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Arabic Ministry Multiplication in America

By Ashraf Sara, Coordinator of Arabic Church Planting • BMAA

In the gospel, Jesus calls on His followers to multiply by going out, teaching His message and baptizing people. Jesus' last words on earth focused on kingdom multiplication: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NKJV). We believe that if it happened in the Bible, it can happen today.

We should be intentional about multiplying churches because it is the biblical strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission. Church planting is the means through which the Great Commission is fulfilled. When the disciples in Acts went

to apply the Great Commission, church planting became the means, the center of their strategy. Disciples who make disciples — who plant churches that plant churches — must become our future norm.

In 2003, after the collapse of the former regime of Saddam, my dad and I planted First Baptist Church in Baghdad. Even though we have experienced God's mighty work and have seen numerous lives transformed, God was preparing and equipping me for a larger work here in America. Several years later, when I finished my MDiv from the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, the Lord called my wife, Jenny and me to plant an Arabic church in America. From a quick study back then, we found out two things. First, Islam is the fastest growing religion in America, and second, most of the Arab population is in the major cities of America. After prayers and fasting, we knew the Lord was leading us to Dallas.

In Dallas, we started a Bible study group at our home, and our goal was to make disciples who make disciples. Shortly after, it grew so quickly that we had to move to a classroom at Northside Baptist Church in Garland. A few weeks later, we were given the fellowship hall, and not too long after that, we started to meet in the main sanctuary. Since then, the Lord has blessed this church plant — Living Word Arabic Church — with numerous confessions and baptisms. On average, every Sunday we have people from eight Arabic countries, and we also have five house groups that meet in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex during the week. From

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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



Jarrod Lowe is the new pastor at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Piggott. He will be ordained on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m.

Andrew Krisell, the youth pastor at West Race Baptist Church in Searcy, will be ordained on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

Greenpond Baptist Church in Como, Texas is seeking a youth minister. Resumes may be sent to terrywbolton@yahoo.com or Pastor Terry Bolton; c/o Greenpond Baptist Church, 1911 CR 242, Como, Texas 75431.

day one at the Arabic church in Dallas, we were asking the Lord to send workers for His harvest in the United States, and He did.

In Orlando, Fla., where the Arabic population is booming, the Lord called Adam Batarseh, whom I have known for many years, to plant a seed for church plant among the Arabs. Adam and his wife, Nour started a Bible study group for disciple-making. Their calling was to reach out to the Arabs in their community and love them the way Jesus did. This disciple-making effort resulted in the planting of Arabic Church of Orlando. The Lord was faithful and has provided a facility for them in the chapel of First Baptist Orlando. God also has opened a door for them to start making disciples and planting in Jacksonville, Fla. Adam and Nour recently started to meet on Saturday at his parents' house in Jacksonville and are in the process of planting an Arabic congregation there.

In California, which contains the highest Arab population in America, we are planting in the most Arab-concentrated city — El Cajon, where the Arabic population represents the majority of the total population of 102,000. Brother Mkram and his

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Arkansas Women's Retreat

By Valarie Fish, President • Ark. WMA

Jesus is more than enough for our yesterday, today and tomorrow. In every season of life, God provides everything we need to fulfill our purpose. Our Arkansas Ladies Retreat will be a time to spotlight His ability to supply above all we could ask or think!

During our retreat, we will have a Blessing-in-a-Bag silent auction to benefit our state Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) project — Just the Crumbs Ministries. You bring any kind of bag (purse, tote, gift, etc.) filled with something that will be a blessing. It should be fixed where the contents are a secret, but you can offer hints with the packaging if you want. The blessings auction will take place during lunch in the Central Baptist College (CBC) cafeteria.

Keynote Speaker Yalanda Merrill from LifeWord will inspire us. Angela Wisely, Rebecca Matthews and Hilary Franks will lead us in worship. There will be games and fellowship on Friday night, Sept. 23 starting at 5:30 p.m. with registration in the Cooper Complex at CBC. You can register at the door, but to get a t-shirt and be in on the lunch count you will want to register ASAP (like today!). You can register at tickettailor.com/events/arkansaswma. A special gift will be given to the 50th and the 100th to register!

On Saturday morning, Sept. 24, we will start at 9 a.m. with worship and inspiration. Throughout the day, participants will have the opportunity to choose two out of three available workshops focusing on Christ as more than enough in various seasons of life. Dusty Linn will teach a workshop on the season of honoring our heritage by the way we minister to our elders. Angelyn McMurray will teach a workshop on the season of protecting our future generations and the safety of our children. Kimberly Williams will teach a workshop on learning to breathe in and through the current seasons of busyness.

Included in your \$50 registration (besides the amazing fellowship, worship and inspiration) are a retreat t-shirt, goody bag and lunch. You may make reservations on your own if you want to stay at a hotel in Conway. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites at 2370 Sanders Road, (501) 513-4989.



College of the Ozarks Continues Court Fight

By Dan Hart, Senior Editor • *The Washington Stand*

On Sept. 9, attorneys representing the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo. filed a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit asking the full court to consider the college's case that it cannot be legally forced to allow biological men in women's private spaces, including dorms, bathrooms and locker rooms. The move follows a 2-1 decision by the 8th Circuit which upheld a federal judge's ruling that "denied the college's request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary

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CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

Terry Kimbrow
President

Central Baptist College

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



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Men's Soccer

• **Conway, Sept. 2**— Playing at Centennial Soccer Park for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Eagles of Texas A&M-Texarkana (TAMUT). CBC (3-1) was tied 1-1 at the half, took a second-half lead and dropped the contest in the last 20 minutes, falling 3-2 to TAMUT (1-2).

• **Hawkins, Texas, Sept. 8**— Returning to Texas for the second time this season, CBC took on the Bulldogs of Jarvis Christian University (JCU). CBC (3-1-1) had a 1-0 lead at halftime and a 2-0 lead through 52 minutes before allowing two goals in the final 12 minutes to finish with a 2-2 draw against JCU (1-1-1).

Women's Soccer

• **Conway, Sept. 2**— Playing for the first time at home this season, CBC hosted the Eagles of Texas A&M-Texarkana at Centennial Soccer Park. CBC (1-2-1) trailed 2-0 at halftime, got a goal back to make it 2-1 before ultimately falling to TAMUT (2-2) by a score of 5-2.

• **Hawkins, Texas, Sept. 8**— Heading to Texas for the second time this season, CBC took on the Bulldogs of Jarvis Christian University. CBC (2-3-1) trailed 2-0 at halftime and tried to claw back, but came up short, falling to JCU (1-2) by a score of 3-1.

Volleyball

• **Point Lookout, Mo., Sept. 2**— CBC was on the court at the Keeter Center taking on Sterling College and Baptist Bible College (BBC) on the first day of the College of the Ozarks Tournament. CBC (1-1) split on the first day, losing to Sterling (1-1) 3-0 in the first match before beating BBC (0-2) 3-1 in the second match.

• **Point Lookout, Mo., Sept. 3**— After splitting on the first day of the College of the Ozarks (C of O) tournament, CBC was back on the court at Keeter Gymnasium for two more matches against the Eagles of Oklahoma Wesleyan and the hosts, the Bobcats. CBC (1-3) got swept twice, losing to Oklahoma Wesleyan (14-2) by scores of 20-25, 8-25 & 10-25 before falling to C of O (5-5) by scores of 18-25, 22-25 & 14-25.

• **Conway, Sept. 6**— Playing at home for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Eagles of Oklahoma Wesleyan and the Panthers of Philander Smith College (PSC) at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (1-5) struggled against Oklahoma Wesleyan (15-1), dropping the match 3-0 by scores of 20-25, 17-25 and 12-25. But they came back and nearly defeated PSC (5-3), taking the Panthers to five sets before losing 3-2 by scores of 19-25, 14-25, 25-19, 25-23, 11-15.

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Student Ministry Matters

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



Dan Carson
Director

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



(L/R) Joanna Allen, Wade Allen, Dan Carson, Temple Carson.

Happy Birthday, CBC!

This week marks the 70th anniversary for Central Baptist College. While we often think of slowing down by the time we reach 70 years of age, I am hopeful to see CBC move forward stronger than ever. And, I think they will. Why? Because they continue to make the most important thing, the most important thing — Jesus. Whether it is in the weekly chapel services, student-led Bible studies or the required Bible classes, Central seeks to provide a Christ-focused education that is challenging, engaging and inspiring.

As you can tell, I'm a fan of the college. When I graduated from high school, I knew that God was calling me into a life of ministry. For me, there was no other place to go. Central Baptist College was my destination since I wanted to serve in the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. I could have gone somewhere else and then gone to seminary, but that never crossed my mind as I finished high school in 1990. CBC was where I needed to go. And I'm so glad that I went. During my time at Central, I learned a great deal about the Bible, about ministry and met the love of my life. There was nothing second-tier about my education. I was challenged academically and spiritually by the staff and faculty of CBC.

A few years down the road, I am getting to see CBC from a new perspective. Now, it is Dan the dad that gets to evaluate the work of Central. With my own history and parental perspective, I can give you a few reasons why I believe that CBC is still the place to send your children and students in your ministry:

• **It is Christ-focused.** A lot of schools will give that statement a great deal of lip service, but it holds up at Central. Whatever the event or subject, Christ is integrated into the study. As lost young men and women come to CBC, they will hear the truth of the gospel.

• **It is Bible-focused.** In addition to the mandatory chapel and Bible classes, Central has gone out of its way to make sure that it has an outstanding Bible staff that teaches our students to know and love God's Word. There is never any doubt that their team believes in the inerrancy and authority of the Bible.

• **It is small.** If we keep sending students to CBC, it won't be, but right now, it is a small school with small classrooms. That means that students can get the attention that they need as they seek to make that transition to college. It also means that students have a greater opportunity to succeed and excel as they participate in groups and organizations. Small is not bad.

• **It is a great place to build relationships.** Most of my life-long relationships began at Central Baptist College. I met and married my wife while I was there. Many of us will meet life-long friends at college, but how great is it to start a relationship at a place where Christ holds a prominent place?

I could go on for some time about why I am happy to be an alumnus and to see my daughter stepping through her education there now, but I would challenge you to check it out for yourself. Get to know the team and find out more information at CBC.edu.



(L/R from top) Dan Carson, Dave Vandegriff, Janie (Elrod) Vandegriff, Dawn (Crass) Sanders and Jamie (Thurman) Crain.



CBC Day September 11

This weekend, Central Baptist College kicked off CBC Day 2022 by visiting several churches around the state. Director of Church Relations Duffy Guyton visited Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell. Terry Kimbrow, along with the CBC Singers, visited Bethel Baptist Church in Rison.

"Stampede" Open House

The Central Baptist College Stampede Open House schedule has been set for 2022-2023. During the year we will host three opportunities for prospective students to personally experience campus life.

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022
- Friday, Nov. 11, 2022
- Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022

At an Open House, you can visit with current students, meet faculty members in the degree areas in which you are interested, learn about different student organizations and take a guided campus tour. You may also win one of several CBC door prizes.

To register for one of these Stampede Open House events, visit cbc.edu/visit or call Lisa at (501) 329-6873.

Schedule Your Personal Tour

If you are a high school junior or senior, it's a great time to schedule a personalized tour of the CBC campus. In addition to Stampede Open House, there are two kinds of tours offered through our Office of Admissions: Personalized and Group Tours.

• **Personalized One-on-One Tour** — Even though we call it a "one-on-one" tour, we encourage you to bring your family and friends, and let us show you all that CBC has to offer. This is what you can expect on your personalized tour:

- **Reserved parking spot** with your name on it right in front of the Watkins Academic Building,
- **Personalized agenda** designed to answer all the questions you might have about CBC.
- **Tour of the Mabee Student Services Complex** to get information about Student Services and the Dining Hall.
- **Visit to Mustang Outfitters** to shop for your CBC gear.
- **Tour of the Cooper Educational Complex** to see the Computer Labs, Departmental Offices and Burgess Auditorium.
- **Tour of the Story Library and Café 52.**
- **Tour of the Watkins Academic Building** to visit the Financial Aid Office, Registrar's Office and Business Office.
- **Personal visit to the President's Office**, where you will receive a special gift. (I would love to visit with you if I am in the office.)

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 P.O. Box 878 • Conway, Ark. 72033-0878
 (501) 455-4977 • larry@bmaam.com
 LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America
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HOMECOMINGS

Rock Hill, Jonesboro, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.; potluck to follow; Parker Hughes, pastor.

disciple-making. Do you have a discipleship pathway that your people understand and can clearly articulate? Are you making disciples who make disciples? The mission phase demands a farm system of homegrown discovered, developed and deployed disciple-makers. You must have a mechanism to raise up leaders out of the harvest.

You are not done because now there is the **multiplication phase**. Everything that is healthy normally multiplies. This will mobilize your church to catch and cast a vision for not only the multiplication of disciples and leaders but also for multiplying more churches. You are focused on recognizing and equipping leaders from within your fellowship. This requires a commitment to sacrificing your resources for others to hear the gospel.

Begin with strong discipling relationships because they are God's primary vehicles for building and supporting a pathway for health, mission and multiplication. It requires taking ownership of God's vision in all three areas by holding yourself and your church accountable to God's direction for your congregation. It means that you contextualize health, mission and mobilization to your people and your pathway. Then you look for collaboration of working together with others in developing the best way to train and mobilize disciples, leaders and church planters.

Here are some important questions to help you determine where your primary commitment and concentration is right now:

- Would you describe your church as more future-oriented, present-oriented or past-oriented?
 - Would you say your church is more focused on your community, your congregation or on the core of your church?
 - Are you motivated and driven more by vision, programs or your present structure?
 - What best describes the attitude of your church — innovative, stuck in a routine or having become complacent?
 - What level of faith describes where you are right now — high-risk faith, low-risk faith or no-risk faith?
- More next week!

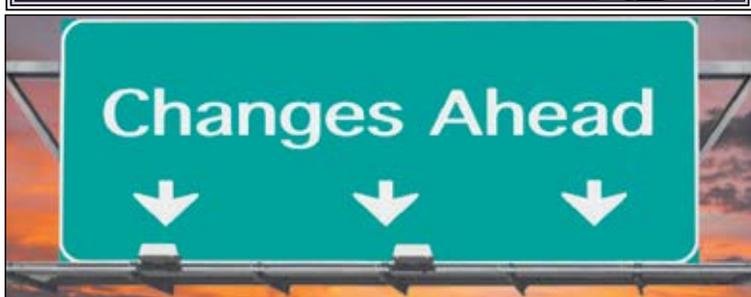


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Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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

Coping with Change

I was just thinking as I recently saw an old friend, “My, he sure has changed since we were in college!” Most likely, though, he was thinking the same about me. The truth is that we are living in an ever-changing society in an ever-changing world, and that brings anxiety and fear to a great number of people. Some of you reading this may be experiencing this, but I want to be an encourager to you today. The Bible says, “Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7 ESV).

One thing that never changes is that our lives are full of changes! Because of that, many people today are living stress-filled lives. That is when we most need to apply what the Scripture urges.

The Diversities of Change

Some changes take place quickly; others come about over time. I am reminded of what comedian George Burns said: “I knew one day I would get old — I just didn’t expect it to happen so soon.” We humans are born, get an education, get married, have children and before we know it, we are grandparents. I assure you that is a good series of changes!

But in the course of life, many face various changes that result in tremendous stress and anxiety. Some of those changes are divorce, loss of jobs, death of a spouse, development of poor health and financial loss. Those can be gut-wrenching changes. In each case, it is essential that the believer cast his or her cares (anxieties) on the Lord.

Some Changes are Spiritual Battles

If a person loses a job, the stress can cause the person to question whether or not God even cares. As a result, his or her spiritual walk may suffer. At such times the believer should not base everything on feelings but, instead, on the fact that God does most certainly care.

We must remember that Satan does not want Christians to be happy or content. Through his demons, he wages war against believers, especially those who are weakened by the cares that draw them down. Let me remind you of this: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:10-12 NIV). No matter what our feelings are, we must call upon the Lord to help us in our times of anxiety and fear and use the truth of God’s Word to fight those spiritual battles.

Not All Change is Bad

Change can certainly produce woes. But we need to remember that the country in which we now live is not the same as it was when the Pilgrims settled here. What was only inhabited in a small section of the Northeast has now changed. It has now spread across the continent. Old wagon-rutted trails have now become interstate highways. Hunting for game to put on the table has changed to shopping for food at Kroger, Walmart and Harps. Not all change is bad!

We must recognize the goodness of God in all of this. He has never said that He would enable us to avoid troubles, disappointments and woes. But He has promised to go with us through them. Has the Lord been faithful to His promise to you? Think back... what was troubling you most one year ago? Did you cast your anxiety on Him? Are you still facing that difficulty today? Certainly, the anxiety of your yesterdays may have changed and some of them for the good. Not all change is bad.

The Greatest Change is Conversion

I was just thinking about the lyrics to the hymn “Since Jesus Came into My Heart.” A portion of those lyrics are: “What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart; I have light in my soul for which long I had sought, since Jesus came into my heart.” Once the Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin, a desire for change takes place.

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power thesaurus

Synonyms for Mobilize

marshal rally muster assemble call up

Mobilizing the Church

Mobilization is defined as “the action of a country or its government preparing and organizing troops for active service. The action of making something movable or capable of movement.” The goal of mobilization is activating God’s church, God’s way! Gary Rohrmayer declares it as a commitment to strengthening existing churches while simultaneously starting new churches. It is the people of God, saved by the power of God, for the purposes of God. Mobilization is moving from only pursuing information to realizing that being whom Christ has called us to be is more about imitating Him (1 Cor. 11:1).

How do we mobilize our churches to be actively busy as His army accomplishing His mission? Are we on the move and headed in the right direction? A definition of a comprehensive perspective on church mission mobilization could be, “the strategic process through which every local church is empowered by the Spirit of God to emphasize the message, vision and strategies of the Great Commission, within the context of every nation and every community, activating every disciple in their assigned roles, toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission in this generation.”

In *Made for More*, Todd Wilson and Rob Wegner state the challenge well: “The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling and then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.” Church mobilization is an intentional process intended to increase the health and mission of congregations with the desire that they will participate in multiplication. Notice that there are three distinct phases to church mobilization — health, mission and multiplication.

It is God’s desire for your congregation to reach its greatest potential by increasing your spiritual health, increasing your mission in reaching people far from Him and increasing the multiplication of disciples, leaders and churches. Mobilization requires systems for discovery, devel-

opment and deployment through a discipleship pathway and a leadership pipeline. The question is how far will you go in the process? Will you settle for anything less than God’s clear mobilization battle plan stated in His Word? Are you willing to spend time working “on” the ministry, not just “in” the ministry?

The **health phase** should mobilize your church to diagnose your current condition through evaluation in determining where you could improve the health of your church and your members. It calls for, if needed, rediscovering your calling to fulfill the Great Commission. It also requires a willingness to realign your core ministries to the litmus test of orthodoxy and orthopraxy. Orthodoxy in isolation has been referred to as a “lifeless debate among sterilized and unproductive leaders that dominate the catechistic territory of the Brand-Expander.” Orthodoxy is having the right opinion, while orthopraxy is the addition of the right activities.

Truth is not a lifeless concept that is somehow contained in the pages of a systematic textbook of generally accepted orthodox opinion, but is, in fact, a person, Jesus (John 14:6). This Truth is, in fact, the King of the Kingdom and the Head of the Church. He is marshaling faithful followers to accomplish His eternal, redemptive purpose on earth. Implicit in orthopraxy, is an obedient faith to the King of the Kingdom. There is no “right activity” excused away from our obedience of faith. Genuine orthopraxy is living out our orthodoxy by faith. This principle is made clear in James, where we are called to also be doers of the word.

The former (orthodoxy) without the latter (orthopraxy) is lifeless legalism and the latter (orthopraxy) without the former (orthodoxy) is presumptuous pursuits.

The **mission phase** focuses on mobilizing your church to reach people who are far from God right where they live. You are unwilling to settle for them having to find you but are dedicated to figuring out where they live and how you can build gospel relationships. Then to truly be healthy requires re-prioritizing

Spotlight On Missions

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Brandon & Brittney Lingle • Thailand



Judah Nehemiah Lingle — On Sept. 2, Baby Judah was ready to come. Brittney started showing signs the night of Sept. 1, but she knew his team of doctors wouldn't be at the hospital until the morning. So, she toughed it out all night with contractions, and we left our house at 5 a.m. Sept. 2.

On the way, the contractions were getting stronger and more frequent. After they got her hooked up to a fetal monitor the nurse called the doctor to come early. They told us that Brittney needed to have an emergency c-section at 9 a.m. It all happened so fast. After Judah came out, they immediately rushed him to the NICU. I ran with them. He never made a sound. It was hard to leave Brittney behind, knowing she didn't even get to see him or know what was going on.

They asked me to sit in a waiting room and I looked through the glass at them working on him. At first, the heart monitor was in the 30s and slowly started to increase to about the 80-90s. I was just praying. I felt helpless because I couldn't do anything for him, and I was worried about Brittney. After what seemed like forever, the doctor brought me closer to Judah and explained what was going on. I took a picture of Judah and went back to show Brittney.

After Brittney made it out of recovery, they brought us to the NICU. When we walked in, it looked like they were trying to resuscitate him. They told us then that he would not live much longer. Brittney set up as much as she could to get to him, hold him and kiss him. I can't remember a sadder moment in my life. I put the end of my finger in his palm and looked at his little fingers and thought to myself, "I'll never get to place these fingers on a fretboard of a guitar." I lost it, and I'm losing it now as I'm typing. It was so hard to see Brittney in so much pain. We were both crying out to God and talking to little Judah. We told him "sorry" and we would see him again someday.



Jo was on his way with the kids (J.J. and Josie) to come see little Judah. I wasn't sure if they would arrive in time, but when they made it here, the doctor called us down to the NICU. The doctor told me to come first. When I arrived his heart rate was 10 bpm and it was slowly going down and down. The only thing I could think to do was get my camera out because I didn't want Brittney to miss his last breath. As soon as the monitor reached 2 bpm, Brittney and the kids turned the corner.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Our Lord took Judah around 2 p.m. They unhooked his tiny body from the machines and gave us some time with him. We just admired how precious he was. We looked him up and down and praised God for the little time we had with him.

I don't want to go into much more detail to make anyone upset. So here are just a few last things I'd like to share:

There is something about suffering and lamenting that brings you closer to loved ones and God, and none of it is meaningless.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matt. 5:4).

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes" (Psa. 119:714).

We are so thankful for all the support from the doctors, nurses, friends and family. Also, I can't imagine going through something like this without God and His people. Judah means "praise" and Nehemiah means "God comforts."

Everyone always says ladies have a glow when they are pregnant. For Brittney, it's the afterglow that gets me. I'm always stunned by her strength and beauty after she brings a baby into this world.

We praise God for the day that is coming for His people when *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away"* (Rev. 21:4).

Please pray for Brittney and me as we make funeral arrangements. Pray for our children, especially the older ones, Josie and JJ. They have been very emotional, and we are ready to get home and comfort them. Pray for our family back in America as they grieve from afar.

"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, 'Where is your God?'... Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you..." (Psa. 42:1-6).

"My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word" (Psa. 119:28).

(Find more about the ministry of Brandon & Brittney Lingle by visiting thai-missions.blogspot.com. You can contact them at brandon.thaimissions@gmail.com or 166 Ban Fah Lagoon Soi 34; Rangsit-Nakhon Nayok 44; Prachathipat, Thanyaburi; Pathumthani, Thailand 12130.)

Michael & Ruth Poirier • Canada, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Africa



Cell group in Dominican Republic

Quebec — It is a blessing to report to you on our mission field. The Lord is always good to those who are involved in serving Him. During the two months in Quebec, we baptized one lady who has been faithful in her study on discipleship and we had a good number of visitors who keep coming back. We also have those who come when we have food fellowship at church. No matter what drives them to church, it is always a blessing to see them come. A family in our church who has worked with me for two years gave themselves to the Lord for missions to work by my side for church planting. Thank you, Lord, for the people who answer the call.

After getting COVID a couple of times back-to-back, I am coming out of fatigue slowly but surely. I lost my sense of smell, but it is coming back slowly, especially this morning as the farmers spread pig manure in their fields — amen for smelling again.

We had a campfire at our place last weekend and three unsaved visitors were invited and came. They were willing to talk, and we had a great time sharing the gospel and singing songs of grace in front of a campfire. One of the visitors was a lady who came to stay with her father who is an immigrant. This 20-year-old girl only speaks Spanish and was at the breaking point in her life. She did not have the Lord, and had no friends to whom she could talk, but, praise the Lord, our couple who are from Chili were with us and shared the gospel and spent hours after the campfire sharing the gospel and encouraging the girl to come to Christ. She did not get saved but promised to come to church.

Haiti — One of our churches baptized four last month and are faithfully attending and rejoicing in the Lord. One man said to the preacher, "Before I was baptized, I was indifferent to reading my Bible or going to church, but when I got baptized the Lord gave me a new view of things before me." Now he reads his Bible every day and visits people whom he knew in the past, trying to bring them to Christ.

Danger is everywhere on the edge of the capital of Port au Prince. One preacher was killed for refusing to pay a certain amount of money. Another case was a church family killed in their home — the wife, the child and husband. For what? A few dollars. Life is not easy in Haiti; food is expensive and it is rare for most families to get it. We are able, by the grace of God to help with food, medical attention and

to work with them but I need resources to make this happen.

Cameroon, Africa — In the church of Cameroon, six people were baptized and we provided food for the church and helped them with the need for their gathering on that day. We shipped 50 new Bibles with workbooks to help our men in the ministry. The work is growing and, like the Dominican Republic, the people asked for me to come to teach them in person. Pray for them to stay faithful in the work of the Lord.

Ivory Coast, Africa — The church is growing in number and the people are excited to see their building coming to reality. The teaching is going well with the discipleship program every Wednesday night. Pray for them as they serve Christ faithfully.

I thank you again for all you have done for us through prayers, giving and sacrificing. We pray that you are blessed reading this letter and pray that you will continue to pray for us.

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (Psa. 84:11-12). (pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com)

education. Please pray for the needs of our three churches in Haiti.

Dominican Republic — We started a new cell group in the area of Boca Chica, which is an hour and a half from Santa Domingo. The group of around 20 people meets twice a week, singing and receiving preaching from me through WhatsApp. They are gathering in a small apartment and love the preaching the Lord provides for them. Almost every week they ask when I can go to them again to help in their Christian walk. I tell them I will go soon. I give this cause to Christ and pray that soon I will be able to go and help them. I know the Lord wants me



Sunday School class in Onaville (Haiti)

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JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor
editor@baptisttrumpet.com

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

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

We believe that God's mission is all about his glory to the nations in and through his church. If you have been listening very long to BMA Global Missions you have heard the following two statements:

"The local church is both the source and the goal of New Testament missions."

"Missions offices and agencies do not reproduce, churches do."

If indeed the local church is the recipient and executor of the Great Commission, we must look deeper into what is a church and exactly how does it fulfill the mission.

A church is a group of regenerate, baptized followers of Christ who meet to worship God, obey the commands of Christ, and scatter to make his name known to the nations. Typically we are fairly adept at the gathering part for worship and gaining Bible information. But it is the scattering part - the missionary part - that challenges us many times. This must be overcome since the church is the normal and primary means of accomplishing the mission.

The New Testament prominence of the local church in fulfilling the mission is indisputable. Jesus' love for the church is noteworthy. In John 13 he "loved them to the end." In Matthew 16 and 18 we see clear instructions on authority given to the church that Christ initiated and loved. In Acts 20, Jesus declares that he purchased the church with his own blood. In the letters to the churches of Revelation (2-3), it is evident that Christ loves his churches.

This center stage for the church in the mission is evidenced all through the New Testament; as the gospel advanced, churches were started. In Acts 2, over 3,000 were added to the church as they proclaimed the gospel. Another church was started in Antioch of Syria that became the very epicenter of the missionary movement. Churches were started in Galatia on the first missionary journey then throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and all the way to Rome in the 33-year period that the book of Acts covers.

Churches as the source and goal of New Testament missions continued



as those original churches multiplied more churches. The church at Colossae helped to plant new churches at Hierapolis and Laodicea. Churches were started in "all the cities" on the island of Crete as told in the book of Titus. In all of these situations where churches were the result of fulfilling the mission, they then became the source of new churches. "In the New Testament the Christian life is the church life" (Jonathan Leeman).

We have defined a church, now what is the mission? There are five major commissions in the New Testament. We commonly call Matthew 28:19-20 the Great Commission. We will return to that passage in a moment. Mark 16:15 says to preach the gospel to all creatures. Luke 24 says to announce the message of repentance and forgiveness to the nations. John 20:21 tells us that just as Jesus was sent, so are we. Acts 1:8 says to simultaneously, like concentric circles, reach from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth as Spirit-empowered witnesses. The Great Commission gives us one imperative - "Go make disciples of all nations" - as carried out through three participles: going, baptizing, and teaching. The three participles also become imperative since they are connected to the one main command. This verse delineates our mission this way: "Go win disciples of Christ in all nations, baptize them in obedience to Christ and as a new identity in Christ, and teach them God's Word to the point where they internalize it in their understanding and externalize it through obedience." In other words, these are people in all nations who are won to Christ, baptized, taught God's Word, and now repeat all the above.

Another saying you have no doubt heard from us many times is, "The church is a disciple factory, not a believer warehouse." If our church is not spending most of its time, money, and energy in fulfilling this mission, we need to remember what a church is and what our mission is!

BMA Global Missions helps your church in the missionary process by providing the following:

- a credible recommendation system for other churches to help your missionary candidate get to the field
- detailed accounting and financial services
- pre-field and on-field training,
- a unified missionary effort under a unifying vision carried out with sound missions principles
- a structure of accountability to our churches
- very specified missionary care
- a security network
- basic requirements such as visas, insurance, and other daily needs

There are many who can support the church in the mission, but there is nothing that can supplant the church in mission. We pray that your church will be evangelizing, baptizing, discipling, and planting other churches. Our mission is local-church driven.

mission:world

NEWS



A HEART FOR YOUR COMMUNITY = A HEART FOR THE NATIONS

BY: Dr. Jason Aultman
Antioch Conway
antiochconway.com

If you went to the streets of any town and asked folks to tell you about Antioch, many would respond, “What’s an Antioch?” Maybe for those who would read a publication about missions we would be aware that the name is found in the Bible. But for many, it would be an unfamiliar name.

I pastor a church called “Antioch.” This Antioch, located in Conway, Arkansas, was organized in 1925. That was before my time, so I can’t say I got this information from the organizing members, but when that small group of folks considered what they would call their new church, I wonder if someone found their way to Acts 11 or Acts 13. Acts 11:26 says, “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” Scholars suggest that was not a term of endearment but of ridicule. But what likely began as mockery became an identification of honor. Christian . . . Christ-one . . . one belonging to Christ! There undoubtedly were certain characteristics, behaviors, and beliefs that clearly marked those who belonged to Christ. Shouldn’t it be the same today?

“What does that have to do with church planting?” you might ask. I believe it’s foundational to it. It doesn’t matter if your church is called Antioch Baptist, Timbuktu Baptist, or any other name that might be on the sign and website. If a church is being what a church is called to be, it should show evidence of those belonging to Christ. It should imprint Christ-like fingerprints on the community around it.

I wonder if anyone else would admit that when thinking about “missions” it’s often easier to think in terms of “out there” rather than “right here.” Maybe it’s easier to toss some money to people and delegate them to go be our missionaries than it is to look at the community around us and strive to reach that field too. I was asked to share about churches planting churches. So why am I talking about reaching our own community? Quite simply because if my heart doesn’t burn with a desire to reach my community, it’s unlikely that it will burn with a fire hot enough to do what it will take to be part of reaching another community. Are we making a difference in our community that would be missed if our church ceased to exist tomorrow? If not, perhaps we should reexamine our mission.

That church at Antioch . . . in Acts 13 we’re told that they sent out a missionary team - couple of guys named Saul (a.k.a. Paul) and Barnabas. (You can read the rest of Acts to see the ripple effect of that decision!) I want to be a part of something like that. A church making an impact on the field where God has placed us and as an overflow of that, seeking to reach others beyond our own geographic bounds.

That was some of the heart behind our planting a church in Georgetown, Texas – “Antioch Georgetown.” Georgetown is an area not

dramatically different from Conway, so we felt this would offer some common ground. It is positioned in an area that is one of the fastest growing in the nation, just outside of Austin, so, strategically, it felt like a sky-is-the-limit field. As we searched it out, God continued to give green lights, and wheels were put in motion toward the planting of a church.

A key piece of the puzzle in our story was the selection of a pastor to lead the plant effort. We determined that a potential pastor would be asked to join our staff for an extended time (up to two years). This would allow the potential pastor to feel the heartbeat of the sending church as well as for us to observe his heart and skills. So the prospective pastor was identified, and Andy Comer joined our staff team. This time served to confirm things such as calling, passion, work ethic, and vision. It also served to deepen the church’s commitment and support of the planting effort.

It was determined from the outset that we would seek to plant with a team of people. We felt that there was merit (and biblical precedent!) to the adage “We is better than me,” so we established a goal of having a core team that would commit to be part of the launch effort. The time Andy spent on our staff provided the perfect opportunity to invite others to consider being part of the launch team, and as that team came into focus, to spend time in training and preparation. When all was said and done, a team of over thirty people (twenty adults plus children) formed the core of what would become Antioch Georgetown.

What a blessing it was to see a sending church standing in the gap with its church plant, doing anything possible to help it launch well. We provided prayer and financial support and sent teams to help canvas neighborhoods and staff launch services, for example.

What a blessing to see a church planting team accept the charge and go into a new community with a holy passion to reach people.

What a blessing to see God take those efforts and do things that give us no choice but to step back and say – Wow! God did (and is doing) that!

“So what now?” some have asked. And the answer is this: Let’s do it again. I hope that I . . . I hope that you . . . I hope that WE will dare to pray, ask, seek, dream, send and see what God will dare to do if we answer the call to be a church on a mission to reach the community where he has placed us and plant churches where he leads us.

Holding the Rope

BY: Larry Wood
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The third of five value statements of BMA Missions says, “While multiplication is the process that fulfills the Mission of God in the New Testament, local congregations are both the source (sending) and the goal (planting) of that multiplication. Missions offices do not reproduce, churches do.” This value stands on Jesus’ command to the church to “go ye into all the world . . .” We have been eyewitnesses to the soundness of this value and its absolute necessity in planting churches at home and around the world.

To say that we could not have gotten to the mission field in Ukraine and accomplished the work of church planting without our sending church would be a gross understatement. Farley Street Waxahachie is not only our home church but our sending church. They helped to prepare us and supported us, and continue to do so, in many ways. Their decision to be an integral part of missions and church planting in Ukraine was necessary for the work to be effective.

Why is the church’s role necessary? Because it is God’s plan. God never intended the missionary to go alone. While some go, God intends for the church at home to be an active participant in the spreading of the gospel and church planting. In 1793, the Particular Baptist Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen held a farewell service for William Carey as he prepared to leave for India as a missionary. Carey had a meeting with the four leaders of the society who promised him “as he went forth in the society’s name and their Master’s, they should never cease till death to stand by him.” One of the men, Andrew Fuller, described the meeting with this analogy. He said that the mission to India seemed like a few men who considered going into a deep, unexplored mine. It was as if Carey said, “Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.” The meeting, in Fuller’s mind, was as if he and the other brethren gave their word that “whilst we lived, we should never let go of the rope.” This rope analogy expresses a biblical truth: New Testament missions was designed by God to be a team effort. For every missionary that goes on the field there must be churches at home holding the rope.

How do churches “hold the rope?” Financial support is an obvious and essential means, but it is not the only thing missionaries need to be effective church planters. We need the church to remain faithful to the Word of God. We need the church to be a place where those called to missions are disciplined and trained. We need the church to be prayer warriors and encouragers. We need the church to take mission trips, to come and see what God is doing. We need the church to hold the rope because without you the work will not be accomplished.

As we moved to Ukraine and settled in the city of Lutsk, a local Ukrainian church partnered with us for the purpose of planting churches. Fimiam Baptist Church extended an invitation to us to come to Lutsk and

help them plant churches in their city and region. While Fimiam did not have the ability to provide financial support for a church plant, they did have a staff member who would become the Ukrainian pastor, and they sent some of their members to start the new church. The church, Fimiam, desired to start a new church plant because they realized this new church would reach people they would never reach. Fimiam realized a strong, evangelical church in another part of town would result in more people hearing the gospel and becoming followers of Christ. A church that would minister to local people, share the gospel, and disciple those people who would then reach more people for Christ.

Because churches in the United States and a church in Lutsk, Ukraine, were obedient to Jesus’ command, a new church was born. Water of Life Baptist Church had her launch service in November 2019 with over one hundred people in attendance, many of those members of Fimiam, who came to support the new congregation on her first day. Water of Life averaged fifty to sixty people each week in the beginning. God has continued to bless the church under the leadership of Pastor Sasha Grebenyuk and now has over two hundred people in worship every Sunday. One result of planting Water of Life has been the reestablishment of a sister church in Volodymyr. This church was ready to close her doors but is now a thriving congregation because other churches came alongside her. Now there are other church plants beginning throughout Ukraine, all because churches followed the command of Jesus to “go ye into all the world . . .”

This is only one example of churches and missionaries working together as a team. There are many churches around the world that have been planted because churches sent and missionaries went. Missions doesn’t work without the church being involved. The church is a vital part of God’s plan. Is your church “holding the rope?” If so, does it have a good grip?





MAKING MEDIA DISCIPLES AROUND THE WORLD

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Lifeworld's global partners are also pastors, ministry leaders, and church planters, so the media they produce is an important part of their ministries. Planting churches is their primary mission no matter where they are throughout the world. Each of these men and women has a burden for their people group and unique challenges to sharing the gospel with non-believers and planting churches. Whether they meet in homes on a rotating basis or sponsor events for hundreds of children at a time, their purpose is to establish churches that further God's kingdom.

With five new churches being planted in the area, Brother Joseph Eniowo in Nigeria is now conducting discipleship with the help of smart phones that share the gospel with children and families. Nigerian parents want their children to learn about the Bible and Jesus even though they may never attend church. Hundreds of children come to kids events, which is the first step to meeting parents and eventually reaching them. Three new missions are also in the planning stages, and Brother Joseph and his leaders are praying about a BMA church in the future. He says God's Word is bearing fruit in the lives of their church members and disciples.

Eudo Rodrigues, who serves in Cape Verde, plants churches on other islands with the help of Lifeworld programs he produces for both believers and non-believers. People on his small island often recognize him from his videos, which allow him to help people find the churches he has planted or point people to those on other islands. European beliefs like "gnosticism" create cultural and spiritual challenges. But "spiritism", which eighty percent of Cape Verdeans claim as their belief system, makes it difficult to begin an evangelical work. However, Brother Eudo has recently baptized fourteen people and is planting a church on another island, which gives him the strength to continue.

With the help of Lifeworld, Oscar and Tamy Gaitan have planted eight churches in eight years in Nicaragua and Cuba. In an effort to strengthen

families within those churches, they have partnered with Lifeworld to produce Spanish-speaking videos that teach biblical principles of marriage to Hispanic couples who may never have seen them modeled. It's rare that couples living together are actually married, and men often leave the mothers of their children and start new families, only to leave them and father more children. So the Gaitans teach couples how to repair broken relationships, parent their children, and faithfully love each other. New churches are important in their efforts to serve families.

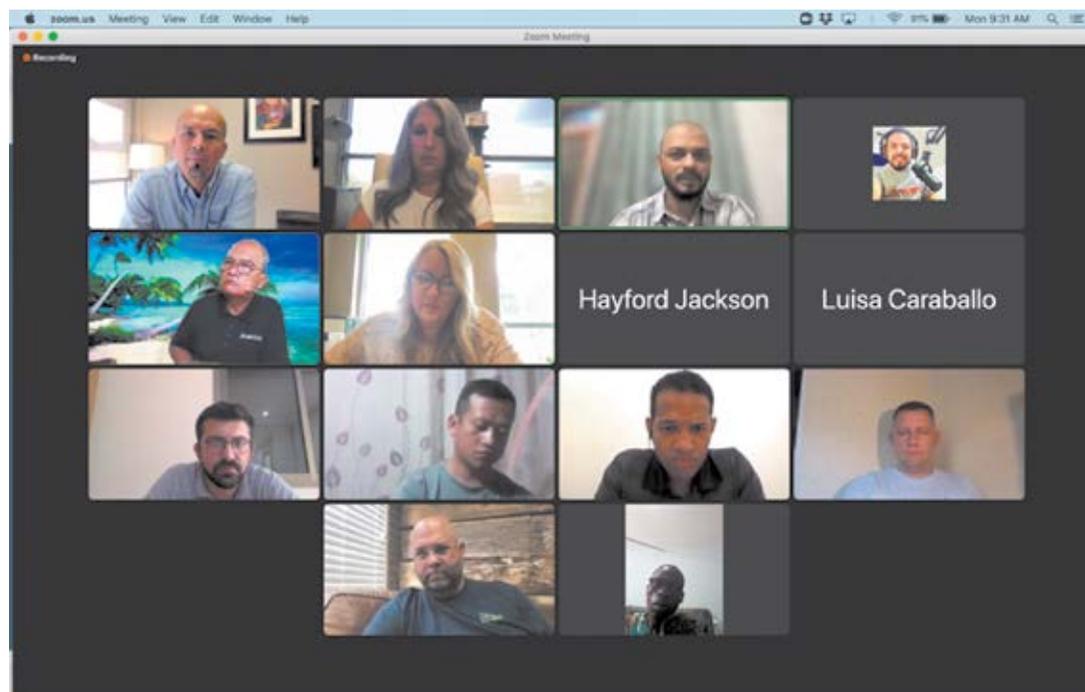
Valmori Zelaya has been serving in ministry for twelve years and now leads the Central American Online Radio Station, which feeds online radio stations and other Lifeworld Community Radio stations in El

Salvador. Although he lives in the larger city of Chinameca, he was born in the countryside of San Miguel, where there is no mission or church . . . until now. He has a burden for both areas, but San Miguel has around fifty families who have not heard the gospel. Valmori has answered the call to plant a church there, beginning with a small group of fourteen people who are thirsty for God's Word and have been meeting despite the many government restrictions in El Salvador.

Making media disciples is Pete Etabag's main work, so he conducts seminars with

Filipino broadcasters and technicians, many of whom are pastors and church planters. He teaches them to make short cell phone videos to reach people online with the gospel. Pastor Pete continues to add languages to Lifeworld's list so more tribes can know who Jesus is in their heart languages. Mindanao is the largest island in the Philippines and where many Filipinos remain unreached, so he installs transmitters that reach both the mountain and low land tribes where there is little to no WiFi. Churches have been planted in both areas, and Pastor Pete says radio ministry is still the most effective way to evangelize remote tribes.

Lifeworld Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, and what an honor it is for the local church to invite Lifeworld to come alongside and partner with resources and tools as she obeys her Lord and Master."



SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

• **Conway, Sept. 8** — CBC hosted the Pioneers of Crowley's Ridge (CRC) inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (2-5) had a big night hitting the ball, posting season highs in kills and hitting percentage, earning a four-set win over CRC (2-3) by scores of 25-19, 25-27, 25-14 and 25-14.

• **Conway, Sept. 10** — Playing at Reddin Fieldhouse for the fourth time this week, CBC hosted the Panthers of Philander Smith College for their second meeting since Tuesday. CBC (2-6) won the first set convincingly but dropped the final three, falling 3-1 to PSC (6-3) by scores of 25-18, 16-25, 15-25, 17-25.

Men's Golf

• **Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 6** — Hitting the course for the first time this season, CBC competed in the first 36 holes of the Southwestern Christian Fall Invitational at the Lake Hefner Golf Club – North Course. CBC combined to shoot a two-round score of 562 to sit in sixth place, 29 shots off the lead.

• **Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 7** — Entering the final 18 holes in sixth place, CBC looked to get closer to the lead in the final round of the Southwestern Christian Fall Invitational at the Lake Hefner Golf Club North Course. CBC would shoot a final round 290 and finish with a total score of 852, good for a tie for seventh and just one shot off of sixth place.

Women's Golf

• **Oklahoma City, Okla. Sept. 6** — Competing for the first time this season, CBC was on the course, taking on the field at Lake Hefner North Golf Club at the Southwestern Christian Fall Invitational. Three individuals competed in the first 18 holes. Those individuals that competed were **Alyssa Hagewood, Abby Kirby** and **Laney Crutchfield**, making her Mustang debut. Hagewood finished with an opening round 87 while Kirby shot a 91 and Crutchfield shot a 101.

• **Oklahoma City, Okla. Sept. 7** — Returning to the course at Lake Hefner North, CBC finished the Southwestern Christian Fall Invitational. All three women's golfers improved their scores in the final round. **Alyssa Hagewood** closed with a final round 78 to finish with a 165 and jump four places in the standings. **Abby Kirby** shot a final round 89 to jump up one spot, finishing with a 180, and **Laney Crutchfield** closed with a 94 to finish with a 195 and jump up one spot as well.

Cross Country

• **Irving, Texas, Sept. 10** — Running for the first time this season, CBC was on the course at the University of Dallas Invitational. **Ally Swaim, Mackenzie Milligan** and **Ashleigh Gross Mitchell** were the three competitors for the Mus-

CHANGE

(Continued From Page 3)

When that individual repents, the change takes place. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come..."* (II Cor. 5:17 NIV).

That change becomes a blessing! When stressed because of anxiety, ask God to help. He will — because He cares. When filled with heartaches, ask God to help. He will — because He cares. When all seems dark, ask God for His Light. He will provide it — because He cares. When angry, frustrated or disillusioned with the life I urge you to cry out, "Change my heart, O God!"

When Changes Come, Jesus Cares

Another hymn that comes to mind is "Does Jesus Care?" Some lyrics are: "Does Jesus care when I've said, 'Goodbye' to the dearest on earth to me, and my sad heart aches 'till it nearly breaks, is it aught to Him? Does He see? Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares. His heart is touched with my grief. When the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares."

If you are having to cope with uncomfortable changes, I am sorry. However, that is common to all of us. Because that's true, I wanted to encourage you today. May God give you peace, contentment and assurance as you continue your life's journey.

CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

• **Tour of Dickson Hall** for students who are interested in living on campus and/or athletics.

• **Meeting with an athletic representative** if you are looking at one of CBC's 16 NAIA intercollegiate athletic programs.

• **Group Tour** — It's our honor to host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private) or any other group you may have. We strive to make any group feel welcome on our campus. You will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tour listed above. Prior to the start of the tour, admissions personnel will speak to you as a group to answer your initial questions about CBC and provide you with a viewbook and a drawstring backpack. If I am available, I will personally welcome you to the campus.

To register for a tour online, go to cbc.edu/visit. Then simply click "schedule a visit" and fill out the information and submit. For questions, additional information or to schedule a visit by phone, contact the CBC Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873.

tangs. Swaim posted the best time in the 3.11-mile event, finishing with a 25:38.3. Milligan was next, finishing with a time of 26:16.7 and Gross-Mitchell was the next finisher, posting a time of 27:12.0.

COURT

(Continued From Page 1)

injunction against the ban."

Using the U.S. Supreme Court's *Bostock v. Clayton County* decision in 2020 as justification, the Biden administration issued an executive order in January 2021 directing, in part, that "sex" as defined in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 should mean not just biological sex but also gender identity and sexual orientation. The executive order also amended the Fair Housing Act of 1968 with this expanded definition of "sex." This led to a directive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that any person identifying as female — even if they are biologically male — must be permitted to use women's bathrooms, locker rooms or any other space that is designated for women only, such as women's dormitories at colleges.

As a result, College of the Ozarks, a private Christian college, filed suit against the Biden administration in April 2021 against the directive. In its suit, the college put forward that "the HUD directive contradicts the clear wording, meaning and historical interpretation of the Fair Housing Act, which confirms that 'sex' means biological sex." In addition, the litigation noted that "the agency violated procedural requirements by not allowing public notice and comment, and that the directive violates the constitutional right of College of the Ozarks and similar religious institutions to operate consistently with their religious beliefs."

"College of the Ozarks should be free to follow the religious tradition on which it was founded," said Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Julie Marie Blake, who is representing the college. "The government can't strip a private, faith-based institution of its constitutionally protected freedoms because it disagrees with its views about marriage and biological sex."

The battle over allowing individuals who identify as the opposite of their biological sex to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice began in earnest in May 2016 when the Obama administration issued a "Dear Colleague" letter that directed all schools to allow students who identify as transgender "access to such facilities (restrooms and locker rooms) consistent with their gender identity." Soon, companies like Target began opening their sex-segregated bathrooms to anyone, and a pattern of incidents of lewd conduct began to emerge, particularly in women's restrooms.

Subsequent incidents like the sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl by a male in the girls' bathroom of a Loudoun County, Va. school in 2021 have only added fuel to the debate.

Many are seeing the Biden administration's executive order as a significant escalation in the fight

ARABIC

(Continued From Page 1)

wife, Claude are following the example of Jesus by going out to the community and meeting Arabic people from all walks of life. They're meeting their needs through a community center they started on Main Street to teach ESL and computer skills. Their efforts in living the Great Commission by making disciples are planting Jesus Light of the World Arabic Church.

One other tool we began using in the process of multiplying disciples among the Arabs and supporting the Arabic Church is an Arabic show called "No2tat Saraha" in partnership with Lifeword. "No2tat Saraha," meaning "Point of Frankness," is broadcast on social media platforms and Arabic satellite television. The goal of the show is to guide new Arab believers in their walk with God while mixing their Arabic culture and backgrounds with biblical teachings.

over access to private spaces reserved for women, as the order does not include any carve-outs for religious schools with strong beliefs about sexuality and the inherent differences between males and females.

Arielle Del Turco, assistant director of the Center for Religious Liberty at Family Research Council, lauded the college for taking a strong stance in the dispute.

"College of the Ozarks is to be commended for taking a stand and challenging the Biden administration's directive to include members of the opposite sex in dorms and other shared spaces," she remarked. "For Christian colleges, the Biden administration's directive is a blatant challenge to their ability to operate as religious institutions that adhere to a biblical understanding of human sexuality."

"Religious colleges must be free to establish housing policies that recognize the inherent differences between men and women and provide safe and private living accommodations for their students. The First Amendment clearly protects the freedom of College of the Ozarks, and other religious schools, to articulate biblical teachings about maleness and femaleness and to live according to those religious convictions by organizing their dorms and shared spaces in a way that acknowledges those beliefs," Del Turco concluded.

— *The Washington Stand is Family Research Council's outlet for news and commentary from a biblical worldview. The Washington Stand is based in Washington, D.C. and is published by FRC, whose mission is to advance faith, family and freedom in public policy and the culture from a biblical worldview.*

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Trumpet Archives At
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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.

County Line Baptist Church in Marvell is seeking a full-time pastor. Inquiries may be made to Tommie Shackelford at (870) 338-2873.

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.

Eastside Baptist Church in Lonoke is seeking a pianist/keyboardist for Sunday Morning services. For more information call (501) 266-0302.

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.

Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy is seeking applicants for a youth director's position. Interested candidates can call Keith Lunceford at (501) 278-9016 or send resumes to Park Avenue Baptist Church, 211 E. Park Avenue, Searcy, Ark., 72143.

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

Pine Brook Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to Pine Brook Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7121, Tyler, Texas 75711 or pinebrookpastorsearch@gmail.com before Oct. 14.

Revivals

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

Oakland Heights, White Hall, Sept. 18-21; 7 p.m.; David Inzer, evangelist; Wes Wooley, pastor.

Cornerstone, Arkadelphia, Sept. 19-22; 6:30 p.m.; Marcus Crawley, evangelist; Larry Newsum, pastor.

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

Lemonwood, White Hall, Oct. 7-9; 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m. Sunday; Jamie Coulter, evangelist; Ronnie Johnson, 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.

Kingsland, Kingsland, Nov. 1-3, 7 p.m.; Jeremy Horton, evangelist; Rick Bolin, pastor.

Reports — from the — Churches

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

Badcaw, Rosston welcomed four by letter; Ed Phillips, pastor.

Bradford, Bradford rejoices over three by baptism; Dal Hogan, pastor.

Broadway Ave., Bay gained two by baptism; Rick Jenson, pastor.

Cornerstone, Arkadelphia received two by baptism; Larry Newsom, pastor.

Eastside, Lonoke witnessed one by baptism; Joseph Schalchlin, pastor.

First, Damascus reports one by baptism; Daniel Williams, pastor.

First, North Lewisville added one by statement; Jerry Evans, interim pastor.

Flat Rock, Quitman reports one by baptism; Myles Evans, pastor.

Grace, Russellville gained one by baptism; Roger Pearce, pastor.

Immanuel, Jonesboro welcomed one by statement; Charles Dixon, pastor.

Kingsland, Kingsland rejoices over two by baptism and one by statement; Rick Bolin, pastor.

Oakland Heights, White Hall added one by baptism and one by statement; Wes Wooley, pastor.

Park Place, Bryant gained three by letter; Gary Lambright, pastor.

Rock Hill, Jonesboro received five by baptism since last report; Parker Hughes, pastor.

Shady Grove, Piggott reports one by baptism; Jarrod Lowe, pastor.

Shiloh, McRae witnessed four by letter and one by baptism; Roger Cole, pastor.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

South Arkansas — ~~Sept. 23~~ *Postponed/TBD*, 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.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Oct. 11; Lorado, Jonesboro.

Greenbrier Dist. WMA, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.; Friendship, Greenbrier.

Judson — Oct. 15, 9 a.m.; Bethel #1, Rison; Rick Bolin.

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.; Center Point, Nashville; Chuck Reel.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Nov. 8; Center Hill, Jonesboro.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Dec. 13; Cathedral, Jonesboro.

Valley View, Jonesboro added two by letter; Reagan Lee, pastor.

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

Deaths

Sammie Caldwell, 80 of Magnolia, passed away Sept. 8. He was a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

Jeannie Kaye Clark Roberts, 74 of Jonesboro, passed away Sept. 8. She was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

Jerry Wayne Slayton, 78 of Searcy, passed away Sept. 7. He was a member of West Race Baptist Church.

James Henry Wilson, 94 of Mag-

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Evangelism Conference, Sept. 17-18; featuring Mark Spence; 4 p.m. Saturday; 9:30 a.m. Sunday; no cost; Cornerstone, Lowell; Dana Williams, pastor.

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.

Art for Water Gala, Oct. 18; 5:30 p.m. - Meet and Greet, 6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Program; Governor's Mansion, Little Rock.

Lifeword Sunday, Oct. 23.

Friends and Family Day, Oct. 30; 9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship; pot luck to follow; Kingsland, Kingsland; Rick Bolin, pastor.

BMA of Arkansas, Nov. 3-4; Central Baptist College, Conway.

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

National Galilean Camp, June 23-26; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

nolia, passed away Sept. 5. He was a member of Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church.

Debbie Scott Lewis, 66 of Waldo, passed away Sept. 3. She was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Teresa Green Burns, 83 of Walkerville, passed away Sept. 1. She

was a member of Western Baptist Church.

Katie Jane Langford, 86 of Searcy, passed away Aug. 11. She was a member of West Race Baptist Church.

Opal Jean Sheffer, 91 of Bald Knob, passed away Aug. 10. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

WE ARE HIRING A YOUTH + ASSOCIATE PASTOR



We are seeking a strong leader who is called to guide youth and their families in their relationship and walk with God. This position is a combined full-time Youth and Associate Pastor position and includes facilitating spiritual growth not only with youth, but the parents of youth and our entire church family. The Associate Pastor will be expected to work with families, develop and teach Youth Sunday School and other educational programs while communicating with church staff. This position would lead and assist with pastoral care, preaching and assisting our Pastor as needed.

Please email a resume and cover letter that includes a statement of faith and why you feel called to this ministry.

Doug Brewer | Pastor

Trisha Marlow | Office | Education & Communications Coordinator

405.794.6646 or
southgatebaptistmoore@gmail.com



SOUTHGATE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Brooks Anderson

CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, October 3 • 8 a.m.

1 p.m. afternoon if needed • Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

England Country Club • 161 Clear Lake Rd.

4 Person Scramble (3-person team + assigned celebrity)

COST: \$300 PER TEAM • HOLE SPONSOR: \$200



GOAL
\$20,000

To register, sponsor or donate, call or text Tom Mitchell at (501) 804-6647. You can also mail names, phone numbers, and check to Landmark Baptist Church, P.O. Box 177, England, AR 72046. Brooks has been fighting cancer since he was born and is the 11-month old son of England Head Football Coach Josh Anderson & his wife, Ashlyn. They are active members of Landmark Baptist Church in England, AR.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH WITH "ANDERSON TOURNAMENT" ON THE "FOR" LINE TO RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

Missionaries

Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984
 Clinton Morris, The Table, Springdale; (870) 316-1519
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.; (936) 202-7988
 Jake McCandless, Epic Life, Pea Ridge; (501) 472-9079
 Donna Webb, Administrative Asst.; (501) 565-4601
 E-Mail: bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com
 Office Location: 10712 Interstate 30 • Little Rock, AR 72209
 Mailing Address: PO Box 195514, Little Rock, AR 72219
www.bmaARmissions.com
[Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions](https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasMissions)



PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
arstamis@comcast.net

Off to a Good Start

This week the district association meetings began Thursday night with the Mount Calvary Association meeting at Letona Baptist Church just west of Searcy. The BMA of the Ozarks convened Friday afternoon at Springdale Baptist Church. Three meetings were scheduled to meet Saturday, which usually happens, and as I was only able to attend one, it was time in my rotation to attend the North Arkansas Association held at Center Grove Baptist Church in Cord. I was blessed to have others share my report at the United and Mt. Vernon Associations. After all, we are, by nature, all representatives of mission work, be it here or around the globe. It was great to see things returning to enough of a norm to get to see my friends and to thank many of those churches personally for their faithful support.

Blessed Opportunity

Monday night, I was privileged to share the work and bring the message at the Mount Vernon District Brotherhood at Central in Hughes. As usual, the meal was only topped by the sweet fellowship. It was good to see friends and to make new ones. A very special thanks for the invitation.

Stepping Up

Report after report at this year's meetings that I have had the opportunity to attend were very encouraging and uplifting — especially to state missionaries, as Mt. Calvary voted to help Johnny Shew in Flippin and the Ozarks Association voted to help Clinton, Roberto and Jake financially in this upcoming year. Thanks to all involved, and we are just getting started!

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, (9/4) "Thursday night, we returned to the Bible Institute. This time we joined the joint effort of the Hispanic churches of Central Arkansas. All church members have the option to enroll in the institute, and the classes will be taught in Spanish by the pastors. On this occasion, Ruben Isturiz is teaching the Old Testament and I am teaching Bible Study Methods. Please pray that the training provided at the institute will help us develop church planters and strengthen the leadership of existing churches.

"Sunday, we started a series of studies on the book of I Peter. We focused on the first 12 verses of chapter 1, talking about the hope every believer has, its nature, the

result and how wonderful it is.

"At the end of the meeting, Jhordany Aguilar was baptized. He is a young man who has helped his family to stay close to the Lord, now he takes a very important step of obedience in his manifest desire to serve his God. We are very happy. Pray that he can develop his gifts and become a church leader.

(9/11) "Last week, we had the opportunity to make contact with Ramón and his wife, Rosa. They did not have a table to eat at, but we saw the opportunity to give them a table, chairs, plates and other things for their house. We talked extensively. Mr. Ramon likes to read, so he has read the Bible and is open-minded about the gospel. Unfortunately, they do not have a car and it is difficult for them to congregate with us. We prayed and then shared our phone numbers. We hope we can cultivate a

relationship that allows us to present the gospel to them. Pray that God will prepare their hearts.

"William Chilel is a young man of Guatemalan origin. He came to the temple to help Ramón transport the things the church had provided him. We took the opportunity to meet him and give him some things he needed. We prayed with him and invited him to join us.

"Rocio also needed some things for her house. We provided them for her and had a time of prayer with her. We encouraged her to visit us in our meetings and we hope she can attend.

"Yesica is Beverly's mother. She is very interested in her daughter attending church. Unfortunately, Yesica's work schedule conflicts with Sunday meetings. After praying for her, we said goodbye to her and encouraged her to participate in the prayer meetings on Friday nights.

"We would appreciate you adding these people to your prayer list. None of them have made their profession of faith. We hope that, very soon, God will give us the opportunity to share the gospel with them."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "It has been a busy two weeks getting the 'Instituto Teologico Bautista Misionera de Arkansas' (ITBMA) going. We have 11 students enrolled from four Hispanic congregations. The Hispanic congregations in Arkansas have asked me to start ITBMA and, so far, we are doing well. Please be praying for the training of our leadership.

"We are also continuing the training in Ebenezer with the workshop on 'Principles of Evangelism, Discipleship and Gospel Movements.' My desire is that after this training the new leadership for the Berean Groups (home groups) will come out.

"On Sunday (Sept. 14), we had the invitation from South City Church to share the Word of God. I preached in Spanish and Elvis Garcia interpreted for me. It was a good time outdoors, then we had some tacos and piñatas to celebrate 'Hispanic Heritage Month.' Thank you, South City Church brethren, for giving us the opportunity to represent Ebenezer and for your promises of prayer. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, (9/4) "We had a few sick and a few out traveling for

the holiday weekend Sunday, but we still had a really good number with several returning and four first-time visitors. Some of our members had family in for the holidays and they brought them to worship. Some live close enough to say they will come again.

"Our message this week was probably meant as much for me as it was for anyone else. It was about purposing in the Spirit, as Paul did on his missionary journeys, about seeking and following the leading of the Spirit when we make our plans and being faithful to Him and His will as we try to carry them out. It can be hard sometimes, to wait because our nature is to 'do something.' But we know, nothing could be better than doing what God wants us to do — certainly not our own plans. We must wait and hear His voice.

(9/11) "We had another great week at Faith Chapel. Even though we had three of our families out, we still had a great number, with several returning and five first-time visitors. Four of those were from the Gideons, and they gave a presentation, telling us about their ministry. It did my heart good to see that while we need and receive support from so many of you as we plant and grow Faith Chapel, our people were willing to offer some support to the Gideons, whose mission is to spread the Word of God to the world. The Great Commission is not only about going, but also about helping others go, and reaching the world for Christ. That is why I love the BMA so much. Through your selfless love and support and prayers, we can do what we do, and even sometimes help others as well.

"We thank you all for your support, not only for us, but for all of our missionaries, from the BMA of Arkansas and the BMA of America, and all of the other state and world associations, but we thank you especially for your prayers, that you would lift us up to God in support of us in humbling, and it means so much to us.

"We thank you for your prayers for us, Faith Chapel and for Flippin. Please continue as God is answering them.

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, (9/4) "The martial arts studio kids' ministry has launched, we had six kids in attendance. We are now working at an older kid's (9-12) table within the main service. The table will have a leader and will have its own small group study time through the Good Soil Materials. We are praying for a leader to emerge that has the heart to talk with young people.

"I had a car accident this last Monday and it took out the front end of our van and the airbag lit my arm on fire. Alberto Herrera from Temple Baptist in Rogers came to our rescue. He lent us his personal vehicle and was able to repair our van. We are so grateful

for him quickly coming to our aid. "We are moving to the next stages in many of our relationships. We are beginning to invite people to come and be part of our church. We are prayerfully seeking out the right time/words to engage these individuals. Pray that God moves more hearts.

"We have lost a couple from our weekly service due to moving beyond 30 minutes away. We are still trying to engage them during the week since they currently do not have another church that they feel comfortable attending.

(9/11) "We helped move one of our families to Gravette, a city that is 45 minutes away from our meeting space. We are praying through ways of still engaging this family with the gospel and further spiritual training. I am meeting with Gio tonight to discuss the gospel again. He is interested in being baptized, but we need to insure that he has been saved first. So awesome to see what God is doing.

"A huge thank you from me and my church plant to the BMA of the Ozarks and your incredibly generous gifts. This money will help offset the new costs of the Martial Arts Studio rent and also the Right Now Media. We are grateful for an association that is supporting missions.

"My music leader's family has been ill the last few weeks, and his wife also is expecting their third child. Please keep them in prayer as we continue to feel their absence.

"I am looking forward to all of the items on my checklist getting marked off for this church plant. There is a bit more work to do, but the finish line is in sight for my involvement. Currently, the plan is to organize the church in June 2023. More news will be shared at the state meeting. Please come and hear how God has blessed and moved this plant."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "Faith Journey had a great time of fellowship that was all put together by the men last Sunday! It was ladies' night off from having to prepare a delicious meal. It was a great time and we enjoyed having a large group that night.

"Our folks at Faith Journey love trivia! We have been studying the lives of Moses and Joshua for the last few months and we created a fun (and a little competitive) game of trivia with teams. We all learned so much, and it really helped us to keep what we have been studying fresh in our minds while sharing a good time with everyone there.

"This week, we shared what we consider our life verses with each other. These are verses that have been significant to us throughout our lives and ones we keep close to our hearts. Psalm 37:4 is one that my wife and I share: "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires." God knows what our hearts are seeking and if we are abiding

See MISSIONS, Page 12



Jhordany Aguilar (center) with family after his baptism

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 11)

within His will, He is always faithful. Have a blessed week!"

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, (9/4) "II Corinthians 5:17 has great meaning for my life and ministry. The text that is well known to believers says 'If any is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed and here all are made new.' This passage as it said marked our lives when we planted the first church in Venezuela, and for that same reason the name we gave to the church we planted was Iglesia Bautista Central Nueva Vida (New Life Central Baptist Church), this was in the city of San Cristóbal, a city on the border between Venezuela and Colombia, in 2007. We started the meetings on Saturdays with a group of patients from our office that my wife, Patty invited to our apartment. That day, approximately 40 people came to hear the gospel the rest is history. The church turned 15 years old and the disciples we formed continue to lead us by doing an excellent job.

"But let's go back to the text that summarizes what it is to have Christ as Lord and Savior. What is it to be a real Christian? It is a change of life, a change of perspective, of goals and of the eternal place of destiny. It is a transformation into a new person who has been forgiven, free, and has been adopted as a son or daughter. Their old way of life has been left behind, their value system, their priorities, beliefs, loves and life plan are changed. Since sin no longer dominates him because he had a personal encounter with the Savior, he is now in Christ a new position before God and now lives for Him and for His eternal purposes.

"This week, we had a connection with people from the Hispanic community of Springdale. We also had a meeting with Hispanic faith leaders planning community relief events.

"We continue with the discipleship and we have two groups. Some come on Tuesday and another group comes on Friday afternoon and talks about the implications of the resurrection in the life of the believer. We had an excellent time of questions. Patty disciplined a little girl and her mother testified to the great change the girl has made, especially now that she started classes.

"Sunday was the afternoon of the movie, and we saw a Christian movie and then analyzed its message.

(9/11) "The task that the Lord has assigned me in this season of my life is to plant churches. Planting a church is the goal and I hope it will be the first of several in the area. Why is it important for the planter to know that he answers the question of what a church is? According to God's Word, it must be not only a church, but it must be biblical, healthy and strong. It is important to know that it is a

church according to the Word of God. It seems that it is something basic to know what the church is really about, but if we see around us what happens inside the 'churches' it seems that we have forgotten what it is. Some seem like entertainment centers, social clubs, places of fun for children or charity centers. This is why the planter needs to have a clear biblical concept to know what God meant for His churches. It's important to have a clear definition of what a church is and what kind of church God expects us to plant.

"The Lord calls it the pillar and support of **the truth. The church is God's central place to unfold His glory and it is different from the world.** The church plays a fundamental role in God's redemptive plan. It is so vital that God sent His Son to die for it, buying it for Him and says in His Word that He is personally the One who is building it. Where God's truth is paramount, the true Church proclaims the truth and the people who come there to hear the truth. And the truth, of course, is the revealed truth of God. He uses the truth well, defends the truth, and his members practice it in their life, worship and service.

"This week we have met to help these people, Monday we helped a couple who were newly arrived in the area with their move. Tuesday we helped with the car that was given and took it home. Wednesday, we gave biblical counseling to a woman who asked us for help and planned to divorce.

"On Friday, I attended the BMA of Ozarks association meeting and presented a brief report on what we are doing at the NWA Mission. In the afternoon we were visited by the people we are discipling week after week. It was a time of great joy as we sang, prayed and heard testimonies of what God is doing in their lives.

"Sunday, after attending the service of our mother church, we met with a man and his daughter who are very interested in being disciplined and we made an appointment to begin to disciple him on Thursdays."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, (9/4) "As I shared, my family's heart is on the neighborhood. We're covering it in prayer and expecting God to move. During the worship service at our mother church last Sunday, we were challenged to 'forgive.' This brought to our attention a neighbor with whom we haven't had the best relationship. We committed that Sunday to apologize and ask for forgiveness. That Monday, part of the fence we shared blew down. Through a peaceful text exchange, my neighbor and I planned to fix it together. That night we had a three-hour conversation, and I was able to apologize. God worked in a major way, mending a relationship we didn't think could be. Our Bible study group also committed to covering their neighborhood and networks in prayer. Within our small group, 15 neighborhoods and

networks are being covered.

"Continuing how we got here, convicted that our church couldn't be the same after COVID and wanting to see impact like the church in Iran, at Epic Church NWA we divided our church into geographical connection groups. These groups were missional, seeking to reach people in our neighborhoods and networks through Discovery Bible Studies. We had leaders emerge and begin training. I modeled the groups and our new study the 'Live Epic Dare.' Then we launched out into our 10-week studies in homes across NWA. I took a backseat and let the leaders

lead, but I wasn't on the sideline long.

(9/11) "What a week! This week not only did we start the 'Discipleship Track' Discovery Bible Study with our leaders, but we launched our second neighborhood and network Connection Group. Our original Connection Group is now our 'leader training' and, on Friday, the Woodbridge Connection Group launched. We believe in the 2x2 model Jesus had when He sent out the 12 and 72 in Scripture. This new connection group is being 'coached' or led by two of our leader families. I wasn't there! They actually felt it better for

me to stay away with my 'preacher vibes.' They were right, these two couples poured into a couple who have been out of church for a long time. It's awesome to see God work.

"On Sunday night, we had a prayer meeting in our new space at Legacy Tea & More. Our leaders gathered and did what Hezekiah did in II Kings 19 — we spread out our prayers and commitment before the Lord. We had a powerful night of prayer and commitment. Eleven committed to the mission. Former BMA State Missionary Larry Morrison spoke and prayed over the group of leaders."

Tentative Schedule

BMA of Arkansas 73rd Annual Session

Nov. 3-4 • Central Baptist College

Thursday Morning • Nov. 3 • 10 a.m.

WMA	Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex
Brotherhood	Toland Worship Center, Cooper Complex

Thursday Afternoon • Nov. 3

Four elective breakout sessions will be offered for the 2022 BMA of Arkansas meeting. These breakout sessions are provided as opportunities for practical ministry training and resourcing. Delegates will be able to attend two of the 1-hour sessions. Topics include:

- **The Power and Urgency of Prayer in the Local Church** — Larry Barker
- **Ministry Outside the Box (Creative Ministry & Using What You Have)** — Clinton Morris
- **Churches Helping Churches** — Harold Smith
- **Healthy Youth & Student Ministry** — Dan Carson

1 p.m.	Breakout Session #1	Watkins Academic Building
2:30 p.m.	Breakout Session #2	Watkins Academic Building
4 p.m.	Missionary Committee	Watkins Academic Building, Mitchell Lecture Hall
4:45 p.m.	Nominating Committee	Watkins Academic Building, TBD

Thursday Evening • Nov. 3 • 6:30 p.m. — Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex

"Healthy Churches, Healthy Association, for the Glory of God!"

Worship	
Welcome	CBC President Terry Kimbrow
Special Music	CBC Music Department
Introduction of Theme	President Michael Battenfield
Annual Message	Hershel Conley (Pastor, The Bridge, Mountain Home)
Alternate	Jimmy Brock (ABS Director, SAU, Magnolia)
Call to Business	
Enrollment/Finance Committee Report	
Seating of Messengers	
Recognition of New Churches	
Election of Officers	
Election of Annual Speaker for 2023	
Selection of Meeting Place for 2023	
Central Baptist College Report	President Terry Kimbrow
*Proposed Constitutional Amendments	
Reports from Special Guests	BMAA Departments and Ministries
Adjourn with Testimony/Verse and Prayer	

Friday Morning • Nov. 4 • 7 a.m. — Community Room, Mabee Student Services Complex

Appreciation Breakfast CBC Director of Church Relations Duffy Guyton

Friday Morning • Nov. 4 • 9 a.m. — Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex

Worship	
Devotional and Prayer	
Preliminary Enrollment/Finance Committee Report	
Reports from Special Guests (not included in Session 1)	BMAA Departments and Ministries
WMA Report	WMA President
Brotherhood Report	Brotherhood President
Master's Builders Report	Eddie Sikes
Youth Department Report	Director Dan Carson
State Missions Report	Executive Director Paul White
Revolving Loan Fund Report	Executive Director Paul White
Publications Department (<i>Baptist Trumpet</i>) Report	Executive Editor Jeff Herring
Nominating Committee Elected	
Resolutions Committee Report	
Vote on any Constitutional Amendments	
Recording Clerks' Report	
Final Enrollment/Finance Committee Report	
Other Business	
Introduction of BMA of Arkansas Officers for 2023	
Adjourn with Testimony/Verse and Prayer	