

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 83

September 28, 2022 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 3



## Local-Church Driven

By Dr. John David Smith, President • BMA Global Missions

We believe 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 it fulfills 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

### MOVING with Ministers and Staff

To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at [www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com).

**Danny Bullock** has accepted the pastorate of Antioch West Baptist Church in Magnolia.

**Gene Fulcher** is the new pastor at Weddington Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

**Calvary Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas** is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to Pastor Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 2021 S. Davis, Arlington, Texas 76010.

**Franklin Street Baptist Church in Farmerville, La.** is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to Search Committee, P.O. Box 268, Farmerville, La. 71241.

The **BMA of Missouri** is seeking to fill the position of editor for our monthly newspaper, *The Missouri Missionary Baptist*. This is a departmental director position and is part-time. The committee will begin considering applicants immediately, and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Resumes may be sent to [mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net) or Editor Search Committee, 704 Valley Road, Potosi, Mo. 63664.

in the 33-year period 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 Matt. 28:19-20 the Great Commission, and 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.

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## Discipleship: Less Assembly Line and More Artisanship

*Editor's note: This article is written by a creative access missionary so the name is being withheld.*

On Dec. 1, 1913, Henry Ford installed the first moving assembly line for the mass production of the automobile. With this new method—what once took 12 hours now took less than 2 hours—cars were being produced faster than the paint could dry. Today, Ford's assembly line has been improved by automation, computers and machines replacing the cost, error and slowness of human labor.

That's great for production and for a company whose bottom line is margin, but mass production is a bad model for Christian discipleship. Unfortunately, there are a lot of churches today that think of discipleship in terms of Ford's assembly line factory. Books, videos and a one-size-fits-all program... let's just churn out disciples as quickly and effortlessly as possible.

Scripture teaches that discipleship is less assembly line and more artisanship. Assembly line is rapid reproduction. Artisanship is relationship. Assembly line is about quantity. Artisanship is about quality. Jesus' key words on discipleship must not be overlooked. "Go and make

See DISCIPLESHIP, Page 5



## Part One: Church Revitalization And Discipleship at South City Church

By Heidi Sorrells, Pastor Advocate • Healthy Church Solutions

This is the first article in a two-part series.

When considering this article, it didn't take long for our team to think of the discipleship movement happening at South City Church in Little Rock. In a recent interview, Pastor Drew Cline shared about the prayer life it takes and the process that South City has been following leading up to this moment. He's quick to say that they are a long way from where they want to be but adamant that they are not turning back!

South City is a replant of Temple Baptist Church, and they recently celebrated five years. Over those fledgling years, the church has been committed to revitalizing under the leadership of its pastors and elders. The following is their vision and mission: "We exist to love God and all people by becoming authentic disciples who make disciples for the glory of God and the good of the city." There is no question: Discipleship is why they exist. In fact, if you check out core values on their website,

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Terry Kimbrow  
President

## CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

**Central Baptist College**  
1501 College Ave. • Conway, Arkansas 72034  
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Twitter: @CentBaptCollege and @tkimbrow

## CBC Hires VP Of Enrollment Management

Central Baptist College is pleased to announce the addition of Brooks Walthall, vice president for Enrollment Management. Walthall received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Central Arkansas and his Master of Arts in Education from Western Kentucky University. Most recently, Walthall served as dean of Workforce and Continuing Education at Southern Arkansas Community College in El Dorado. Walthall comes to CBC with over 25 years of experience in the field of education. He is no stranger to CBC. He served as registrar and director of the PACE Program from 2016-2019. He and his wife, Susie are members of Central Baptist Church in Conway.



## Upcoming PACE Registration

Are you considering going back to school? Are you afraid you can't finish your degree and work full-time? You have the opportunity to enroll in the last five-week class of the fall semester in the CBC PACE Program. Our next PACE registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 17. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option. There has never been a better time to get started.

With eight enrollment periods per year and five-week courses, you always have an opportunity to try us out. From now until the end of the 2023 spring semester, we are offering your first class for free! Be looking for more information on this in upcoming articles. You can take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church. We also have a Ministry Tuition and Veterans Tuition grant available.

The enrollment process begins by applying or scheduling a virtual meeting with one of our personal enrollment officers. Visit [cbc.edu/pace](http://cbc.edu/pace) to apply. If you have questions, contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or (501) 205-8893.

## CHURCH

(Continued From Page 1)

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 internal-

ize 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



## Women’s Soccer

• **Conway, Sept. 20** — Returning home for the first time in 15 days, CBC hosted the Royals of Ecclesia College at Centennial Soccer Park. CBC (3-5-1) got a pair of goals in the first half and one in the second half to pick up a 3-0 win over EC (0-5).

• **Conway, Sept. 24** — Opening the American Midwest Conference (AMC) portion of their schedule, CBC hosted the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy (UHSP) in St. Louis. CBC (4-5-1, 1-0 AMC) was drawing with UHSP (0-3, 0-2 AMC) 0-0 at halftime, before surrendering a second-half goal and then coming back to win 2-1.

## Volleyball

• **Grambling, La., Sept. 21** — Playing on a Wednesday for the first time in a long time, CBC was on the floor at the Hobby Assembly Center for the Exit 81 Classic, hosted by Grambling State. CBC (2-8) fell to the hosts Grambling (3-7) 3-0 by scores of 8-25, 14-25 and 17-25.

• **Conway, Sept. 24** — Returning home for the first time in 13 days, CBC opened the AMC portion of their schedule with a visit from Lyon College. In front of a raucous crowd at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, CBC (2-9, 0-1 AMC) fought hard, taking Lyon (7-7, 1-0 AMC) to five sets, losing 3-2 by scores of 17-25, 25-27, 25-13, 25-22 & 11-15.

## Men’s Soccer

• **Conway, Sept. 24** — Looking to extend their winning streak to four in a row, CBC hosted the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis in their AMC opener at Centennial Park. CBC (7-1-1, 1-0 AMC) trailed 1-0 at the half but got three second-half goals to down UHSP (0-5, 0-1 AMC) 3-1.

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 support the church in the mission. We pray that your church will be evangelizing, baptizing, discipling and planting other churches. Our mission is local-church driven.

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)



## AJ • Reaching the 10/40 Window

*Editor’s Note: For security reasons, this missionary’s name and ministry location are not being shared.*

The past couple of months have flown by so fast! So much to update, here are a few highlights:

**Life Changes** — Lots of exciting changes have happened in my life in the last three months. I am living in a new town, in a new apartment and started a new job! You might be thinking... “Wait, why all these changes now? I thought you were moving to the mission field soon?” You are right! I will be moving again soon, but not until next August. God provided me with a beautiful apartment with a lease that ends just in time for me to move to my missions training program.

I say I am living in a new town, but it’s not so unfamiliar to me. This is the city where I attended college and where I now work. It is just as much home as anywhere. He also provided me with an excellent new job that I have **loved** so far! The clinic I am now working at provides functional therapy services to kids with severe delays and disorders. The cool thing is our clinic will be at a farm soon (yes, a real farm). We are in the process of building “The Farm,” but in the meantime, the kids have been able to participate in functional therapy activities such as farmers’ markets (with veggies they planted themselves).

**Support Raising** — God has given me the opportunity of speaking at seven churches so far, and I have been invited to speak at several GMA and WMA meetings coming up! It has been so exciting to meet so many of my brothers and sisters in Christ and share about my ministry. The BMA requires you to have at least three months of balance in your support fund and have 100% of your monthly support pledged before you leave for the field. Praise God that He has already provided the three months of balance through some amazing individuals and churches. I am now praying that He will continue to provide those monthly support pledges! I have the following Sundays open to speak with your church or group, please get in touch with me if you are interested: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30.

**International Student Ministry** — Did you know that 80% of international students who come to America for higher education **never** get invited into an American’s home? What an amazing opportunity we, as Christians, are missing to build relationships and share the gospel. The entire world is in our backyard in the form of international college students, and God has placed an opportunity in my life that I am so excited about!

I am helping our local college ministry, Perspective, begin an international student outreach team. I have a group of about 7-8 students who have committed to being leaders in this ministry. We had our first meeting this past week and will meet for about three more weeks to talk about and strategize how to reach out to international students on the three college campuses here in Conway. Please pray for this amazing opportunity!

**Prayer Requests** — For the students who have committed to being a part of the International Student Outreach Team, for my new friend from Nepal I met through international student outreach (pray I will have more opportunities to build a relationship with her) and for me as I continue raising support and reaching out to churches and individuals.

If you or your church are interested in supporting me on this journey, please contact me at [arkslp@protonmail.com](mailto:arkslp@protonmail.com) or (501) 314-9806. Support can be mailed to BMA Missions, PO Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72032 or given online at: [bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org) (select Designate my offering and choose “AJ”). My current mailing address is 3670 Jeanna Drive, Apt. 423, Conway, Ark. 72034.



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## 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.

**Milligan Ridge, Manilla,** Oct. 24-28, 7 p.m.; Hershel Conley, evangelist; Mike Colvin, 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.

*faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place... not knowing where he was going*" (Heb. 11:8). Now that is faith!

Dying churches exercise no-risk faith. They are committed to protecting whatever limited resources they might have. They struggle to put anything at risk while holding on for a rainy day and being paralyzed by indecision. Fear and apprehension rule the day. Ironically, the decision not to make a decision is a decision and, quite often, the wrong decision. Status quo churches exercise low-risk faith. They are committed to being cautious, guarded and prudent. They seem to be willing to try new ideas, but only in situations they can control. Most decisions are resource decisions, and they focus on maintaining what they have.

What is God doing in your church that can only be explained by the power of God? Healthy, thriving churches exercise high-risk faith. They are committed to following God wherever He leads, regardless of contingency. No risk is too high when God's leading is ascertained. Prayer and obedience are values with much time and energy being invested in pursuing God's will. The expectation is that God will, in fact, guide and direct you as you seek Him. It is a faith journey that is willing to risk everything, except faith. There is a willingness to move forward, even when the outcome is uncertain and the decision appears risky.

Living missionally demands sacrificing your comfort zone and moving your church from a congregation focus to a lost community focus. Are you able to identify ways you are equipping your people to live missionally? How are you mobilizing your church for mission in your city and community? When is the last time you led them on a mission trip in your neighborhood?

If you are not careful, all your training and equipping will focus on serving one another in the church. What will your church do to help your leaders and congregation live missionally every day, in every corner of culture and into every sphere of society?



## Building Missional Capacity

Mobilization moves your church from spiritual health to living on God's mission daily. The tracks for moving the church forward in God's mission are built on the rails of 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. 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.

The first track that must be laid down and established is living missionally. Mobilization requires moving your church from being inwardly focused to being outwardly focused (see Luke 15). How will you strategically connect with your community and those who are far from God? Being missional is your church partnering with God in His redemptive mission in the world. It is discerning how you will increase your ministry footprint in a culture that is far from God. Is your ministry capacity increasing? You never pray more like Jesus desires you to pray than when you ask Him to send forth laborers into the harvest.

This demands more than holding services and conducting Bible studies. Churches have a lifecycle with three stages — inclining, reclining and declining. An inclining church is healthy and growing. The ministry capacity of an inclining church is always increasing. A reclining church has leveled off and, if not careful, begins to accept the status quo. The ministry capacity of a reclining church is maintaining. The declining church is in danger of dying if revival and renewal do not occur soon. The ministry capacity is decreasing quickly. How would you describe your ministry capacity?

Ministry is important in many areas but allow me to focus on two: Quantity and Quality.

First is quantity, and the question is, "Do we have a labor shortage?" Yes! Is this because there are not enough people to do the job that needs to be done or is it the lack of motivation or equipping to do the job God has called you to do?

Then the question of quality is, "Are we providing ministry that is motivated by excellence?" One definition of excellence is doing the best we can with what we have. There is always room for improvement.

Your prayer and desire should be to focus on both of these areas to minister well to as many people as you can.

Quantitative ministry answers the question of how much ministry your church provides (Worship, Discipleship, Connection Groups, Ministry Teams, Service Opportunities, Outreach Events). Qualitative ministry answers the question of how good a job you are doing in these areas. More missional leaders create more missional opportunities. More missional opportunities create more missional ministry. More missional ministry creates more missional disciples. This process is hopefully unending (II Tim 2:2) and always repeating. It begins with getting outside the walls of the church and building relationships with people who are far from God.

This will require faith and obedience. Habakkuk 2:4 makes it clear, "The just shall live by faith." In context, the prophet is stating that there is hope for those who will hold firm to their trust in God as calamity comes. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that "Without faith it is impossible to please Him."

Increasing your missional capacity will require a high-risk faith. That kind of faith is believing God regardless of the situation or your feelings. This high-risk faith is Holy Spirit led risk. "By

*Just Thinking...*

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## The Hearsay of Heresy

Due to some subjects that have come up in recent weeks in the Men's Sunday School Class at Chenal Valley Baptist Church, I was just thinking about the evidence in our era that we are, indeed, living in what the New Testament refers to as "the last days." One such evidence is what I call "The Hearsay of Heresy."

The word "hearsay" refers to receiving unverified, unsubstantiated information from a person or source. It is important that we also note the definition of "heresy." It is a belief or teaching that is at odds with what is accepted, especially when it is contrary to biblical doctrine or belief.

In this column, I will share quite a lot of Scripture because God's Word is truth, and to battle heresy, we must depend upon the truth.

### The Biblical Truth About Heresy in the Last Days

The apostle Paul wrote to his young protégé, Timothy: "The Spirit clearly says that in later time some will abandon the faith and following deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1-2 NIV).

Some may say these heretics have always been around. That is true, but they will be more abundant as the time of Christ's return approaches. We are living in a time when, wherever one turns, there is a "new" revelation from God as taught by those who contradict the Bible's instruction.

Our world is inundated with false teachers. From television to radio, books and the internet, well-meaning believers fall prey to fine-sounding teaching that is far from the truth of God's Word. Paul said to Timothy (and to pastors and teachers today): "If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather train yourself to be godly" (I Tim. 4:6-7).

### Some of the Hearsay of Heresy

Many of the heresies being taught in these last days have lingered for decades. False teachings are abundant, including:

- Jesus is a way to Heaven, but He is not the only way;
- Salvation is not by faith alone, but by works and baptism;
- No one is truly saved unless he or she speaks in tongues;
- Jesus was not born of a virgin;
- Jesus didn't actually die on the cross, He just soul slept;
- God doesn't want Christians to be poor, so give to this ministry or that in order to become rich (the prosperity gospel); and
- Stories of the Old Testament are myths — there was no parting of the Red Sea, no Sodom and Gomorrah, no Noah and worldwide flood and no King David.

I could list many more, but my point is this — the hearsay of the heretics is unverified. It is attitude based on skepticism, doubt and the theory that such teachings are impossible. Some of the heresies I have mentioned are not just coffeshop talk, they are being taught from church pulpits and seminary lecterns across the world. Should we be surprised? No! This is evidence that we are living in the very days Paul wrote about.

Here is something else to consider — what Paul said about these heretics: "If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the

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By Executive Editor  
Jeff Herring

## It's That Time of Year

Things are busy around the office with making sure all the local association meetings are covered. I do my best to get to them personally to share an update about the ministry of the *Trumpet*, but sometimes there are multiple meetings on the same day or a conflict that can't be avoided. I am thankful for Associate Editor Allan Eakin and Editor Emeritus Diane Spriggs, who are able to go and present the update in person at those that I am unable to attend.

On top of the local association meetings, we are also gearing up for the BMA of Arkansas meeting that is just over a month away. That means working with the auditor, preparing reports, meeting with the Publications Committee and working to make our recommendations to the messengers that will be at the meeting on Nov. 3-4. I hope you, or at least some representatives from your church, will make it a point to attend this important meeting to take care of the business of the association. (For information about the meeting, visit [Baptist-Trumpet.com/bmaar2022](http://Baptist-Trumpet.com/bmaar2022).)

### Visiting Churches & Associations

I had the privilege to visit Shiloh Baptist Church in McRae on Sept. 18 to share a ministry update and their pastor, Rodger Cole, also graciously allowed me the opportunity to preach that morning. I had a great time and enjoyed catching up with Bro. Rodger and Sharon from when he pastored at New Home in Quitman a number of years ago.

I was also able to make it to the Mount Calvary Association meeting in Letona to kick off the "opening weekend" of the local association meetings on Thursday night, Sept. 8. The association blessed the *Trumpet* with an offering of \$1,000 to go toward our Special Emphasis. Then Friday, Sept. 9, I attended the BMA of the Ozarks meeting in Springdale and on Saturday, Sept. 10 I was in Greenwood for the United Association. Allan was able to represent the *Trumpet* at the Mt. Vernon association at Rondo in Lexa and Diane attended the North Ark. Association meeting at Center Grove in Cord. It was a busy "opening weekend" for sure!

This past week, I was able to attend the Central Ark. Association at El Faro, Little Rock on Thursday morning and the Columbia Association at Macedonia in Magnolia on Sunday evening. It has been a blessing to see many I have known for years, and I am doing my best to remember the names and faces of all those new friends I had the opportunity to meet!

### Prayers Appreciated

Please pray for us as we close out the previous year and begin to make plans for the coming year. We take our mission to "inform and inspire" our readers very seriously and want to do our best to make sure this ministry can continue to share about what is happening in the BMA — not just in Arkansas, but around the world.



### Arkansas' Amendment 68 Prevents Pro-Abortion Rulings

A county judge's decision to temporarily block enforcement of a pro-life law in Indiana has left some people wondering if courts in Arkansas could also suspend the state's law protecting unborn children from abortion. Last week, Owen County Judge Kelsey Hanlon temporarily paused enforcement of Indiana's state law that prohibits abortion except in cases of rape or incest, to save the life of the mother or if the baby has a lethal anomaly. The judge cited the equal protection clause in the state's constitution, and the decision will remain in place while the Indiana courts evaluate the pro-life law.

As a result, some people have speculated that Arkansas' pro-life

law generally prohibiting abortion could similarly be blocked in state court, but that is highly unlikely, because of Amendment 68 to the Arkansas Constitution. Amendment 68 reads, "Public funding — No public funds will be used to pay for any abortion, except to save the mother's life; Public policy — The policy of Arkansas is to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the Federal Constitution; Effect of amendment — This amendment will not affect contraceptives or require an appropriation of public funds."

Amendment 68 says, in no uncertain terms, that Arkansas' policy is to protect the lives of unborn children to whatever extent federal law allows. Since the U.S. Supreme

Court has reversed *Roe v. Wade*, that means Arkansas' constitution lets the state enforce any reasonable laws restricting or prohibiting abortion. Family Council is not aware of any amendment addressing abortion in the Indiana Constitution the way Arkansas' does.

A judge in Arkansas would have to take serious liberties with the Arkansas Constitution to block enforcement of our state's pro-life laws. ([familycouncil.org](http://familycouncil.org))

### Threat to Legalize Abortions Up to Birth Nationwide

President Joe Biden promised to force states to legalize abortions through all nine months of pregnancy on Sept. 23 if Democrats win two more seats in the U.S. Senate in November. He made the remark in a speech to the National Education Association, a teacher's union, in Washington, D.C. "If you give me two more senators in the United States Senate, I promise you, I promise you, we're going to codify *Roe* and once again make *Roe* the law of the land," Biden said.

The president especially urged women to vote for pro-abortion Democrats in November, assuming falsely that most women support his extreme pro-abortion agenda." ([lifefews.com](http://lifefews.com))

### Military Brass Doubles Down on Wokeness

The military is struggling mightily to meet its recruitment goals. In August, reports came in that the Army had only "recruited about 52% of its goal for fiscal year 2022 and is likely to wind up short by as many as 15,000 recruits." Significant shortages in personnel are also being reported by the Air Force and Navy. Meanwhile, Biden's military leaders continue to flounder in "woke" ideologies that are being pushed on servicemembers.

A shrinking pool of potential recruits due to increasing trends in obesity, drug use and poor academic performance is partially to blame for the recruitment shortfall. But what cannot be ignored are the woke policies being forced onto our servicemembers by the Biden administration and Democrats, which damage morale, increase the number of troops voluntarily leaving and scare away potential recruits.

The Biden administration, indeed, continues to refuse to back off of their onerous requirements for all servicemembers to receive the COVID-19 shot, despite Biden declaring that "the pandemic is over" and despite multiple court losses after the mandate was challenged by troops. Still, even with massive recruiting shortfalls and a military that is being increasingly stretched thin across the U.S. and the globe, the Biden administration is on the verge of dismissing upwards of 60,000 troops (the actual number of unvaccinated troops could be as high as 500,000, or a quarter of the military) and seemingly not caring. ([washingtonstand.com](http://washingtonstand.com))

## HERESY

(Continued From Page 3)

*truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain*" (1 Tim. 6:3-5). Such individuals are all over the airwaves. Our world is being infiltrated by heresy at every turn.

### Standing Against Heresy

So, what do we do? We could throw up our hands and say, "It is what it is. We can't do anything about it!" But that is not the instruction we believers get from the Word of God. Parents, pastors, Sunday School teachers, public school teachers, employers and employees in this day and time cannot be passive. Heretics are enemies of the cross and of the church. They must be exposed and resisted.

To the Romans, Paul wrote: "*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk they deceive the minds of naïve people*" (Rom. 16:17-18).

The heart of the heretic is no good. He is influenced by the demons of the devil with the intent of keeping the believer from sharing the good news of Jesus Christ that He died for them, arose and is one day coming again. The heretic's teaching is the discipleship of destruction. Matthew recorded what Jesus said about it: "*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them*" (Matt. 7:15-16).

Christian, your stalwartness is essential. Put on the whole armor of God and pray for your fellow



**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](mailto:cooperr@manilaschools.org).

**Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy** is seeking applicants for a youth director's position. Interested candidates can call Keith Luncford 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.

believers to do the same. We are in the last days, and there has never been a time when the Truth of God is more needed. May the Lord bless you as you live for Him.

## Baptist Trumpet

(USPS 043-720)

(ISSN 0888-9074)

Published by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas; sponsoring Missions, Benevolence and Christian Education.

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Subscription Rate: \$30.00 per year (67¢ per issue)  
Church Plan Subscribers: \$27.00 per year (60¢ per issue)

Published weekly except for the week of New Year's and one week in April, May, July, September, November and December. Periodical postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. Editorial offices at 10712 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Baptist Trumpet*, P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the churches of the BMA.



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## Leave it to Cleaver

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## Original Sin

Our pandemic of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) has brought a flurry of laboratory investigations about this virus. One of the most recent and most interesting research theories is called “original antigenic sin (OAS).” In my own non-scientific explanation, this means a person’s first response to a virus has a remarkable effect on their response to a similar or variant virus. Our body responds much the same way to a variant as it did to the original virus.

Adam and Eve responded to the Lord with a great big, “No!” They said, “We will not follow Your words. We will do things our own way and behave to please ourselves.” Thus, the original sin of humankind. God put them out of the garden. That original sin was passed down to their children, their children’s children and so on down the line of generations. We, like all of Adam’s children, have original sin. We respond to the Lord in the same way we have in the past. We shake our fist in His face to tell Him we will do it our way.

We, as human beings, inherited a sinful nature. We have no option other than to choose to sin. Psalm 51:5 (CSB) states this succinctly: “Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” The New Testament is clear in Rom. 5:12: “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.”

We have a need to be made right with God. How can this happen? The Apostle John tells us how: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (I John 1:9) Further clarification enlightens us in Rom. 10:13: “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Certainly, lab researchers have found our bodies respond to a new virus much the same way as they do to a new strain of that virus. The Bible has, for centuries, told us we respond to the opportunity of sin the same way each and every human being before us has done. We have a bad case of original sin. We can’t help it. We choose to sin. We like it! We think we know more than God and can run our lives better than He. The only vaccine for our original sin is the blood of Christ on the cross. “For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb” (I Peter 1.18-19).

## DISCIPLESHIP (Continued From Page 1)

disciples... teaching them to say a simple prayer so we can have as many converts as quickly as possible.” Oops, that’s not what He said. Let me try again. “Go and make disciples... teaching them to observe the really easy things that everyone will agree to so we can get more converts.” Oops again! Jesus is specific about who we are to make disciples of — all nations. He is also explicit about what a true disciple looks like: “teaching them to observe all things.”

The “observation of all things” takes time, commitment and effort. Easy discipleship may be a mark

of the modern church, but it is not how Jesus described and demonstrated discipleship. Easy discipleship is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “cheap grace.” In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer states: “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession... cheap grace is grace without discipleship.”

Discipleship takes time and requires personal attention. While books and videos may be helpful tools, they must always remain supplemental to the relational. A book can’t respond to your questions. A Twitter feed can’t hold your hand when your mom has just

died. A YouTube sermon doesn’t pray with you about the current problem you’re going through.

I state the above to say that discipleship-based multiplication is a slow, arduous process that cannot be outsourced. Multiplication doesn’t take place through mass conferences in a weekend; instead, it takes place through the local church as individuals daily invest in other individuals who will invest in others. It has always been this way. Take Deuteronomy 6, for example, the premier passage on family discipleship: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise” (Deut. 6:6-7 NKJV).

Notice the framework for disciples as instituted by God. Moses taught fathers who taught children who were to teach their children (v. 2 – your son’s son). It was both individual and intensive. Individual, in that fathers were to teach sons, who were to teach their sons. Intensive in that it was diligent, daily teaching (when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down and when you rise).

Fast forward to the New Testament, and you find this pattern persisting. The concept of Old Testament family discipleship is extended to New Testament spiritual family discipleship. Think of the family terms used in the New Testament. Jesus calls those who do the will of the Father, brother, sister and mother. John is called Mary’s son. Paul is a father to the church in Corinth. Timothy is Paul’s son in the faith. Fellow Christians are called brothers and sisters, members of the household of God. The family discipleship in the Old Testament is the church family discipleship that takes place in the New Testament.

Turn to II Tim. 2:2, and you find the same pattern instituted in Deut. 6:7: “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

**It is individual.** Notice the four generations:

Deuteronomy — Moses, fathers, sons, son’s son.

II Timothy — Paul, Timothy, faithful men, others also.

This is how discipleship-based multiplication is to work. Mature Christians investing in faithful Christians who will invest in other faithful Christians. Slow but effective!

**It is intensive.** Timothy is to follow Paul’s pattern. What was that pattern? Paul did not cease night or day, going from house to house to admonish everyone with tears (Acts 5:42, 20:31). That sounds a lot like when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down and when you rise.

That is exactly what you find in

## SOUTH CITY (Continued From Page 1)

discipleship is listed first.

When asked if discipleship plays a critical role in revitalization, Drew said, “Absolutely! The cultural reality of today’s American church follows one of two directions: the culture of a traditional church (what we’ve always done) or the culture of discipleship and Great Commission vision. And one or the other will determine who you become as a church. If it’s tradition, you will follow that at all costs. If it’s discipleship, then there’s no program or tradition you won’t stop to follow Jesus in obedience.”

Drew stated that “decisions in revitalization and change must be made based on mission, not on preference. He pointed to Jesus’ promise in Matt. 16:18: *I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it...*” Jesus has promised to build His church no matter what, and that stands. Traditions and preferences always change, but the Great Commission does not.”

Sadly, discipleship is an area of poor health in many American churches. A recent study lists several alarming points in its summary, including one stating that “fewer than 5% of churches in the U.S. have a reproducing, disciple-making culture!” The study finds “a disappointingly low percentage of churches with a culture of and strategy for reproducing disciples and disciple-makers.” The study goes on to say, “we did not find clear examples of disciple-making movements in the U.S. Such churches are common in various other parts of the world (where)

the life and ministry of Jesus. He invested in a few people (individual) that He spent three years with — sitting, walking, lying down and rising to repeat that daily process of discipleship (intensive). Of course, automatically, you see the “flaw” in this system. It’s a slow, arduous process. There are no shortcuts in the kingdom. If it took Jesus three years, why would we expect to do it in three days? Let us throw out that assembly line idea of discipleship and commit to the hard work of investing in individuals who will invest in others also.

As Paul told Timothy, “It’s the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.” The farmer is hardworking and hopeful because he has seen the process work. Even though he can’t see the seed doing anything, he keeps watering because he trusts the process. If we, like the farmer, put in the hard work, there will be a lot of praying and waiting and trusting in the Lord to grow fruit from the unseen sown seeds. But it is hopeful waiting, trusting in the promise that at a proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

these churches reflect a special movement of the Holy Spirit as they rapidly multiply disciples and disciple-makers.”

A third point the study makes is that pastors tend to be “overly optimistic in their assessment of the disciple-making cultures present in their churches and frequently overrate their effectiveness in discipleship and disciple-making.” When asked why he thinks American church culture is this way, Drew used the term status quo (a word he used over and over in the interview). He cautioned that the status quo is the enemy of what God wants to do in lives and churches. He said, “It’s because churches keep doing what they’ve done for years and years. Unless there’s a reproducible discipleship culture happening, it usually means the church is dependent on status quo, tradition, attendance, buildings and programs.” In essence, if a church ceases to primarily exist to be on mission with Jesus, then poor health will occur.

I asked Drew when it became apparent discipleship needed improvement at South City and how they approached finding a solution to the problem. He pointed out that everyone could see Temple was a dying church, and it was apparent that they needed a vision shift from an inward focus to the mission of God and the community around them. At South City, leadership began to ask good questions and communicate that they wanted to change and serve the community as the hands and feet of Jesus, and the primary thing that led them to this awareness and any future awareness was a climate of intentional, collective and individual prayer.

“Prayer is key,” Drew said with conviction. South City began to meet regularly and get on their faces, literally asking God to change hearts and to give them compassion and a vision to reach the people God had in mind for them to reach. It was a beautiful, intentional season of doing nothing else but bowing low in surrender and submission to God, and both Drew and Jerry Kidd speak of that time with great gratitude and awe. Because of the way God moved and the repentance that took place during prayer, pastors and elders were able to do the hard thing and admit there were problems with the discipleship methods at South City. Drew said, “We realized that the church hadn’t done a good job — that most American churches at large haven’t — of teaching people how to be discipled and, in turn, to disciple.”

Before making any change in discipleship, South City was doing something, but not producing the results pastors and elders were looking for — every disciple, making disciples. They were using an

See SOUTH CITY, Page 6



## For Uncertain Times — Check Your Ticket

For several weeks, we've taken a detailed look at end times prophecy. It's important that we have a Biblical foundation of prophecy, but I believe the greatest benefit of diving into end-of-the-age prophecy is that it helps us navigate all challenges to our faith both now and in the future. Faithfully navigating these times is the heart behind Stand Firm.

As crazy as the times are now, we're far from the first of God's people to face uncertain times. All the history in Bible, whether Old Testament or New Testament, finds God's people in trying times. I believe we can learn a lot from those times to help navigate us today. That's why I recently released a new book, *For Uncertain Times: 40 Truths of God's Care in National Distress*. Here's the first lesson in the book, which is drawn from Genesis 45, when God's people faced oppression in Egypt.

### Then

Have you ever been to a movie, ball game play or any event that required a ticket, and been told you were in someone else's seat? You checked your ticket and saw the row and seat number, then searched for that row and seat. You sat down and got comfortable, and then someone else is standing in front of you or beside you, looking down at their ticket and then looking at you saying, "You're in my seat!"

I've been there multiple times. When this happened, I checked my ticket. Sometimes I was in the wrong seat, and other times the other person had misread their ticket. I must confess, a few times I knew I was in the wrong seat but played dumb.

When I think about the situation the Israelites found themselves in during the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, I often wonder if they were where they were supposed to be. They were in Egypt, but they were enslaved by the Egyptians because they posed a threat to Pharaoh and

the nation. Pharaoh forced them to carry out major building projects and ordered every male Israelite baby to be killed by an Egyptian midwife. The enslavement and oppression were extremely difficult.

Let's remember that the Israelites came to Egypt by invitation. The Pharaoh, at that time, invited them to live in the nation so they'd survive the great famine. At the time we pick up the story in Exodus, they'd been in Egypt for possibly 400 years. Egypt wasn't the land of their inheritance — Canaan was their inheritance. It had been promised to Abraham and his descendants — the Israelites.

So, were they where God wanted them to be?

Were they in His will?

They needed to check their ticket. They needed to reflect on the instruction, directions, calling and mission God had given them. I can't say with any factual evidence that they were supposed to be in Egypt at that point. I just believe the answer to be "yes." If they "checked their ticket" they'd find two things.

First, they'd find the clarity that their initial arrival in Egypt had been by the will of the Lord. In Genesis 45, Joseph finally revealed his identity to his brothers who had traveled to Egypt for food. When Joseph did this, his brothers were terrified, for they knew their guilt — and Joseph's authority to punish them, but Joseph quickly reassured them that what had happened was God's will. God had sent him ahead so, when the famine came, the whole family would be saved. He went on to say in verses 6-8: *"For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire*

*household and ruler of all Egypt."*

Joseph was certain God's will was for his family to move to Egypt. This seems to be confirmed through his family and through Pharaoh inviting them to live in the land of Goshen.

So, although difficulty had arisen, it didn't change the fact that they went exactly where God led them. Checking their "ticket," they'd see they were in the right "seat." However, they also needed to reflect on what God promised their great patriarchs — Abraham and Isaac.

The second thing they would find — if they were able to take a comprehensive look at all God had told them — was that Egypt wasn't their final destination. Though they had taken the right steps, they wouldn't stay there; nor were they meant to stay there. This should have led them to ask God, "Is it time to return?" or, to fit our theme, "Is this ticket still good?"

### Now

As you look around and see uncertain times in this nation, or maybe in your own life, you're not the first of God's people to go through tribulation. It just comes with the territory. But what should you do?

Check your ticket. Yes, check your ticket. Are you in the place where God led you to be? This can be a real physical location, but more than likely this question searches the **activity** of your life:

- Are you seeking the Lord?
- Have you been seeking Him?
- Have you been in His Word?
- Are you in community with other believers?
- Have you been pursuing holiness so that your heart and spiritual eyes aren't compromised?

And the simplest way to check your "ticket" is just to ask the Lord. Often, you'll see you're in the right seat, but there may be times you walked your own path — you ran ahead of God or did things your own way. If that's the case, seek Him and let Him guide you to the correct seat.

If you find you're in the right seat, **know** it. Difficulties and doubt cause us to second guess what we've heard from the Lord and how to take steps of obedience. Circumstances aren't always an indicator of obedience and being in His will.

If you're in the right seat, you'll need to weather the storm — ride it out in faith.

Life is full of difficult trials. Even the right path can lead us head-on into them, but there's no need to bring unnecessary difficulty upon ourselves. Heed the words of Solomon in Proverbs: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"* (Prov. 3:5-6).

— 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)). You can get a copy of Jake's new book, *For Uncertain Times*, on Amazon.

## SOUTH CITY (Continued From Page 5)

ordered system of learning called First Principles, a series of biblically sound books through BILD International that progress and take a person from an understanding of the gospel and discipleship to an understanding of the Pauline method of disciple-making and multiplication. While this discipleship method helped small groups (called CityGroups) to have a greater understanding of the Bible and a pathway for spiritual maturity, there was a growing concern among the leadership about individuals owning discipleship and being obedient to actually make disciples.

Drew referenced the way Jesus modeled discipleship, which is by pouring into the 12 and then pulling apart with just 3 to invest further. Recent studies also point to this finding, which seems to go along with what South City discovered. The study states that "programmatic strategies that have been successful in adding disciples, are not generally producing strong, disciple-making cultures." Their suggestion is a "return to Jesus-style disciple making and embracing strategies that inspire and empower everyday Christians to become disciple-makers. We need simple, effective, and reproducible models that will produce successive generations of disciple-makers if followed."

*Editor's Note: Look for part two of this story in next week's issue.*

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**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.

**Jonesboro Dist. WMA**, Oct. 8; Walnut Grove, Lake City.

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

**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.

## Deaths

**Johnny Lynn Reid**, 80 of Searcy, passed away Sept. 22. He was a member of West Race Baptist Church.

**Max Johnson**, 88 of Fordyce, passed away Sept. 18. He was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

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

**Wilma Joe Isbell**, 75 of Jonesboro, passed away Sept. 11. She was a member of Prospect Baptist Church.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Gospel Concert**, featuring Lisa Nelson; Oct. 2; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 11:00 a.m. Worship; noon potluck meal; gospel concert 1:30 pm; Russell, Russell; Randy Zinn, pastor.

**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.

**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, Tex.



**Beech Street, Crossett** welcomed two by baptism, one by letter and one by statement; Donnie Dubose, pastor.

**Bridge Church, Mt. Home** witnessed two by letter and two professions of faith; Hershel Conley, pastor.

**Caney Valley, Plumerville** added two by baptism and one by letter; Michael Gray, pastor.

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

**First, Damascus** received one by statement; Daniel Williams, pastor.

**First, North Lewisville** reports one by baptism and one by statement; Jerry Evans, interim pastor.

**Friendship, Greenbrier** welcomed one by letter; James Crews, pastor.

**Lemonwood, White Hall** rejoices over one profession of faith; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

**Oakland Heights, White Hall** witnessed one by baptism; Wes Wooley, pastor.

**Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier** added two by letter; Dr. Virgil Porter, pastor.

**Providence, Hope** gained one by baptism; Casey Curtis, pastor.



## Missionaries

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 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
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Former BMA of Ark. mission, Highland Hills Baptist Church, celebrated her 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special guest Jerry Jolly, former church planter and now Executive Director of Misisions Paul White and current pastor Paul Vincent.

## To God Be the Glory!

**Divine Appointment** — Do you believe God works in the daily affairs of His children? I am one who can testify that He certainly does. Way back in 1998, I was pastoring Fairview Baptist in Jonesboro, and we were holding a revival with Todd West as our evangelist. One night after having dinner, Todd and I were walking through what was then Indian Mall, when we ran into Ed Stephenson, who was, at that time, the executive director of State Missions, and his wife, Sarah. We asked what had brought them up to our area and they responded that Don Seat, pastor of Macedonia Baptist in Jonesboro, had contacted them about the possibility of planting a church up in the Ash Flat, Horseshoe Bend area. I remember telling him that would be great as we spent much of the fall hunting in that area. After continuing on our way, Todd turned to me and said, “You ought to go start that mission.” I told him no way, I was born in Jonesboro and had no intentions of leaving. Besides, I was pastoring at the time.

**Divine Sleeplessness** — That night, I could not get that “you ought to go” out of my mind. Early the next morning, I told Vicki I was heading for the hills and did just that. After spending the day looking around, it was back home and another restless night. So, the next morning I was off to the hills again.

Long story short, Vicki and I set out for the communities of Hardy, Highland, Cherokee Village and Ash Flat to begin a new church plant — without the slightest idea of what we were getting ourselves into. In fact, after a couple of months, I was ready to give up and move back to Jonesboro.

**Divine Conversation** — Like Moses of old, I told the Lord I was sorry, but I could not plant a church because I did not know anyone, and I wept in defeat until He took control of the discussion. He explained to me that if the mission succeeded or failed it would not be my fault. He explained that, “If you plant the seed, I will take care of the increase.” That day, God lifted the second greatest burden I have experienced, superseded only by when my sins were forgiven. I have often shuddered to think just how close Highland Hills came to never existing.

**Divine Results** — This past Sunday, Jerry Jolly and I were invited back to Highland Hills as they celebrated their 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Walking in and seeing an auditorium nearly full brought the memories rushing back. I was truly humbled that God allowed me to have a part in such a wonderful work and had convinced me to stick it out.

**Divine Outreach** — In the early days of the church, Highland Hills extended an arm to Hershel Conley and The Bridge Baptist Church in Mountain Home. In turn, the Bridge has extended an arm to Johnny Shew and the Faith Chapel Mission in Flippin.

All I can say is being in the center of God’s will is the safest and most purposeful place to be.

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “We started a Bible study last week at Ramón and Rosa’s house. They had invited their co-workers and

14 people were together studying the Word, including Ramón, Rosa and Mireya (the hosts), Rocio and her two daughters, Cristina and her two teenage sons, Francis, Berenice and her little son. At the end of the meeting, we invited them to the Fri-

day night prayer meeting and most attended, except Ramon, Berenice and their son. Pray that these people will stay faithful in the Bible study and that more people can be added.

“On Friday, six men from the congregation went out to the Bible Expositors Retreat. We gathered about 50 people who came from Central Arkansas and North Mississippi. We reviewed the inductive Bible study method and heard preaching from second-generation Hispanic church planters from North Mississippi. It was a special blessing to hear from these brothers. The food was prepared by the sisters of the First Baptist Church of Caldwell. They are magnificent cooks and we thank God for their lives and their gift of service.

“In our Sunday meeting, we continued the series of studies based on I Peter. This time, the study was based on I Peter 2:4-10 with the theme of election.

“Thank you for praying for us. There are many families in the congregation under the siege of the enemy, and we need to strengthen our faith.”

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, “Glory to God! For the first time, I did not go alone to a training or men’s retreat. This time, I went with Luis Lopez and Geronimo Martinez. In the past, it was very difficult since the men of the church are usually working. It was a blessing to go with them and see the thirst to learn more about Inductive Bible Study. I got to give part of the workshop, and it was a challenge to communicate methodology in a simple way.

“Ebenezer continues to pray for those who do not know about Christ. They also continue to pray for the different social contexts they frequent. Help us to identify those around us with the purpose of praying for them and that God will give us opportunities to share the gospel.

“At the Arkansas Baptist Missionary Theological Institute, we have already taught 12 hours of classes. Juan Carlos Posadas is teaching ‘Principles and Methods of Interpretation,’ and I am teaching ‘An Overview of the Old Testament.’ We have 11 students from four Hispanic congregations, and I can see the thirst of each student to go deeper into the Bible. That is the best reward I can have. Thank you for praying for Hispanic missionary work. To God be the glory.”

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny



Roberto Marcelletti with 14 “joyful” Hispanics ready to continue moving forward in their relationship with Christ.

Shew writes, “We had a very good week at Faith Chapel. Our numbers were a little down because we had several out sick, one knee replacement and some out traveling. But we had several return visitors and a good week, all in all.

“We are still working to count the costs for a new building. I met with some contractors for bids, and that will continue next week. There is so much to do, and Bro. Paul is helping me make sure nothing is overlooked. It just takes time. It would be overwhelming if we were doing it out of our own strength, but we know the Lord is building His church here in Flippin. We are just His laborers, and we will follow His leading. I have prayed this prayer many times lately: ‘Lord, please lead and guide us in this building. We do not want to build a monument to ourselves; we want to build a house of prayer, a house of worship, a house to study Your Word, a house of Christian fellowship, a house to gather in for all of these things. But we know our mission is outside the walls we are building as we spread the gospel in this community. Please bless those efforts.’

“Thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue because God is answering them.”

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, “More fruit has been seen from our Monday Night Event. We had two guests show up at the church service from our Monday Night. It is so amazing to see God at work in these people. They are so excited and encouraged to invite people, because we never know when more people will say ‘yes.’

“DeAnna and I are going to the Recharge Oasis Conference this week. We will also be going to Temple Baptist Church of Jonesboro on Sunday to give an update of the plant.

“Drew will be leading all aspects of The Table service this Sunday.”

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, “I had the pleasure to be able to enjoy and work alongside the fine folks from The Master’s Builders for a few hours as they spent their final week at Celebration Baptist Church. They work tirelessly and share their devotion to God’s work through their skills to help build God’s kingdom, one church at a time. I am looking forward to the time when they will join with Faith

Journey in building the building that God has planned for our mission.

“Throughout these last couple of weeks, God keeps putting Acts 2:42 on my heart. That verse speaks to us about studying the Scripture, devoting yourself to prayer, breaking bread together and fellowship. Please be praying for these things for Faith Journey as we continue to follow God’s direction for the mission. These are the things we need to have to build a solid foundation for our church.”

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, “On Sept. 24, we enjoyed our anniversary with a day of many memories, of celebration as a family and also of reflection on what marriage represents in the light of the Word of God says in Gen. 2:24: “*Therefore the man will leave his father and mother, and will be united to his wife, and they will be one flesh.*” The man needed an ideal helper to be able to perform all the tasks that God had assigned him on earth, Eve was a gift from God to Adam, just as Patty is a gift to me and your wives are to each one of you. It is the gift by which we are complemented. Christian marriage is primarily about God. He designed it for His glory and for our good. The Bible says that “what we have received by grace and from grace we give.” What have we received from grace? We have received mercy, kindness, patience, forgiveness and, of course, love. That is what we must give to our wives, who, like us, is in a struggle with their sin. God is using it every day to form the image of Christ in me.

“Week after week, God surprises us with what He is doing in the Sovereign Grace Mission in the NW Area. On Mondays and Tuesdays, I am dedicated to evangelization with the good news. A woman accepted Christ as her Savior and I was also able to pray for 15 people and am sending them text messages.

“We also went to visit a family that had come to town and had nowhere to congregate. Next Monday, they will begin their discipleship. Friday, at our Bible study meeting, a new family arrived who joined the group and next Wednesday they will begin to disciple.

“Sunday, I was invited by our mother church, Epic Church  
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# MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 7)

NWA, to present our church planting project. It was also the first time we invited the people we disciplined, and the first time we were going to congregate together and 14 people arrived. It was wonderful to be all together worshipping, praising our Lord. We ended all together singing what we have already been able to start seeing — 'I'm gonna see a victory.'

**Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "We had our first Collective Worship Gathering on Sept. 25, and it was incredible. We had 27 come, including 4 first-time guests! It was an incredible night of worship led by our mother church, Epic Church NWA's worship team. Three of our connection group coaches shared. Three of the first-time guests were from a family we had been covering in prayer since beginning."

This gathering wouldn't have been possible without so many coming alongside of us. We had sound equipment that had been given to us from Fellowship in Bella Vista, Temple in Rogers, Epic Church NWA in Springdale and That Church in Cabot. Lighting was from That Church in Cabot. Chairs were also given to us by Temple. Funding from the BMA of Arkansas and the BMA of the Ozarks allowed us to promote on Facebook, purchase signage, and other needs. We plan to keep these gatherings monthly and continue with our Connection Groups weekly."

# CBC Celebrates 70 Years of Transforming Lives



# NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

November 15-17, 2022

DEADLINE TO REGISTER HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 17, 2022

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$125 PER PERSON  
UNTIL OCTOBER 17, 2022

\$145 PER PERSON  
AFTER OCTOBER 17, 2022

## CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

\$132 PER NIGHT \*PLUS TAXES AND FEES  
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2022

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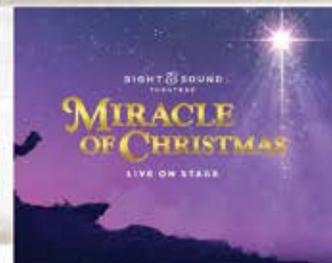
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