

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## Hearing the Message Of Hope in Wartime

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer •BMAA Missions

Lifeworld Global Partner and Pastor Pasha Onatsko continues to care for refugees in the middle of the war between Russia and Ukraine. When the fighting first began, he, his wife and their four children left their home in Ukraine but later returned to the city of Kiev to take care of those who need help. He said, "Right now, there are lots of people receiving Christ. Church buildings that have basements are now permanent shelters, and people just keep coming. Some only want food, but many are interested in spiritual food."

For Onatsko, that spiritual food comes in the form of videos. For a while, he was unable to produce media of any kind, but he has begun producing videos to reach those who may have lost hope.

He said there are many stories of refugees attending evangelical churches and then coming to Christ. One example is a church not far from Kiev that has gone



Pastor Pasha Onatsko

from a congregation of 120 to 1,200. Although some come for the wrong reasons, many come to hear messages of hope.

There are other examples of people searching for happiness, like a family of three non-believers (grandmother, mother and granddaughter) who left their home to escape the bombing zone with the help of two churches along the way. After arriving safely, they were invited to attend a church. They have not yet made a decision to follow Christ, but Onatsko says, "Now they can hear what God is doing and how he is impacting people in this tragic time."

The videos he produces are impactful and relevant to people needing the kind of peace only Jesus can offer, so he uses Scripture passages from every book of the Bible. He said, "God has inspired me to teach why the war is happening instead of talking about what is happening. I don't want it to be about the war, because now everything is about the war. I explain that God is in control, that he offers hope, and he is impacting people positively in this hard time. The videos show that, in every book of the Bible, God offers hope to all people."

### Team Lifeworld Info

Lifeworld Sunday is Oct. 23! We hope your church is making plans to participate!

Register your church today at [lifeworld.org/lifeworld-sunday](http://lifeworld.org/lifeworld-sunday). You



## Lifeworld Sunday T-Shirts

Lifeworld Sunday, Oct. 23, is fast approaching! This is a day to pray for, celebrate and give to the ministry of Lifeworld. Be sure to order your "No Borders" t-shirts to show your support! Adult and youth sizes are available in short-sleeved, and adult sizes are available in long-sleeved.

Visit [lifeworld.org/lifeworld-sunday](http://lifeworld.org/lifeworld-sunday) to order t-shirts, register your church and download this year's media kit.



will also find this year's video and a media kit with additional resources that you can download to help you promote this special day.

Lifeworld Sunday t-shirts are available for purchase. All proceeds go to Lifeworld's mission of sharing the love of Jesus around the world with "No Borders!"

If you need assistance registering, ordering t-shirts or downloading the video, contact Jennifer Harrell at (501) 329-6891.



## CBC Celebrates 70 Years!

On Sept. 15, 1952, Central Baptist College (CBC) opened its doors for the first time. On Sept. 15, 2022, CBC welcomed over 300 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends for a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The day's festivities were part of a year-long celebration surrounding the college's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The first event of the day was held on the campus under a tent. Guests were treated to a catered lunch of fried fish, chicken, French fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw and baked beans provided by Uncle Tim's Catfish of Conway.

Following lunch, Jim Fink, chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomed and opened the program with prayer. Terry Kimbrow, president of CBC, took the crowd back to 1952 with facts and details about the purchase of the college. He reminded guests of many different projects that have been constructed over the years. He then ended by telling them that "our most significant victory is in remaining true to our mission! Yes, it's been rewritten, reworked and reworded, but we continue to stand for the absolute truth of the verbal, plenary, inspired

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## Surviving the Judas Kiss

By Larry Geraldson

"Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him" (Matt. 26:48-50).

We have all had those experiences which left us feeling betrayed: that moment when, out of the blue, someone who claimed to be a friend stabbed us in the back. David described it this way in Psa. 41:9:

"...mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

The experience can leave us baffled, bewildered, scratching our head and wondering why. Often the motive is unclear, but the hurt is deep and difficult. Often it comes from people who have benefited from our friendship, which leaves us feeling hurt and robbed. We feel deceived and rightly so because we could not perceive their methods. David describes their methods this way: "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his

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## Sports News

By Erik Holth,  
Sports Information Director



Antioch East, Magnolia added one by baptism; Ron Owen, pastor.

Bethel, Forrest City welcomed two by letter; Marty Cantwell, pastor.

Celebration, Haskell gained two by baptism; Allan Eakin, pastor.

Center Grove, Cord received two by letter; Barry Anderson, pastor.

Landmark, England rejoices over six new members; David Inzer, pastor.

Marcus Hill, Enola reports one by letter; Kim Leach, pastor.

Milligan Ridge, Manila received one by baptism; Jeff Knowlton, pastor.

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

Spring Lake, Texarkana welcomed two by baptism; Randy Shepard, pastor.

Sulphur Springs, Fordyce gained one by baptism and one by statement; Sam Hobson, pastor.

Summers, Summers reports one by baptism, one by letter, and one profession of faith; Paul Young, pastor.

Unity, Hope rejoices over 24 baptism and 8 by letter; Nick Flowers, pastor.

## CBC

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Word of God.”

Alumnus Dr. J.E. Hughes of Forrest City provided several stories of his time at CBC, including how the school mascot became the Mustang. Then, President Kimbrow announced the newest athletic project: the CBC Mascot. The CBC Mascot was a surprise for all guests. “The Mustang will be part of athletic events moving forward, and we’re very excited to have this addition available at games and student activities,” said Student Activities Coordinator Blake Pittman.

To end the day, the new mascot escorted a big birthday cake, with sparklers and confetti. The cake consisted of 3 layers — Italian cream, chocolate and strawberry with cream cheese icing. Before the cake was served, alumnus Tom Mitchell ended the day with a few short stories and prayer. Guests were then served cake provided by Chef Don Bingham of Conway.

The second event of the day was the yearly “Meet the Mustangs.” The event was kicked off by the CBC Choir singing the National Anthem. Following the song, each of the 16 athletic teams was announced, along with the band and choir members.

The night ended with a tunnel of sparklers as CBC’s new mascot helped light the way.

and Ashleigh Gross-Mitchell competed on the women’s side and Josh Brown set a record on the men’s side. Brown’s record-setting time in the 4-mile men’s event was 27:05.9, which eclipsed the previous four-mile record by over two minutes.

## NAIA Scholar Awards

• Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 15

—The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced their Scholar Teams and Scholar-Athletes during NAIA National Awards Day. CBC had four teams and 13 individuals recognized for outstanding academic achievement. In order to be eligible for a team award, teams must post a combined GPA of 3.0 or above. The individual awards are given to student-athletes that are a junior or higher in classification and have a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the 2021-22 academic year. The four teams that earned recognition were baseball, softball, volleyball and women’s golf. The 13 individuals were from the following teams:

Baseball — Cayden Hunnicutt and Ty Decker; Cross Country — Robert Colvin; Men’s Soccer — Okikiola Ojeniyi and Andrew Montoya; Wrestling — Christian Richer; Softball — Tobi (Finley) Koonce; Women’s Basketball — Macey Decker; Women’s Golf — Keeley Bulza and Alyssa Hage-wood; Women’s Soccer — Isabelle Pietrangelo and Jayme Selph; Volleyball — Emily Farmer.

## Men’s Soccer

• St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 12 — For the second week in a row, a CBC player earned American Midwest Conference offensive player of the week honors. After Cameron Gordon was selected last week, Daniel Pinkney earned recognition for the first time as a Mustang. Pinkney scored both goals in CBC’s only game last week, a 2-2 draw with Jarvis Christian. The goals gave him a team-high four goals on the season while also giving him a team-leading nine points.

• Blue Mountain, Miss., Sept. 13 — Looking to bounce back from a draw last Thursday, CBC took on the Toppers of Blue Mountain College (BMC) at the BMC Sports Complex. CBC (4-1-1) remained unbeaten away from home, leading 2-1 at halftime before winning 3-2 over BMC (2-4).

• Conway, Sept. 17 — CBC was on the field at Centennial Soccer Park for an 11 a.m. match with the Wildcats of Louisiana Christian. CBC (5-1-1) was never threatened, scoring twice in the first half and once in the second to cruise to a 3-1 win over LCU (3-2-1) for their first home win of the season.

• Conway, Sept. 19 — CBC hosted the Warriors of Bacone College (BC) at Centennial Soccer Park for a makeup game. CBC (6-1-1) got six goals in each half and cruised to a 12-0 win over BC (2-4).

• St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 19 —

For the third consecutive week, CBC had an athlete selected for American Midwest Conference (AMC) player of the week. Cameron Gordon and Daniel Pinkney have both earned recognition on the offensive side the past two weeks and Manny Almaraz earned defensive player of the week honors this week.

## Women’s Soccer

• Blue Mountain, Miss., Sept. 13 — Amanda Parreiras scored a pair of goals for CBC as they took on the Toppers of Blue Mountain College today at the BMC Sports Complex. Her goals were the only goals for CBC (2-4-1) in a 5-2 loss to BMC (3-3).

• Conway, Sept. 15 — Playing on the road for their third straight match, CBC was at Warrior Field for a mid-week tilt against Hendrix College (HC). CBC (2-5-1) trailed 1-0 at halftime and 2-0 late before falling 2-1 to HC (4-0).

## Women’s Golf

• Kennett, Mo., Sept. 13 — Entering the final round just one shot off the lead, Alyssa Hage-wood looked for her first career individual win at the Williams Baptist University Fall Invitational at the Kennett Country Club. Hage-wood, who shot a 78 in the first round, closed with an 80 in the final round for an overall score of 158, tied for fourth overall and six shots behind the winner from Blue Mountain College.

## Men’s Golf

• Kennett, Mo., Sept. 13 — Entering the final round just eight shots off the lead, CBC looked to close the gap during the final round of the Williams Baptist Fall Invitational at the Kennett Country Club. CBC nearly equaled their first-round score of 302, firing a final round 301 to finish with a 603 (+27) overall to place third, 22 shots behind the champions, Blue Mountain College.

## Volleyball

• Little Rock, Sept. 17 — Having not played for a week, CBC was back on the floor at Crawford Mims Gymnasium for their third and final matchup of the season against the Panthers of Philander Smith (PSC). CBC (2-7) couldn’t muster much of an offense, falling in straight sets to PSC (8-3) by scores of 17-25, 26-28 and 14-25.

## Cross Country

• Searcy, Sept. 16 — Running for the second time this season and the first time in Arkansas, CBC was on the course at Harding University for the Steve Guymon Invitational. Ally Swaim, Mackenzie Milligan



## Student Ministry Matters

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## Intentional Rest

This past weekend was a big one for me. We hosted the annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat at Central Baptist College with 65 in attendance. Months of planning and gathering of resources boiled down to a final day. It was a great day, but exhausting. Student ministry workers often experience that same type of exhaustion from events that they plan in their ministries. A well-executed event brings a great deal of satisfaction as work for the Kingdom has been accomplished. However, that doesn’t change the level of tiredness that one may feel after the excitement of the day passes.

Unfortunately, many of us in ministry forget to take a break after a large event. We charge into the next thing and then the next until we can’t do any more. My exhortation is to take some time after that big event for your benefit and that of your ministry. Pause and allow some things to happen:

• **Rest for you.** When you work out muscles, you must allow them time to recover. In doing so, they can come back stronger, but if you don’t take that time, it will just start tearing you down. Jesus took time to rest, and our goal is to be like Him in all things.

• **Time to evaluate.** It is important to debrief after events. We need to pause and use the WIN tool (what went Well, what needs Improvement and what do we do Next time). If we never take time to look at what just happened, we may just keep repeating things that need to be changed.

• **A break for our family and team.** Sometimes, we charge on and forget about the people that are running the race with us. As leaders, we set a pace, but we can’t outpace those we are trying to lead. You may need to slow down and be intentional in your rest for their sake. Before our retreat, I had a church member come up and put some money in my hands. She told me that this was for the director of Student Ministry Matters to go out for a steak dinner after SMWR2022. Her thoughtfulness was so appreciated, and it reminded me to be intentional in my rest. I hope you will do the same as you serve your church and the kingdom.

## SURVIVING

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*words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords” (Psa. 55:21).*

Betrayal is real and the pain is real. But the question is, “How do I, as a believer, deal with it?” This is a challenge. Most believers do not turn to Scriptures to distill the principles and precepts necessary to properly deal with the experience. When events like this occur, we often begin to process the event in our mind, playing it back, over and over again, hoping to find some small sliver of reason or logic that might justify the pain. The problem is that the continual replaying drives the memory deeper and deeper into our psyche. Rather than exercising our hearts, we exercise the flesh. By processing it over and over, it becomes cemented into our being. We think we are distilling it for good but often, we are simply mixing it like concrete, which becomes the building material for Satan to build a stronghold, behind which we will guard an even

more dangerous problem called bitterness. Once the stronghold is built and the bitterness rooted, it can be very difficult to overcome.

By now, you may be identifying with the betrayal I have described. Maybe it was a marriage gone bad, or a child that benefited from your parenting, only later to denounce you to the face. Maybe it was a co-worker. Maybe it was a preacher who disappointed you. I have heard so many descriptions over the course of my ministry, but none seem more painful than those that happen when fellow believers betray each other. The betrayal often takes on a life of its own. It may begin with a complaint but grows into a tale told many times as something supposed, that finally passes through perception and arrives as an imagination without any brush with the truth. Almost always, it is supported by an utter lack of exercising our Christian duty to go to the person to explore the truth.

So, how do we deal with this  
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## Building Tracks To Move Forward

Mobilization is described by Todd Wilson and Rob Wegner in *Made for More* this way: “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.” You must ask this question up front, in your life and in your church: “Is the Great Commission in the driver’s seat?” Mobilization moves your church from spiritual health to living on mission, with the ultimate goal of the multiplication of disciples, leaders, groups and churches.

Matthew 9:37 makes the issue very clear — there is an abundant harvest ready to be harvested, but there is a labor shortage. This is not only a crisis in quantity (laborers are few) but also a crisis in quality (laborers are not equipped and ready). Both of these areas are crucial to a proper evaluation of your congregation. The issue is not only quantitative (how much ministry you actually provide) but also qualitative (how well you provide that ministry). If the Great Commission is in the driver’s seat, disciples are being made who make disciples. Something is wrong if our goal is making more disciples and there are not any new disciples.

Are you willing to do the hard work of making the following primary missional paradigm shifts? Mobilizing your people from internal to external in terms of ministry focus. To mobilize your leaders from program development to people development in terms of your core activity. To mobilize your congregation from being church-based to becoming kingdom-based in terms of leadership agenda. Spiritual renewal and strategic initiative work side by side and are both necessary. Spiritual renewal occurs through the Word of God, prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Strategic initiative occurs through prayerful planning and intentionality.

Developing a strategy requires building a track to move forward.

Mobilization runs on two rails — building biblical knowledge (what you know) and building biblical character (who you are). Biblical knowledge is your biblical literacy and I. Q. It stresses the importance of handling the Word of God correctly (II Tim. 2:15). This foundational rail must be laid well and properly. The other rail running parallel to biblical knowledge is biblical character and behavior. This is the application of obedience to the knowledge you have learned. Spiritual renewal shows you the next steps of strategic initiative in how you will obey His mission.

In *Total Church*, Tim Chester and Steve Timmis stated, “Being gospel-centered actually involves two things. First, it means being word-centered because the gospel is a word — the gospel is news, a message. Second, it means being mission-centered because the gospel is a word to be proclaimed — the gospel is good news, a missionary message.” Placing the Great Commission in the driver’s seat means that your church joins God on His mission. It is not just ecclesiology (what the church does) but deeper theology (who God is). Being missional is your church partnering with God in His redemptive mission in the world.

These two rails have a goal that helps to accomplish mobilizing “every disciple into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.” Kenneth E. Priddy defines the goal of building biblical character like this: “To help leaders study the Bible, know the Bible, teach the Bible and apply Scripture to life.” He defines building biblical character as helping “leaders develop and demonstrate strong biblical character in their lives, reflected in godly behaviors, decisions and relationships.” Together, they require an obedience mechanism through accountability that only occurs best in relational discipleship.

About 15 years ago, I asked my good friend, Steve Ogne, to help us put together our very own BMA

## Revivals

**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.

**Bethel, Forrest City,** Nov. 6-8, 7 p.m.; Marty Cantwell, pastor.

*Church Mobilization Toolkit.* In that toolkit, he wrote out a Mobilization Covenant for every church that would begin the journey down these tracks. Here it is: “Goal — To confirm the ownership of the senior leadership, including pastor and elders and/or deacons, for the mobilization process. This tool is best used with the deacons/elders and staff. Instructions — read, discuss, pray and commit to the following (it may take more than one meeting!)”

“We the leaders of (insert church name) covenant together to begin a process of intentional ministry mobilization that is being offered to us by the Baptist Missionary Association. We understand that the primary goals of the process are increased health, increased local mission and the multiplication of new churches. We understand that the Health Phase of the process will require us to take an objective look at our current reality, see a preferred future and align our ministry accordingly. We understand that the Mission Phase of the process will require us to focus on lost people, intentionally make disciples of lost people and multiply leaders who can do the same.

“We understand that the Multiplication Phase is designed to engage our congregation in the process of church planting. We understand that the process will require flexibility and a level of change that will not always be comfortable, and we agree to support that change with our time and our treasure for the sake of God’s Kingdom. We understand that, if all goes well, we are launching an 18 to 36-month process that will require some financial investment on the part of the church. Finally, we, the leaders of (insert church name) covenant together to positively participate and positively represent this process to the congregation.”

In church mobilization, if you are going to move your congregation forward, the rails are Building Biblical Knowledge and Building Biblical Character. Now you can begin laying the tracks down, utilizing the strategic initiative of Living Missionally, Making Disciples, Mobilizing Ministry, Leading Ministry and Planting Churches. Are you ready to mobilize? Are you preparing to mobilize?



*Just Thinking...*  
 By Dr. Tom Mitchell  
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Williams Hall at CBC before it was torn down in 2014.

## Congratulations CBC!

Thursday, Sept. 15, was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BMA of Arkansas-owned Central Baptist College in Conway.

I was just thinking about how blessed Karen and I have been because of this institution of higher learning — “a School with Christian Ideals.” We were both privileged to attend the wonderful celebration last Thursday, along with some 300 former students, administrators, faculties, staffs and community friends.

### A Personal Testimony

Graduating from Ashdown High School, I received a scholarship to pole vault at Southern State College (today know as Southern Arkansas University) in Magnolia. My goal was to be a coach.

But in August of that summer my pastor, Paul Bearfield and his wife, Johnie, convinced me to visit Central Baptist College’s dean, Wassell Burgess and my former pastor, A.R. Reddin, the president of CBC. My pastor and wife even drove me to Conway.

The visit was really a good one. I liked the college. Bro. Burgess even said they could build me a pole vault pit so I could practice while I was a CBC student. But there was no way I was going to enroll. After all, I was going to SSC and become a coach after graduation.

But I did enroll at Central Baptist College on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1964. (I am still waiting on the pole vault pit!) On Sept. 27 — almost a full month later, in room 219 of Williams Hall — I surrendered to God’s call to the gospel ministry. So much for becoming a coach!

### You Can Meet the Nicest People at CBC

In January of 1967, Karen Mitchell enrolled as a student at CBC. In December of that year, we began dating. One year later — Dec. 7, 1968 — after a ceremony in Antioch Baptist Church, we had our wedding reception in the beautiful foyer of CBC’s oldest dormitory, Bruce Hall. Karen, whose maiden name was Mitchell, married me and became Karen Mitchell Mitchell. I have long said the best thing I ever got from CBC was a beautiful, dedicated Christian wife!



In the years since, we have seen God’s abundant blessings on CBC. From an enrollment of under 200 when we attended, the college now has some 1,000 students from all over the world. From only having a basketball team in 1962, sports have flourished. What was once known as a “preacher’s school,” is now a college with 70% of the student body being athletes.

### A Family Affair

Not only were Karen and I students, at CBC, but so were our daughter and son, our son-in-law, two of our grandchildren and also their spouses. Because of this family affair, Karen and I have been involved with CBC for 58 and 56 years respectively — and we plan to continue to be involved!

### A Long Line of Leaders

In the 70-year history of Central Baptist College, God provided many great leaders — presidents, deans, faculty and staff. Through the effort of such dedicated people, who received remuneration far below what they could have earned elsewhere, God showed how He could take a dream of a few in 1952 and turn it into the great college she is today. It has been an honor for me to know every president of Central Baptist College personally. Each one made his contribution to the development of the school. Some had longer tenures than others, but none was a detriment to the advancement of education in a Christian environment.

Today, we, as the BMA of Arkansas, are blessed to have such a capable and dedicated leader of CBC as President Terry Kimbrow. I have known

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# Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions • P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878 • (501) 455.4977 • [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org)

## Cris & Alicia Samson • The Philippines

Since we arrived in the Philippines back in February of this year, things have been very unpredictable. We returned with a game plan, but as most of us already know, our plans are simply a suggestion and not to be counted on too heavily.

We first began by looking for a place to begin a new church plant. Cris' youngest brother, Sander had excitedly joined our team as a new missionary being trained and mentored under Cris' leadership. It took a couple of months to find the right place, but God gave us peace about the new location and we were very excited about the possibilities.

Since the city of San Carlos, where the new church plant is being started, is a couple of hours from our original location, Cris and I began looking for a place to live in the city of San Carlos. We prayed and searched, but unfortunately, weren't able to find a home for a family our size. However, we did come across several one-bedroom apartments that would work well for Pastor Sander. He agreed to move to the field and begin working while we continue to look for a place for our family.

Over the past several months, our family has been making regular trips to San Carlos to facilitate the work. Cris has also taken several solo trips to be available to advise and encourage Pastor Sander, who has done a great job of getting out and meeting new people. We are encouraged by his enthusiasm and willingness to be active in serving the Lord.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, we were able to conduct a gathering for parents and children. We had many volunteers from the mother church of our mission, Kharis Missionary Baptist Church, who helped in sharing the gospel, teaching children and gift giving. An invitation was given by Pastor Sander to conduct home Bible studies and many of those in attendance were interested and excited.

We are grateful for what God is doing and ask that you continue to pray for the church plant in San Carlos City and Pastor Sander. ([alicia.ramshur@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.ramshur@gmail.com))



## Stan & Donna Scroggins • The Philippines

**From Stan** — In June, I began teaching 15 pastors and missionaries the BMA DiscipleWay disciple-making course for the master's program. Dr. Philip Attebery was our guest finishing up this teaching. As a result, many of these pastors are now training their individual congregations about the importance of disciple-making. I am so pleased to begin the training of area pastors in Disciple Way.

Well, summer is officially over with both the Darlene Carey Christian Academy and the BMA Bible College open for business. Both the academy and the college have enrollments over 70. This is great, especially for the academy since children have not been in school in the Philippines for almost two years and six

months. Starting in September, I will be teaching another master level class through the BMA of America's Seminary.

We didn't know if it was going to work out, but last year we committed to travel to Israel with First Baptist Church of Magnolia (our home and sending church). The trip is planned for late October.

**From Donna** — August is over, and September begins the celebration of Christmas here in the Philippines. People everywhere will start decorating their homes, and businesses will also decorate. It makes for a long season! Also coming in October, the Massakara festival will be here in Bacolod. It is a time of dressing up with beautiful masks and outfits. There are celebrations

## Mickeal and Sharon Quillman • Zambia, Africa

As Sharon and I were preparing to move from the US to Zambia, we knew there would be many challenges to face. One of them is the struggle to understand and to be understood. Even when we are with Zambians who understand English, our southern accent can make it difficult for them to know exactly what we are trying to communicate.

I was having a conversation with a gentleman from a new church in the village of Samson this past Thursday. We were meeting with them to discuss the possibility of this new church plant to become part of the newly organized BMA of Zambia, as well as training the pastor. I was questioning the pastor and an elder about their beliefs on baptism (submersion, for believers only after salvation) and asked where they would baptize. The elder pointed to a small creek close to the church, and I asked about wildlife in the creek, namely crocodiles. He assured me that there were no crocodiles in this water and it was very safe. As we continued our conversation, "no crocodiles" shifted to "not many crocodiles." Now I don't know about you, but one crocodile is **many** to me! We had a good laugh about the difference in "none" and "not many" and closed our conversation in prayer.

When it comes to sharing

everywhere. They have waited for three years to celebrate.

We have had two weeks of class, and I am teaching two religious education classes. I am also conducting two physical education classes. We have a very large group of first-year students. We finished enrollment with over 30 new on campus students.

What used to be the beginning of just one school has now turned into the starting of two with the Darlene Carey Christian Academy along with the BMA Bible College. There are over 80 registered students for the Bible College and 70 enrolled in the academy in just the first year in the new building.

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The church in Samson, which has not been named yet.

the gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Zambia, we need to be even more clear. Many people believe in many gods and follow the traditional teachings of witch doctors. When some hear about this "unknown God," they are excited to add this God to their collection of gods. This becomes even more dangerous than wading in the creek with "not many" crocodiles because John 14:6 declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus calls for us to abandon all other gods and serve only Him. Adding even one other god for salvation brings about death.

Please continue to pray for

us as we navigate the cultural and language barriers to communicate a clear and pure gospel to the people of Zambia, and that there are no crocodiles in the baptismal waters.

Please join us in praying for the following:

- The new church in Samson Village
- The church in Delavu
- BTCP Bible school (Pastor Training)
- The village of Mbangweta — This past week a young 8-year-old boy was killed on his way home from school. This is part of the family that lost a 12-year-old girl to a crocodile attack earlier this year. ([pastorquill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorquill@gmail.com))



## Baptist Trumpet

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## Alcohol Abuse (Prov. 20:1; Isa. 5:22)

By Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

Some Christians favor the use of alcoholic beverages in moderation, whereas other believers insist on total abstinence. Some believe it is possible to drink alcoholic beverages without damaging their Christian testimonies, and others believe the only safe rule is to completely stay away from strong drink.

As a nation, little of what we say or do is based on the Word of God. We have rejected God's counsel in government, business, schools and in the family; and we are paying the price. Will we fail to recognize that God has the first and last word? As Christians, we ought to see the alternatives clearly, pray and then speak out as those who understand and are committed to the will of God.

Although widely scattered, the majority of tragic happenings all had a common cause — drinking alcoholic beverages. These tragedies take place 24 hours of every day across the nation. Forces outside the church, such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD), rise to quench the tide of useless deaths by alcohol abuse.

### The Reasons for The Liquor Problem

First, some people like the thrills that come with drinking, and nothing, including tragedy, will make them give it up. Second, our nation gives alcohol its unholy place because of our insatiable lust for profit. *Readers Digest* states that "retail sales of alcoholic beverage in one recent year totaled \$223.2 billion. From that our government claimed \$6.4 billion in federal, state and local taxes. Money over people!

The liquor industry, along with many moralists, joins in a persuasive chorus: "If people would only learn to drink sensibly, there would be no liquor problem." However, the very nature of alcohol is to weaken the will to drink in moderation. Alcohol is no respecter of persons. It can touch and destroy you or someone you love.

Observers and recent newscasts tell us that although per capita consumption of alcohol (beer, wine, vodka, gin and whiskey) has leveled off in recent years, more young people are becoming heavy drinkers, and more women are drinking now than in the past. Reports are stating that even moderate drinking by pregnant women can and will damage an unborn baby's brain for life.

### The Remedy for The Liquor Problem

In the face of facts like these, what should be the Christian's

view concerning social drinking? We must remember that a person becomes a Christian believer only by repentance of sin and faith that Jesus Christ can save your soul. Faith in Christ makes us new creations with new goals and standards. The believer will want to abstain and restrict himself to please the Lord who saved him.

There are four basic reasons that all should voluntarily abstain from strong drink:

- **The Bible proclaims that abstinence is a sound position and a solid footing.** The holy, heavenly Father required total abstinence for those in close relationship with Him. Leviticus 10:9 forbids the use of wine to priests who ministered in the tabernacle. Wine was forbidden to those under special vows to God as Nazarites (Num. 6:3). Even the "little wine for the stomach's sake" of I Tim. 5:23 refers to medicinal purposes and that was also sweet, unfermented wine.

Paul writes, "Let us walk honestly (or decently), as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness... but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh." (Rom. 13:13-14; I Peter 1:15-16).

- **The role and character of alcohol in our modern day.** Liquor today is the partner of excess and evil. One cannot drink without giving endorsement to a baneful custom and a conscienceless enterprise. It is unthinkable that a Christian or moral person should contribute to an industry that deals in thousands of deaths, misery and the total ruin of countless lives. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). One can never argue that drinking is a harmless custom when literally millions are alcoholics. We need to read II Cor. 6:14-15.

- **Drinking is harmful to the body.** Thomas Edison, the inventor, said: "To put alcohol in the body is like putting sand on the bearings of an engine. It does not belong." Shakespeare wrote it this way, "Alcohol is a poison that men take into the mouth to steal away the brain." Brain cells die when alcohol is taken into the bloodstream. Heart, liver and kidneys are also permanently affected.

- **Abstain for the sake of others, especially those who may be influenced by the example — children and teenagers.** *Moody Monthly* declares, "8 out of every 12 social drinkers succeed as moderate drinkers, but four others will fail, and one of them will drop off the precipice of addiction."

It seems clear that the only safe

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**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.

**Southwest District Brotherhood**, Oct. 11; 6 p.m. meal; 7 p.m. message; Antioch East, Magnolia.

**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.

## CONGRATS

(Continued From Page 3)

him for decades to be a person of character and diligence who loves our Lord. I am amazed at his relationship with the students, administration and faculty. He is well known in the community, and that relationship has benefited the school in many ways. He has generously offered the school as a meeting place for the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas' annual session year after year, and that has been a blessing in so many aspects. The staff always makes each meeting a wonderful event.

### Support CBC And Give Your Prayer Share

Central Baptist College is a private institution. She depends upon the churches and individuals for support. While there are grants to help with buildings and scholarships, the school needs our generous financial support. I urge every church in our association to put the school into your budget. But please, give your prayer share of support as well. Pray for the administration, faculty and staff. And above all, pray for the wonderful young men and women who are students — without them there would be no school!

Well... once again, that's what I was just thinking! Congratulations, Central Baptist College, and God bless you all.

principle is total abstinence from alcoholic beverages in any form. In light of the extreme cost (deaths, property and health), alcohol is a luxury we cannot afford. If you wish to be high, let Jesus, God's Son, lift

## A Sip From The Saucer

By Valarie Fish

P.O. Box 66 • Emerson, Ark. 71740 • dvfish@swat.coop



## There, But for Grace...

In the early 1500s, a reformer and martyr in the church of England, John Bradford is attributed an oft-repeated quote. Upon seeing a group of prisoners being led to execution, he said "But for the grace of God goes John Bradford."

I have heard it in many sermons and testimonies — "There, but for the grace of God, go I." Intended to be a statement of humility, the sentiment is such that without God's grace I could be, or maybe even would be, in the same situation as this poor, sin-laden person. Sometimes though, to me, it feels like false humility. Almost like the Pharisee in the temple pounding his chest and praying, "Thank you, God that I am not a sinner like these other people" (paraphrase from Luke 18:11).

What keeps me from being a sinner just like those other people?

The answer, you would say, is the grace of God, the unmerited favor of God. When God gives me what I do not deserve — that is grace. Something about the quote still seems lacking. If I were one of the sinners in Bradford's line, I might think I could turn it around — if only I had the grace of God and then I wouldn't be in this mess.

The problem I have is that I am not the only one who has been offered grace. Those other sinners have been offered the same amount of grace. So what makes me different? Why am I not in the queue of condemned sinners? We have all been offered grace.

The quote is not found anywhere in the Bible, but Bradford was quite possibly thinking of Paul in I Cor. 15:10 where he said: "By the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace given me was not in vain." My amplified version says "...His grace toward me was not without effect."

We have all been given grace. Paul told the Ephesians, "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift" (Eph. 4:7). What makes the difference is what you do with the grace you have been given. Paul recognized he was not worthy to be an apostle and not worthy of the favor and blessings of God. As a result, he said: "In fact, I worked harder than all of the apostles, though it was not I, but the grace of God with me" (I Cor. 15:10 AMP).

Our society has a problem with individual accountability. There is a generation that wants to blame others for mistakes and wrong choices. Playing the victim is so much easier than admitting when you are wrong. Perhaps you may even blame God for not being gracious enough — if only I had the grace of God, then I wouldn't be in this mess.

Once you recognize the gift of grace, you must choose what kind of effect this gift will have on you. Will grace be a one-time gift you leave on the shelf? A pretty package you never open? Or will you tear open the gift box and use grace to season every decision, every thought and every action you make?

With all due respect to John Bradford, there, but for accepting and applying the grace of God... but for yielding my own will to His grace... but for allowing His grace to change my heart... but for embracing my new life in Him, go I.



**Kids Crusade**, Sept. 25-28; 5:30-7 p.m.; theme — On The Case; Parkview, North Little Rock; Dr. Brian Sheppard, pastor.

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

**Gospel Singing**, featuring New Start; Oct. 1; 6 p.m. (no meal); Faustina, Harrell.

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

you up: "ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

Recommended websites and readings: PacHills.com; gricetrack.net; *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grace* by Ed Welch; and *God is For the Alcoholic* by Bernard Palmer.

Mansion, Little Rock.  
**Lifeward 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.  
**BMA of America**, April 25-27, 2023; Antioch Baptist Church, Conway.  
**National Galilean Camp**, June 23-26, 2023; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.  
**SOAR Student Conference**, July 3-5, 2023; Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Texas

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## The Great Deception Trap is Set (Part IV)

It's often easier to imagine an unimaginable sci-fi thriller unfolding to the end of the age than an unrestrained, real-life evil. There are clearly sci-fi events detailed to occur at the end, but most of what we read in the Bible about the end-times is an unrestrained version of life as we know it. Somehow it is easier to conjure up an out-of-this-world ending rather than an ending rooted in this world.

Jesus compared the end of the age to the flood in Noah's lifetime and the destruction of the cities in Lot's time. Though both the flood gushed forth and the door of the ark was sealed supernaturally, most of the Great Flood account is rooted in the real world. The same is with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

I believe it's important that we see this same principle as we extend our thinking of the final days to come, and even more so regarding the foretold Great Deception. Though Satan works through the Antichrist and False Prophet supernaturally, these men will be an extension of the natural world we know.

Previously, we established that the Antichrist and his empire will arise from the Middle East, making it highly likely his religion will be Islam. Therefore, if it's Islam then it's likely these two will be the long-awaited individuals within Islam — the Mahdi and Isa (the Muslim Jesus). We have also looked at how Islamic eschatology is the exact opposite of ours: their Messiah or Mahdi perfectly matches our Antichrist and their Isa or Jesus perfectly matches our False Prophet. I don't share these things to say Islam is correct, but to warn that, through their teachings, Satan has likely set the trap of the Great Deception.

There's one other counterfeit figure in Islam's end-times scenario and, crazily, he is an exact counterfeit to Jesus at His Second Coming. This

person is called the Dajjal. The Dajjal is viewed as the Antichrist within Islam and, to a certain extent, the False Prophet, too. It seems Satan has made it so that when the real Jesus returns, those under Islam's hold will view the real Jesus as the Antichrist and Great Deceiver.

Let's review what we believe about Jesus' return. At His second coming, the Jewish people will be pushed to the brink of survival. They will be encircled by the Antichrist, his army and the armies of the world gathered with Him. A remnant will have turned back to God. Then at that eleventh hour, the skies will break open, and Jesus will return on the white horse with the army of Heaven to fight the Antichrist on behalf of Israel.

*"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. Then I saw the beast (Antichrist) and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast (Antichrist) was captured, and with it the false prophet... The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur" (Rev. 19:11-20NIV).*

Thinking about those details, check out this list from Joel Richardson's *Islamic Antichrist* on Islam's view of the Dajjal:

- He will be a great deceiver.

## Deaths

**Vicki Lou Bull**, 70 of Conway, passed away Sept. 14. She was a member of Central Baptist Church.

**Hattie Lee Hankins**, 104 of Greenbrier, passed away Sept. 12. She was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

**Tommy J. Pulliam**, 64 of Harrison, passed away Sept. 12. He was a member of Red Oak Baptist Church.

**Deborah Ann Humway**, 73 of Jonesboro, passed away Aug. 29. She was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

## Opportunities For Service

**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,

- He will have miraculous powers.
- He will pretend to have power over this world.
- He will deceive the world by healing people.
- He will pretend to be the Messiah.
- He will have something unique with his eyes.
- He will have a name written on him.
- He will be an "infidel" — not a Muslim.
- He will be a Jew.
- He will perform false miracles.
- He will claim to be Jesus Christ.
- He will claim to be the Son of God.
- He will travel the world at great speeds on a giant magic mule.
- He will have an army of Christians and Jews.
- A remnant of remaining Jews will follow Him.
- He will fight the Mahdi and Muslim Jesus.
- The Muslim Jesus will defeat him.

Crazy, isn't it? It's like a schoolyard child came up with a pretend game to confuse others. Yet the second largest religion in the world, which is on track to surpass Christianity, holds to this.

A contemporary imam wrote about the Dajjal: "The army of Satan will be led by a person who will claim to be Jesus Christ himself. The Muslims will call him the Dajjal or the Deceiver. The real Jesus' army will fight the Dajjal's army and defeat him. The empire of Israel will fall, and the religion of Islam will prevail."

I'm confused even writing about this! I'm sure you're equally confused reading it. Can you imagine then what a deception this could be?

— Jake is the newest state missionary and would love to share about the work in Northwest Arkansas and encourage your church to stand firm ([standfirmministries.com](http://standfirmministries.com)).

**What I See...**  
 from THE HEDGE  
 Association of BAPTIST STUDENTS  
 Roots to last a lifetime thehedgeuark.com  
 By Stuart Estes  
 Ministry Team Leader  
 thehedge.uark@gmail.com



## "Sitting on Top of the Hill"

Summer is a slow time for a campus ministry, and an even slower time for a campus minister. Before I came to this work, I was working in corporate America. One of the things that made me successful in that world was my tendency to stay busy. I like to be busy. I like to check things off a list, look back at the end of the day and say, "See what I accomplished!"

But this summer, I found that while there are things to do at the ministry, there's just no way around it — it's slow without students around. So I had time to think about things. One of those things was an interesting passage in II Kings 1 that caught my eye.

After evil King Ahab died, his son, Ahaziah had a mortal accident. He sent some of his people to a neighboring country to inquire of their gods if he would live. The angel of the Lord came to the prophet Elijah and told him to go rebuke the king for going to ask these false gods what he could have easily asked the God of Israel, and that the king would surely die as a result of that. When this message was relayed to him, Ahaziah is, of course, angry; so he sent some guards to presumably capture Elijah.

Then the king sent to him a captain of 50 men with his 50. He went up to Elijah, **who was sitting on the top of a hill**, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down'" (I Kings 1:9).

This one part stuck out to me about this story — Elijah was just sitting on the top of a hill. What was he doing? Here was the prophet who had just delivered a damning message to the king of Israel, and he was out sitting on top of a hill?

So, I'm thinking he's either a madman or he has some purpose in this. While Elijah did do some crazy things, I don't think we can characterize him as mad. The more I think about it, the more I see that this little phrase has a lot to say about this man's cyclical work pattern.

Think about it. Elijah would receive a message from the Lord, go deliver said message and complete any accompanying work. Then he would go off by himself to sit on a hill and do what? **Wait upon the Lord.** Once he heard from the Lord, the process would start again.

This is a new perspective for a guy like me. It's in my nature to view activity as productivity. But that's a common human error. The number of things I do often has very little to do with the level of productivity in my life. What the Lord showed me through this story of Elijah is that I don't have to manufacture work for myself in the slow moments. He would rather me go to the hill and sit patiently, earnestly seeking His face and will.

So this summer was about that. I took the time He had provided and tried to seek His face. Now that students are back and life is getting busy again, I'm thankful that He led me to this interesting little story about Elijah. For a campus minister that serves The Hill in Fayetteville going to the hill of the Lord is still a life-giving and necessary task.

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

196 Hempstead CR 351, Nashville, Ark. 71852.

**Eastside Baptist Church in Lono** 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](mailto:cooperr@manilaschools.org).

**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](mailto:pinebrookpastorsearch@gmail.com) before Oct. 14.



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## Missionaries

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 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
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 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984  
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**PAUL WHITE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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## Busy Times

The fall is our busiest time of the year with regular obligations, occasional invitations to share and the many local association meetings that keep us on the road.

This week is setting up to be another busy one with an appointment on Tuesday with attorneys concerning a church closing, our annual visit with our auditors at the office on Wednesday and Thursday's Central Arkansas association meeting.

It has been good to be able to assemble with our churches after having had our opportunities disrupted in 2020 and 2021.

### Homecoming

I have been asked to attend Highland Hills' homecoming services Sunday. I look forward to returning there as it was my first and only attempt to plant a church. The 10 years I was there were some of the highlights of my years of ministering. God truly poured out His blessing on that work. Having left there in 2009, I am happy to see her continuing to be a light in that part of the state. Paul Vincent is currently the pastor and is doing a great job. It will be good to see old friends and to make new ones.

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Rosa and Ramon invited us to have coffee at their house. When we arrived, they introduced us to Mireya, who is a university teacher in Mexico and has recently moved to Arkansas. We had a nice conversation and were able to share some biblical principles. We invited them to our prayer meeting the following night. Additionally, we informed them that neither Sayra nor I would be there, since my mother-in-law's flight would arrive at that time, and I would be teaching the Bible Study Methods class at the Bible Institute.

"The next day, Rosa, Mireya and Rocio arrived at the meeting. Incredibly, they brought a guest! Let's keep praying for them.

"On Sunday, we celebrated our worship meeting within the framework of the independence festivities of the countries represented in our congregation — Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras

and Chile. Each representation shared customs and characteristics of their country. Some brought typical costumes and each family prepared typical meals. We broke piñatas and played in the green area of the temple. We had a nice day of communion.

"María Luisa, a lady from Honduras, visited us for the first time. She integrated easily into the group and participated in all the activities. We pray that she continues to attend."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "Today I feel nostalgic because baseball season is over and so is my chaplaincy for the season. It is a blessing to know every Hispanic player I spent time with as a chaplain. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> season and each one has been special. Each season, I teach them the Word of God, pray for their needs and am a friend in the season. I minister not only to the Travelers players but also to the visiting team. This year, I provided chaplaincy to boys from the Dominican Republic, Panama, Mexico and Venezuela. Thank you

to those of you who pray for me and support me; you are a team with me.

"At Ebenezer, we are already preparing for the men's retreat. We will be studying the book of Titus. I will be leading a workshop on the inductive Bible study method based on the letter of Titus.

"We have four brothers from Ebenezer enrolled in the Arkansas Missionary Baptist Theological Institute. In three weeks, I can see their growth in the knowledge of the Word of God. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great week at Faith Chapel, with a new second most ever attendance. We had two first-time visitors that we almost already knew. They were friends of some of the first members that had invited them and told us about them and had been watching online for a long time. They hadn't been attending church since COVID and came to visit. It was almost like welcoming old friends, and we were so happy they came. We are praying they will return.

"We have been very busy trying to finalize our plans and counting the costs for our new building. We did see some visual evidence of the work this week. We put up the street sign on our new road — Faith Chapel Lane — and we put up two large signs saying 'Future Home of Faith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Come Grow With Us.' You can see pictures of them on our Facebook page, and you can like and follow us there. It seems to have generated a lot of interest and excitement, not only in our members but in the community as well. We are excited about what the Lord is going to do in Flippin, in us and with us.

"We thank you for your support, and especially for your prayers! Please continue praying fervently — God is hearing and answering them."

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "We are planning a baptism service for Gio. I am so excited to see what God is doing in his life and the direction he is headed. Pray for us as a church as we figure out how to continue to engage him and his precious family. They have now moved 40 minutes away and this makes in-person meetings very difficult. We are looking into some halfway meeting points to have a Bible study.

"DeAnna and I are taking a

10-week break from running our Monday evening event at our house. The holiday season and the event are clashing. So instead of stressing, we have decided to take a break. We will be restructuring the event in January.

"I have had so many great meetings with people these last two weeks. I also have been on a bit of a roller coaster when it comes to plans. It seems like everything is stacking up from October through November. I am praying for strength to see me through these next few months.

"I had three amazing discipleship opportunities/conversations last week. The Table has leaders who are growing both in the knowledge of who God is, and in their ministry directive. I stand in awe of what God is doing. He is tackling all the issues, one by one."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "Faith Journey has had a busy week. I had the privilege of working alongside The Master's Builders for a day at our mother church — Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell. These great folks have come to help build walls and get us moving forward on the addition to our present building. It has been a pleasure to get to know these men and their wives and to see how God is using them to help local BMA churches and missions to expand God's kingdom. They are great examples of people doing God's work.

"We are continuing our study of Joshua this week. In Joshua 9, we can see that it is so imperative to consult with God in all decisions before we make them. The chapter reminds us of the importance God puts on His promises and oaths and we, as Christians, should feel that same importance in keeping our promises and oaths to those in our lives.

"Please pray for Faith Journey as we continue to reach people in our community and that we will have a productive week in building the kingdom of God."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). The word Christian comes from Christ, who was the founding leader of this movement. A Christian is someone who has been bought through the sacrifice of Christ, who has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and who, in his life, displays clear evidence (fruits) that manifests itself in a change in his life. Since there is a before and after in the life of the new believer, a real Christian is a person who has confessed to being a sinner before God, who has asked God for forgiveness for those sins (Acts 2:38), who has accepted the sacrifice of the cross as the only thing who can cleanse his sins (Rom. 5:9) and who has come to confess Christ as Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:9-10). And his life gives evidence that this transformation

has occurred. "So by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20).

"We also have the nominal Christian. Nominal means by name only. It refers to people who identify with the Christian movement without living by the standard set by Christ. Hence, there is an obvious contradiction between what they profess and what they live in practice. Which one do you identify with?"

"Monday, God glorified greatly as I was evangelizing in Springdale and three people accepted Christ. Another woman reconciled with the Lord, and we are going to visit her this week to begin a process of discipleship with her and her husband.

"Tuesday, we continued to evangelize, and we were praying for four people. Thursday, we began to disciple a young man, and on Friday we had the meeting of our small group of seven people. We were worshipping with songs and sharing the lesson of our weekly discipleship. Saturday, we went to the Hispanic festival that was celebrating the daily care where Patty works. We were talking to a couple, and we invited them to our small group. They accepted the invitation and will accompany us next Friday.

"Almighty God has opened doors and people are being touched with the gospel. When we live the gospel, we are making it visible and as we live the mission of God, the Holy Spirit brings conviction in people and people accept Christ. Glory to God by His wonderful grace."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "This Sunday is our first corporate gathering. Sunday, Sept. 25 at 5 p.m., we are hosting our first collective gathering worship night. We will be using our rented space — Legacy Tea & More. The worship band from our mother church, Epic Church NWA, will lead in worship. Connection group members will be sharing throughout the worship time, and I will also share. We're super excited about the response we've had in invites.

"Our meeting space is in an awesome location but isn't furnished or equipped for such an event, but God has provided. Epic Church has provided use of any needed sound equipment and chairs; Fellowship, Bella Vista has given us a soundboard and That Church in Cabot has given us a sound system and lighting. Through the startup funds provided by you through State Missions and the BMA of the Ozarks, we were able to cover other needs and purchase signs. Pray that those who have shown interest will come.

"I look forward to sharing the results of the gathering next week. We will follow this gathering up with a preview night of our Connection Group studies. We were also blessed to have a first-time visitor to our Connection Groups this week."



(L/R) Patty, Rosario and Vicki in Guatemalan attire.

(L/R) Gianna in Guatemalan attire and Julieth in El Salvadoran attire.

## SURVIVING (Continued From Page 2)

according to Biblical principles and precepts? Jesus said in Matt. 5:10-12: *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."*

• **We need to understand that we are "blessed."** If we handle this kind of experience correctly, we will remember that we are blessed, and we will replace the broken record that plays over and over in our minds with a regular and routine reciting of our blessings. Counting our blessings is one of the greatest *"weapons of our warfare"* that can quickly bring light back into the dark thoughts that have prevailed in our minds.

• **We need to exercise the things we know in our hearts, not in our heads.** As a believer, you have a new nature. With Jesus in your heart, your heart becomes your *"city of refuge."* Run to it and stay there. Remember Gal 2:20: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Also, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Phil. 4:13). Also, Psa. 61:3-4: *"For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in*

*thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings."*

• **We need to pray for those who have done us wrong.** This is extremely difficult. It's like the first attempt to walk after knee replacement. Exercising an area that is sore and hurting is not easy at all. But remember what Jesus said in Matt. 5:44: *"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."* Praying is so important. My personal list is longer than I would like, but the reality is that through my journey of faith, there have always been names on my list of people I pray for, who have *"done me much evil."* It goes with the territory. As Christians, we remember what the Scripture says in II Tim. 3:12: *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*

The one constant that my enemies can know of me is that they will be prayed for, and their specific names will be recited before God often. Psalm 143:1-4 says, *"Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate."*

The whole of this process is described by Paul in II Cor. 10:4-6: *"(For the weapons of our warfare are*

*not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."*

• **Finally, the truth will be known eventually.** Let me remind you what Jesus said in John 8:32: *"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* This reality is one that I have seen proven again and again in my life and ministry. Eventually, the truth will be known.

Always remember that Jesus suffered the ultimate betrayal. He was betrayed by Judas because of our guilt. The pain and the hurt He bore for us are incomparable to any pain and suffering we could ever imagine. They lied about Him and accused Him of things that were not true, and ultimately, they killed Him. He willingly suffered and died for my sake. So, I remind myself (when I read Matt. 5:11-12) — *"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven"* — that I am no better than my Lord.

So, be patient, exercise your heart in the principles and precepts of God's Word, count your blessings and hide in the person of Jesus Christ. In time, He will free you

from the persecution of evil-doers. Sometimes you may feel like you're standing alone, but never forget what Paul said in II Tim. 4:17-18: *"Notwithstanding the Lord stood*

*with me, and strengthened me... And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

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