microphone stands, boxes of Bibles in Spanish, a laptop for the Sunday School

classes for the children, a printer and vans to transport the people.

“We had many visitors this week in our apartment. Monday night, we had a family we are encouraging and sharing about God. Tuesday, we had a couple that had already visited us, but this time they came with a relative that had arrived from Chile. Thursday, we continued the discipleship for three weeks with a woman, and this time she brought her granddaughter. Patty began to disciple this little girl, and she left happy to learn about Creation and God. Sunday, we had our first service in our apartment. We worshiped, told all our testimonies and exposed II Cor. 13:5 — the importance of examining our faith. Why I say I am a believer, if there is fruit and what is the fruit the Bible says a real Christian gives. Finally, in the evening we went to visit a family that invited us to their home and made a connection with them.”

Pea Ridge Mission: Jake McCandless writes, “Let’s get this party started! I’m Jake McCandless, the new missionary on the block, serving in Pea Ridge up in the northwest corner of our state.

“Though I’m the new missionary, the work in Pea Ridge, where we’ve lived for five years, started last fall. I’ve got a lot to catch you up on! I look forward to sharing how God has been at work and the vision He’s unfolding for us, but this week I want to catch you up on the past week.

“Before that, I need to introduce the team. I’m not working alone. Of course, there’s you, the BMA of Arkansas that is allowing and supporting this opportunity. Then the Missionary

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(L/R) Maria Fernanda, Juan Carlos, Sayra Posadas and Jose Carlos

CAREGIVERS (Continued From Page 2)

can provide help in this manner regularly a few times a month, the health of all involved will be improved. Regularly scheduled times allow for the primary caregiver to plan their respite time away. Regularly scheduled and maintained times help keep a positive attitude for all involved and can decrease the stress levels and it is less likely for burnout of the primary caregiver to occur.

It is important that the family get together to make decisions jointly, if possible — in person, on the phone or through a video chat. All the duties of a primary caregiver should not rest upon one individual. Many of the duties can be divided up, even if the family member does not live in the area. Some of the duties that an out-of-the-area individual might be able to do is helping pay bills online, arranging yard care or ordering groceries online and having them delivered to the house. The needs of each family are different and unique to them.

When the decision is made that a caregiver is needed for the parent or loved one, additional assistance from the family needs to be secured at that point. The sooner a schedule is made and agreed upon, all can become accustomed to caregiving on their regularly scheduled time. No matter if caregiving assistance is weekly or several times a month, it is important. Having a regularly scheduled care assistance also reminds everyone that they are needed and accountable to be involved with the care of their parent.

The time away the caregiver gets from the care receiver is called respite

care. Respite care can be defined as a time for the caregiver to get a chance to renew, relax and refresh. The amount of respite time will vary with each situation. Even though it is a family member we may be caring for, we all need time away for other activities, like visiting a friend, getting coffee to going on a vacation for a few days so we can relax.

When time is not set up from the initial onset of the person needing a caregiver it becomes more difficult as time progresses to get others involved because they have become accustomed to not being needed. Remember, you cannot do it all by yourself and should not try to. When the health of the primary caregiver declines, decisions will have to be made — sometimes in an instant. When there are no additional caregivers, larger health and safety concerns come to the front. If there had been additional assistance, some difficult decisions such as admitting the care receiver to a nursing home might have been averted.

The primary caregiver should remember there is nothing wrong with getting other family involved in the care process, getting respite time and enjoying your time away guilt-free. "...Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Throughout His ministry, Jesus recognized that it was beneficial to get away and take a respite break from others. Time away is your time so you can re-energize, rejuvenate and just rest up, along with time for the care receiver to connect with other family members or respite workers.

In many instances when family members are not available, respite care is not an option due to the cost. There

is a respite program, Arkansas Lifespan Respite which is available for caregivers to help with the expense of respite care. The program is not age-based. A child with a disability to an elderly person who needs assistance could qualify. Whether or not there is additional family caregiving assistance, almost everyone can qualify for the respite grant. The grant is for \$300 per quarter or \$1,200 per year and does not have to be repaid. The free assistance is not income-based, and the qualifications are simple. The money is to be used for respite care so that the caregiver can get away for a rest break. Additional information can be found on their website: argov/arlifespansrespite or by calling Arkansas Lifespan Respite Program at (866) 801-3435.

So remember, whether you are a caregiver or a respite worker, you are important. You are the one who can make it happen in the life of the care receiver. Caregivers and respite workers, you are treasured and appreciated; you are the glue that holds everything together. Thank you.

— *Dr. Rick Caracciolo has been specializing in aging issues, caregiving, assistive technology and counseling for three decades. Rick has an earned Doctorate in Ministry and he is associate pastor at Christ-Centered Fellowship Baptist Church, in Jacksonville. He works with the state respite care program and is the founder of the Aging by Design Ministry. He is the author of several books and has a passion to educate individuals, caregivers and families about aging. He recently retired as a certified occupational therapist after 30 years of working in various practice settings.*

MISSIONS (Continued From Page 7)

Committee, the Missionary Advisory Committee and Executive Director of Missions Paul White. On the field along with me are my wife, Amanda, our 11-year-old daughter, Andrea; our 8-year-old daughter, Addison; and our beagle, Charlie. We're doing this as a family.

"This week we had our weekly Discovery Bible Study discussion at the home of Brian and Audrey King. You'll hear a lot about them as they are important rockstars in the Pea

Ridge story. We continued reading Jesus' teachings in Matthew. I was also able to share with the 11 of us that this mission wasn't about me giving a 'top-down' vision for them to join and follow, but rather I was there to equip and support them to live out their faith and calling in their home and everyday life. That was cool to share.

"They will be sharing their Kingdom-dreams next week! The highlight of the night came when the kids decided that, following our multi-generational DBS each week, they would do a kid-led mini-Discovery Bible Study! I can't wait to see where that goes!"

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