

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 83

October 5, 2022 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 4



## BMA of Ark. Meeting To Feature Breakout Sessions

By Michael Battenfield, President • BMA of Arkansas

What is a “Healthy Church?” A first step to understanding the idea might be to consider the question “What is a healthy Christian?” After all, if we gauge the New Testament and its various letters and, more often not condemnation, we would think a church being healthy is a pipe dream. But we see at least one example of a church worthy of commendation without condemnation in Revelation 3, with Christ’s letter to the church in Philadelphia.

This church is described as “not denying My name” and having “kept the word of my perseverance.” No text is given to their circumstances, other than those who would press them (the synagogue of Satan) would be forced to bow before their feet. This tells us that they endured faithfully, worked faithfully and, most importantly, stood boldly on the truth of God’s Word in spite of the culture.

This year’s theme, “Healthy Churches, Healthy Association, for the Glory of God,” is intended to cause us to think (or rethink) what it means for the local church to be “healthy.” That health isn’t measured by programs, popularity or even numbers (and other devices of pragmatism), but by faithfulness and sincere work for the Lord. We also see commendations for churches helping churches—whether it be offerings to help other churches, missionaries sent to strengthen both existing churches and to plant new works or simply the ongoing material and spiritual support of workers.

What this world, our nation and this state need are churches that are built up of strong, maturing believers and associations like the BMA of Arkansas, working together to be a very real light, beginning in our own neighborhoods.

As an association of churches, we not only have the privilege, but the responsibility to look out for one another, and to ultimately seek

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### MOVING with Ministers and Staff

This is only a news column, and the publishing of a person’s availability should not be considered a recommendation by the Trumpet. To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at [www.BaptistTrumpet.com](http://www.BaptistTrumpet.com).



**Ken Adams** recently retired to Little Rock and is available for preaching and interim pastoral ministry. He has been preaching for over 40 years and has been on staff with BMAA publishing and broadcast ministries. He has pastored three churches and has served as interim pastor many times. Contact him at (870) 489-0665 or at [KendrickLadams@gmail.com](mailto:KendrickLadams@gmail.com).

**Jason Burns** is the new worship leader at Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

### JTC Responds To Hurricane Ian

Just The Crumbs disaster relief is responding to Hurricane Ian.

We will be setting up in Port Charlotte, Fla. at Community Life Church, where we will be supporting volunteers as well as feeding the community. We, as always, ask for your prayers and support as we undertake this endeavor. This was a very devastating hurricane that left many people hurting and needy.

People often ask how they can help. My reply is: “Pray for us, volunteer if you can and, if you can’t, please donate so that we can continue to do God’s work.” If you would like to collect supplies and food to send, I would be more than happy to transport them down. If you would like to donate financially, you can do so by mail to 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Miss. 39482 or BMAA, PO Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033 You can also donate through PayPal at [jstthecrumbs21@gmail.com](mailto:jstthecrumbs21@gmail.com).

Thank You so much for your continued prayers and support.



## Breakfast to Honor BMA Of Arkansas Pastors

By Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations • Central Baptist College

The military salute is a display of honor and respect to the ones who lead. This salute speaks volumes to the person administering the salute and to the one who is receiving the salute. Similarly, the Lord desires that His shepherds receive authentic respect and honor from His church.

In I Thess. 5:12-13 (ESV), the Apostle Paul encourages the church in Thessalonica to live in a way that His ministers receive genuine and authentic respect: “we ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work...”

Central Baptist College is honored again to host the BMA of Arkansas Annual Session scheduled for Nov. 3-4. It is our pleasure to welcome the pastors and messengers of the BMA of Arkansas to the CBC campus. To demonstrate a biblical salute and to show our love for you and your family, we are hosting a free Pastor’s Breakfast on Friday,

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

By Heidi Sorrells, Pastor Advocate • Healthy Church Solutions

(This is the second article in a two-part series. See part one in the Sept. 28 issue of the Baptist Trumpet.)

Through continued prayer, bible study, researching different books and attending several cohorts and trainings (including the Multiplication Workshop through the Missions office), South City leadership decided to begin to change gears. To prepare the congregation, they started a four-month sermon series called “Multiply,” which covered what the Bible says about the way the early church modeled Jesus’ command to make disciples who disciple. The series emphasized the truth that every single believer has the responsibility, once they accept Christ, to make Him known. Then South City introduced and began a triad discipleship model that is simple enough for anyone to do. In a triad (groups of three), individuals study the Word through the SOAP Bible study method, ask each other questions to be

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*Just Thinking...*  
 By Dr. Tom Mitchell  
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**Men's Golf**  
 By Erik Holth

• **Henderson, Tenn., Sept. 27** — Entering the final round of the Freed-Hardeman Fall Invitational in seventh place after shooting an opening round 315, CBC was back on the course at the Chickasaw Golf Club for the final round of the FHU Fall Invite. CBC would post the best team score in the final round, shooting a 292 to finish with a 607 overall, good for third place, just 20 shots off the win. Individually, **Jakub Slapal** had the best final round for the Mustangs, closing with a one-under-par 71 for an overall score of 146, good for fourth overall and just five shots off the individual victory.

**Women's Golf**

• **Henderson, Tenn., Sept. 27** — Competing for the third time this fall, CBC was on the course at the Freed-Hardeman Fall Invitational at the Chickasaw Golf Club. **Alyssa Hagewood, Abby Kirby** and **Laney Crutchfield** all competed for the Mustangs. Hagewood was the top finisher, posting an 81 in yesterday's first round and finishing with a final round 86 for a total score of 167 to place 17<sup>th</sup> overall. Kirby finished well, closing with a final round 90 after shooting an opening round 99 to finish at 189, moving up six places in the final standings. Crutchfield also gained a spot in the final round, posting a 107 after shooting a first round 106.

**Men's Soccer**

• **Bentonville, Sept. 27** — Stepping out of American Midwest Conference (AMC) play for a midweek tilt, CBC was at the Sugar Creek Complex for a matchup with the Royals of Ecclesia College. The match went into halftime scoreless, but CBC (8-1-1) netted three goals in the second half to win 3-0 over EC (0-7) and run their winning streak to five straight.

• **Conway, Oct. 1** — Looking to keep their current unbeaten streak alive, CBC hosted the Owls of William Woods in an AMC clash at Centennial Soccer Complex. CBC (8-1-2, 1-0-1 AMC) trailed 1-0 at halftime, but got a goal early in the second half and fought to a 1-1 draw with WWU (1-5-3, 0-0-1 AMC).

**Volleyball**

• **Conway, Sept. 30** — Hosting

and I treasure the friendships I have made. Many of our trailblazers of the association have received their heavenly promotions. Those of us who had dark hair in the 1960s now have grey hair (or like me... no hair!). Those are inevitable changes as the years go by, but here is something that has not changed — the need

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**The Power of Big Events**

Fall Fun Fest. Christmas Carnivals. Easter Egg Hunts. Over the years, I have approached big events with mixed emotions. While fun and exciting, they can simply be fluff if not approached with the proper attitude and purpose. However, if used for the kingdom, they can significantly impact your church and student ministry. What are some of those benefits?

• **It can give your ministry purpose.** There are times when we lose focus. We understand our great mission as Christians, but we can get caught up in the minutia of day to day living and ministry. Working in a greater way to show Christ's love and share His message can give your group focused purpose.

Annually, we host a Fall Fun Fest at Calvary Baptist Church of Fayetteville. We work together as a congregation to simply show love to our neighbors and neighborhood. Would we love to see them worship with us? Yes. However, our purpose for this event is singular — love our neighbor.

• **It can give your ministry unity.** Working for the greater goal will help us set aside our own personal agendas and have us looking toward the team. Ministries and churches are made up of individuals with lots of different opinions but having everyone row in the same direction can help break down barriers.

• **It can give your ministry greater impact.** Having trained in Taekwondo since 2006, I love the idea of a punch. I know it is a violent illustration, but hear me out. I can slap someone with an open hand with fingers spread and it will hurt, but when I clench five fingers together into a fist, the impact is much more significant. Working together as a group will always give us greater impact than working alone.

Big events can be tricky, but, with the right purpose, they can have a powerful impact on your community and your congregation. Use your God-given creativity and imagination to think of ways your student ministry and church can show love to your community.

an AMC opponent for the second Friday in a row, CBC welcomed the Owls of William Woods into A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (2-10, 0-2 AMC) started slow, but finished strong despite being swept by WWU (5-11, 2-1 AMC) by scores of 25-11, 25-22 and 25-20.

• **Conway, Oct. 1** — Playing their third straight match inside the friendly confines of A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, CBC hosted Cottey in an AMC tilt. CBC (2-11, 0-3 AMC) took Cottey (10-10, 2-2 AMC) to five sets, but lost 3-2 by scores of 24-26, 25-20, 22-25, 26-24, and 13-15. **Molly Murphy** had a huge day, setting a new single-match record for assists with 59 while also recording 10 digs for her third double-double of the season.

**Cross Country**

• **Fayetteville, Sept. 30** — Running for the first time in two weeks,

CBC was back on the course at the Chile Pepper Cross Country Festival hosted by the University of Arkansas. **Ally Swaim, Ashleigh Gross-Mitchell** and **Mackenzie Milligan** competed on the women's side, and **Jadon Price** ran for the men's team. Swaim posted her best time of the season in the 5K event, finishing with a time of 24:45.8. Gross-Mitchell was next, with her time of 25:52.7 and Milligan finished right behind her at 25:57.4. Price's time was 41:10.9 in the men's 8K event.

**Women's Soccer**

• **Conway, Oct. 1** — Playing an AMC contest at home for the second weekend in a row, CBC hosted the Owls of William Woods at Centennial Soccer Complex. CBC (4-6-1, 1-1 AMC) trailed 2-1 at the half and allowed one goal in the second half to lose 3-1 to WWU (4-6-1, 1-0 AMC).



The organizational service of the BMA at Temple, Little Rock in 1950.

**The BMA of Arkansas Annual Session**

I was just thinking about how fast time flies. It seems like only a few months ago I was passing the gavel to the new BMA of Arkansas president, Michael Battenfield. Now it is less than a month (Nov. 3-4) until the messengers from the churches will convene on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway. I encourage every church to send messengers and participate in the Lord's business of missions, Christian education, youth ministry and publications.

Attendance has declined in recent years. Yes, some of that was due to the COVID pandemic that affected so many public gatherings for many months, but I feel that some of the reasons can be traced to just a real lack of interest in the associated work of the churches who are members of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas. One may ask, "Why should our church send messengers?" I offer these reasons.

• **The Association is important.** In the early years of the 1950s, churches sent messengers to consider the organization of an association of churches that would enable the gospel message to be shared across the state by planting new churches through what would be known as State Missions. However, a concern for Christian education in the form of a college became the intent of the association of churches. That brought about the new Conway Baptist College, which later had a name change to the present — Central Baptist College.

A means of keeping the churches knowledgeable of the progress of these ministries brought about the purchase of the *Temple Trumpet*, and the birth of what you are now reading, the *Baptist Trumpet*. For several years, the BMA of Arkansas operated the BMA Children's Home which was located in Columbia County. That ministry is no longer in existence.

In the 1980s, a need to form a network for ministry to the youth of the churches of the BMA of

Arkansas resulted in what today is known as the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department (Student Ministry Matters).

These entities cannot operate on their own. Each is faced with differing needs for finances. That is why the BMA of Arkansas is important. Our churches, through special and regular monthly designated offerings, fund these extremely important ministries. They cannot continue to exist without the support of the churches.

• **The messengers are the voices for the churches.** Every church is equal in the association, regardless of the size of the membership. Each church can send three messengers to represent it at the annual session or any called session. The churches can also send alternates to step in when a messenger is unavailable. Additionally, the church should elect a missionary committeeman to represent it when the BMA of Arkansas Missions Missionary Committee convenes.

In order to have a voice in the business of the association, your church needs to send members of your congregation to vote on the very important matters before the associational body. This is so important.

I have been attending the meetings of the BMA of Arkansas since 1964. I love our churches, and it's such a blessing to see how orderly, lovingly and devotedly the messengers conduct the business before them. Yet at this time, I am saddened that so many churches have chosen to no longer participate. Pastors, please speak to your church about the importance of their voice. Please ask them to send messengers to this year's annual session.

• **The fellowship is rewarding.** I want to emphasize one more reason to send messengers. It is the wonderful fellowship that is experienced as members from the churches interact with one another. I find this fellowship rewarding. In the past 58 years, I met so many wonderful Christians



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America  
BMA of America Missions Department

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**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge** added two by baptism and one by letter; John Durham, pastor.

**Herman, Bono** welcomed two by baptism and one by letter since last report; Randy Stimach, pastor.

**Kellogg Valley, Sherwood** received two by letter; Paul Rice, pastor.

**Old Hickory, Hattiesville** rejoices over five by letter; Blake Martin, pastor.

**Park Avenue, Searcy** gained nine new members since last report; Keith Lunsford, pastor.

**Prospect, Jonesboro** witnessed three by baptism; Mike Book, pastor.

**Trinity, Stamps** reports two by baptism and two by letter; James Cox, pastor.

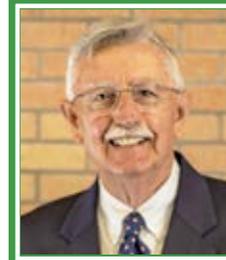
**Magnolia, Hattiesburg, Miss.** received four by letter; Greg Medenwald, pastor.

have to say as you strive to pause in His presence and listen to Him.

• **Fourth, you must enter in with simple faith** (Matt. 6:8). Bill stated, "As you enter, God hears you and you don't have to impress Him. Pray in faith, for God already knows your needs and has perfect provisions prepared." In faith, we should pray for the conditional promises of God, and there are many. Don't allow the things God was willing to change to go unchanged because you refused to meet Him in a private place and ask. There are things God plans to do through no other means but prayer. James 4:2 makes it clear, "You do not have because you do not ask." Ask in faith, believing that He is able.

You enter His presence through sincerity, seclusion, simplicity, simple faith and as sons and daughters (Matt. 6:9). We are instructed to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven." He is our provider, protector and promise keeper. You enter into His presence because of your relationship — Father. Then you enter His presence because of His rule, "Your kingdom come, your will be done." As His child, you gladly submit to His rule in your life and allow His standards to govern your life. Entering His presence is all about relational communication with Him and intimacy, not a long-distance, occasional interaction.

Colossians 4:2 says we are to be devoted to prayer. That means to be ceaselessly active and to be courageously persistent. Remember, God believes we need to pray with no intermission — I Thessalonians calling us to pray without ceasing. The challenge is to never stop praying but to be continually in fellowship and communication with Him. Praying should become as natural to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives. Maybe your next step should be to order Bill's book, *Simply Prayer*; and begin the journey of more prayer to the God of the universe and His Son who loves you unconditionally.



## Leave it to Cleaver

By Dr. Tony Cleaver  
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jstmcleaver@gmail.com

## "David, the Lord's Servant"

The title of Psalm 36 informs us that it was written by David. I find it amazing how he identified himself! He could have distinguished himself as the grandson of Ruth and Boaz and used this line of family lineage to leverage himself in a bumptious way. He did not. He could have said he was a special friend of Samuel, the prophet of God. He could have mentioned that Samuel sought him out on occasion. But he did not.

He could have said he was an exceptional young man in his skill with a sling. After all, he killed Goliath. But he did not. He could have said he was a special operations commander in Saul's army, having had military success unparalleled in the nation's history. But he did not. He could have said he was crowned king of the nation with all the pomp and circumstance afforded any royalty. But he did not. He could have said he was rich beyond measure with gold, silver and other honors of wealth. But he did not.

How did David label himself in the title of this Psalm? What description did he give himself? How did he define himself? The words are clear in his explanation: "David, the Lord's servant." How do you identify yourself? What words would you use to speak of who and what you are? Would you list your family history, your academic degrees, your financial accumulations, your standing in the community or your political prowess? What would you use to describe yourself?

Jesus was a servant. Jesus came to serve not to lord it over humankind. This was a lesson He tried over and again to give to His followers: "Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them have themselves called 'Benefactors.' It is not to be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you should become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving'" (Luke 22:24-27 CSB).

However great, powerful and famous David might have been, he knew the greatest title he could possibly have was to be called a servant of the Lord. Jesus again delivered a visual lesson to His disciples as He washed their feet. "You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you" (John 13:13-15 CSB).

Are you a servant of the Lord?



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

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

**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.

**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.

**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 pas-



**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; King-land, Kingsland; Rick Bolin, pastor.

**Worship & Praise, Oct. 30;** 10:30 a.m.; featuring Measure of Grace; White's Chapel, Rosston; David Heckman, pastor.

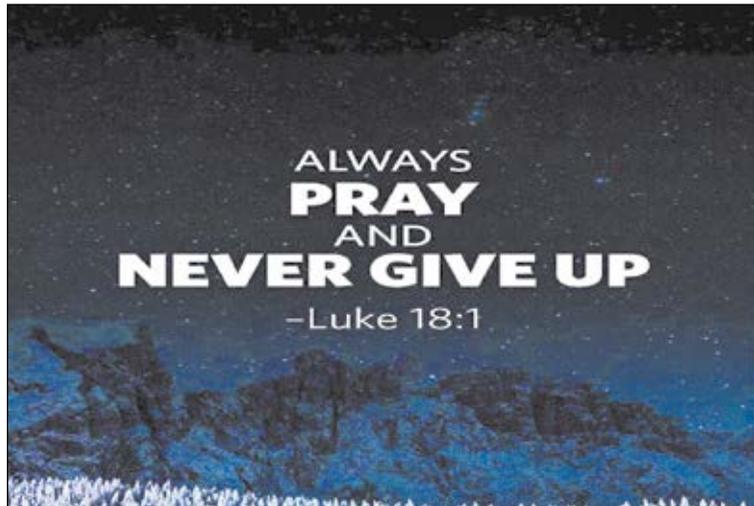
**BMA of Arkansas, Nov. 3-4;** Central Baptist College, Conway.  
**National Senior Adult Conference, Nov. 15-17;** Chateau on the Lake, Branson.

**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.

tor. Resumes may be sent to Pine Brook Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7121, Tyler, Texas 75711 or pinebrookpastorsearch@gmail.com before Oct. 14.



## Re:Charged in Prayer

The Re:Charge Conference is over and behind us for this year, but the impact and the inspiration from this time together will continue. It was a wonderful time where our souls (spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational) were ministered to through worship, the Word of God, fellowship, laughter and also just having some fun. We prayed over one another, for one another and with one another. Our keynote speaker, Bill Elliff, reminded us that the most powerful person in any room is the one who is praying. Bill stated, "The man who prays brings God into the equation."

The challenge was to make a major adjustment in our daily prayer practices. It begins simply by praying more right now. The greatest classroom for learning how to pray is on our knees praying. I Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "pray without ceasing." That means we can pray without an intermission. Bill stated, "God knows your life will not work if you are not talking to Him." Pastor, we are in the midst of a battle for the soul of our churches and the devil's number one priority is to stop the Lord's church from moving forward and advancing His kingdom. Honestly, have you ever known anyone who said they prayed too much?

Unfortunately, we talk about prayer, we say we believe in prayer and we challenge people to pray, but do we pray? God has called us to live a supernatural life that requires His supernatural presence. He has called us to a supernatural work that requires supernatural power, the Holy Spirit. This requires prayer. Are you praying, without ceasing, for a divine invasion of God's presence in your life and your church? Are you willing to submit to this constant ruthless evaluation of your life and your church — "Is God present?" I Thessalonians 5:17 is an imperative command and reminds us of how much God desires and

wants our prayers.

It is easy to focus so much on what to pray that we forget to focus on how to enter His presence in order to pray. Bill did a wonderful job of showing us, out of Matthew 6 (you can find this in his book, *Simply Prayer*), how to enter in because prayer is such an unnatural lane for us. The best classroom for prayer is praying and, before Jesus tells us what to say, He shows us the essential, preparatory elements.

• **First, you enter in with sincerity** (Matt. 6:5). Jesus makes it very clear that pride must not be in our hearts. Bill stated, "He (God) actively stands in opposition to those who approach Him in arrogance."

• **Second, we must enter in seclusion** (Matt. 6:6). Our sole desire must be to commune with Him, and that requires a singular focus on Him whether you are in your prayer closet or a crowded sanctuary. Every time you pray, you should imagine stepping into God's throne room. Your total focus is on Him, just like the prophet's was in Isa. 6:1-5. Bill said, "As you enter, the greatest one is before you and He's the only audience you need. As you enter, God is waiting for you on His throne and He longs to reward you in His presence." Approach His presence with sincerity and the seclusion of a singular focus on Him.

• **Third, we must enter with simplicity** (Matt. 6:7). Rosalind Rinker defines prayer this way: "Prayer is the expression of the human heart in conversation with God. The more natural the prayer, the more real He becomes. Simply put, prayer is a conversation between two persons who love each other." Bill described a very ordinary normal exchange where you are aware of each other and take turns talking and listening. Your conversation stays on subject as you give your full attention to the topic at hand. God is certainly concerned and attentive to what you

# 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)



## Brian & Pam Risner • Romania

**Family Update**—Hurry, hurry, wait—that seems like our motto for this year! With everyone in school, the ministry here in Brasov and the kids finishing their last year of high school, everything seems to go at double speed. Then, randomly, it almost comes to a halt. Since April, we have been on furlough, a prayer retreat and helped coordinate our Romanian church camp. The kids were like a machine during this furlough. With this being our second furlough, we had a technique for the table, from setting it up to taking it down. Also, the kids are in their senior year of high school and have begun preparations for college.

There is something special about preparing for home church in your own home—collecting all the chairs you can find (to fit 20 plus people) and preparing breakfast is a must.

Bryan and Dani Bagosi led church camp 2022. This year's theme is "What's Next?" Last year's theme was "The GOSPEL." Most of last year's students were saved, and many returned to camp this year. Because of this, Bryan chose to focus on how to move forward once you are saved.

## Mike & Laura Beth Strong • Minneapolis, Minn.

This report will be a little different than normal. I recently met in Missouri with one of our most faithful supporting groups to share what God has been doing over the last year. I put together an update for them which included information on what, Lord willing, we will be working on in the next 12 months. If God changes our course, we will be looking and listening to go where He leads, but we would like to share it with you so you can celebrate what God has been doing, pray with us for what is in the works and partner with us wherever He may lead you. I hope it blesses you as much as it has blessed us:

• **October 2021 — September 2022 metrics:** 8 new baptisms, 4 new members (by letter or statement), 18 total current membership; 17 groups meeting (meeting monthly at minimum).

• **Major milestones:** added an intern (potential church planter or pastor of current plant), began weekly worship with an average attendance of 19 and added the following groups:

We know of four students who were saved, and several students became serious about their faith as a result of this year's camp. This year's camp was special. On the last night (Friday night), most students went to the front, knelt down and laid their lives at God's feet. Tears of guilt, freedom and happiness were shed that night.

**Santandrei (Roma) Ministry Update**—We are thankful for improvement, although slow, with our children's ministry, but we still have a long way to go. Almost weekly, we have had our building vandalized in different ways. We have two young men, Serban and Octavian, that have been disrupting the kids' program. Please keep them in your prayers as our team strategizes to devise a solution to help protect our building that does not ruin the relationships we have worked hard to gain.

On a happier note, the children are meeting weekly for a time of songs, Bible stories and games. Please continue praying for Lavi and Walid as they work so hard with these children. As we often say about this ministry, it takes time to see these children grow. It is not always encouraging when everything

D-group for leadership, youth group, Spanish-speaking children's ministry; 11 attended the weekly Story of Hope (evangelistic study) meeting; new 1:1 discipleship relationships, members are beginning to minister; Pedro leading men's weekly study with 7-9 guys;

Bobby committed to regular outreaches at church, our neighborhood and FreedomWorks (buying food and cooking); Laura is mentoring women 1:1 and teaching Spanish-speaking children the story of hope and Sunday School; Isaiah: 8 groups (some are 1:1, but others are youth group and outside groups like timber bay & a college age class in north branch; added a steering committee and updated it with new members.

• **Plans for the next 12 months:** teaching focus will be the Christian life as stewardship, especially financial stewardship; begin the 501c3 process through Start-Church (Dustin Wisely recommended this and we have had a meeting and priced the cost at \$3,341); Continue to multiply

## Stan & Donna Scroggins • The Philippines

**From Stan**—September went by fast, but it seems that is how life is when you get our age. October will bring mid-term exams at the college and a return of the annual Maskara Festival. The festival has been canceled for the past two years so everyone is excited to start back up again. Another exciting event for Donna and me is our upcoming trip to Israel. This has been in the planning for two years and you do seem to be in vain.

Marius has continued to make home visits to that community. He is meeting with individuals on Sundays for a Bible study and to pray over them. Please keep Marius in your prayers because, just like the children in this community, it can take a long time to see growth in the adults.

**Brasov Ministry Update**—We (as well as Candra) have been living in Ghimbav for over a year now, and have started our Sunday morning services meeting on a rotating basis in our homes. We have continued to meet every other Thursday for our growth groups (our small groups), where we study Scripture and encourage each other. Bryan and Cristian will be meeting in the upcoming week to discuss the possibility of a meeting location, as we have almost outgrown our living rooms.

In addition, our men are praying about the opportunity to "join hands" with a local university and teach a reading program to the Roma people in our area. We also continue to be in contact with our Ukrainian friends (refugees) and offer assistance as we can. We have many opportunities to pray about, so please join us in prayer as we seek God's direction in these areas. Including opportunities to serve in our surrounding cities and villages and for us as we intentionally shop, eat and do life with the local people of Ghimbav and Brasov.

*Request to be on the Risner's newsletter list at [risnersinromania@gmail.com](mailto:risnersinromania@gmail.com), follow them on Facebook at "Risners in Romania" or visit [risnersinromania.com](http://risnersinromania.com).*

tsah, more outreaches and bible study groups (initiated & led by members); praying to add a worship leader and team, children's ministry leader and team, Brotherhood, Women's Mission Auxiliary, women's Bible study group, pre-service weekly prayer meeting.

• **Needs:** fundraising goal (remaining need): commitments totaling \$102,000 (remaining salary, worship expenses—including space rental, outreach and Bible study expenses).

Visit our new website at [fmbc-twincities.com](http://fmbc-twincities.com).

— [brothermike@nncmpls.com](mailto:brothermike@nncmpls.com)

now it is finally going to happen. We will be meeting friends from First Baptist Church in Magnolia (our home and sending church).

In the Philippines, all of the "ber" months are part of the Christmas season, and Filipinos love a celebration. We've already heard Christmas carols being sung and decorations are starting to be put up.

**Darlene Carey Christian Academy**—It would be very easy for new generations of students to never know exactly who Darlene Carey was, so we began a tradition to make sure our students and parents know who she was and how her work as a missionary continues through the academy that bears her name. On her birthday each year, we will be celebrating and remembering the life and ministry of this incredible servant of God.

Donna and I finished our post-graduate degrees back in 2020. Because of COVID restrictions, we were not able to participate in graduation while home on furlough in the United States, but our dissertations finally arrived here in the Philippines. We were honored to present them to College Librar-

ian Ivy Carpiano to be added to the library. My Ph.D. dissertation is entitled "A Missionary God from the Very Beginning: A Look at the Spread of the Gospel in the Book of Acts." Donna's Master of Religious Education dissertation is entitled "Implementation of Senior High School in the Philippines." I also presented a copy of my recently bound writings on Systematic Theology.

**From Donna**—Our campus is filled with over 70 college students and more than 70 elementary students. I've been keeping up with all the minor aches and pains and, believe it or not, a case of old fashion shingles. I've also been helping with our health education class. This class emphasizes general health issues as well as lifestyle preventative education. Filipinos are scared to go to the doctor or hospital because they only go when it's too late to recover, so they look at the hospital as the place you go to die. That makes prevention very important.

Stay up-to-date with The Scroggins and their work in the Philippines by visiting [thescroggins.com](http://thescroggins.com).

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## 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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P.O. Box 192208 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208  
Telephone (501) 565-4601 • Fax Line (501) 565-NEWS  
(Note: An answering machine on the 565-4601 line will take messages after regular working hours — Monday-Thursday)  
[www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com)

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(mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

**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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## The Master's Builders — "Raising Roofs for Christ"

By Nelda Malone, Reporter

On Sept. 12, The Master's Builders began work on a new 11,475 sq. ft. building for Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell. The Master's Builders had helped in the construction of their original building in 2007 and were called upon to help with their new 135' x 85' building. This was such a blessing to The Master's Builders knowing that this church grew so much that we were called on to build again!

The interior had all metal studs and was a challenging, but rewarding, build for The Master's Builders. (If you have access to Facebook, you can see the pictures and will be able to see more information on the work done at Celebration.) The building will have three classrooms, a large youth room, two large restrooms, a large foyer/gathering area and a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 299!

Celebration is the home church of Dale and Daisy Redman, one of our Master's Builders couples. The Builders all got to enjoy their four-year-old great-grandson, Riley, who was a great help when you needed dropped screws gathered up with our magnet stick! He brightened our day with his ready smile and sweet spirit. Dale Redman worked tirelessly to coordinate the building activities before and during the job. His efforts were much appreciated.

Pastor Allan Eakin, and many of the men from the church, helped alongside our men as they worked. These men were Mike Krebs, Zane Clark, Doyle Sheppard, Skylar Roth, Jared Eakin, Chris Moore, Gary Stone and Bryan Clay. Bro. Clay is a BMA of Ark. missionary at Faith Journey Church in Benton. He and his family have been at Celebration Baptist for many years and have watched the church body grow since 2007. We could not have accomplished what we did without each of these men. What an amazing group! Each one will never know what a blessing and encouragement they were to our men. Thank you, Lord, for each one.

Many of the men and women of the church worked tirelessly to feed us each day with delicious homemade meals. There was much love shown in the meals that were prepared and some of us may have picked up a pound or two despite the hard work! We experienced love and fellowship from the entire church family and have made many new friends. Thank you, Pastor Eakin, and the entire church family, for the opportunity to serve our Lord by working at Celebration Baptist. It all came together in the Lord's time and the work went very well!

While at Celebration, our ladies group boxed up our Everlasting Smiles shoeboxes to get them ready to go to Conway. This is always so much fun and is very rewarding for all the ladies! This year the boxes will go to Ukraine and Romania and each box was prepared with love and prayer.

The Master's Builders plan to be at the We Are Free complex starting Oct. 3 for a week of work. If you are close and would like to help, please come out to see us. If you have questions about our ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877, David Axe at (903) 918-0729 or Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675.

Get to know us on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (we have an arbor logo).



## BREAKFAST (Continued From Page 1)

Nov. 4 starting at 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Mabee Student Services Complex.

We are thankful for shepherds who faithfully serve His church through preaching His Word, caring for His church and loving the lost by proclaiming the true gospel. We are grateful that God places godly shepherds in our lives to assist His people in biblically steering through all life's hazards, unfamiliar turns and unclear paths. We love and appreciate everyone who is part of the BMA of Arkansas and look forward to seeing you on campus during the state meeting.

If you would like to attend the Pastor's Breakfast on Friday, Nov. 4, contact me at (501) 269-6784 or dguyton@cbc.edu.

## SOUTH CITY (Continued From Page 1)

transparent and held accountable and own their role to find others to disciple by praying for someone they know who is lost.

Another step South City took to move toward a healthy, reproducible discipleship culture was to move the service start time an hour earlier and begin something called EQUIP. EQUIP takes place after service for an hour and is for those that want to learn how to be disciples who make disciples. Part of the problem with Western church culture is that people really don't know how to make disciples and need to be patiently taught how and given a space to practice. Drew said, "We released mandating EQUIP, and gave everyone the option. If you want to go deeper and learn, then come. As leaders, we have to be okay with those who take the opportunity and with those who don't. Just because they don't now doesn't mean they always won't." Even if some walked away, and some have, Drew said you have to "lead with a beautiful challenge to still love them with the grace and goodness of God, and to realize that, ultimately, they have to make their own decision about being a disciple maker." Not everyone is going to be on board and you keep a humility and an awareness that nothing you do is going to be perfect.

Drew verbalized it this way: "Anything we do is going to have our own fingerprints on it, even in the smallest ways, and that will dumb it down. Move forward with what God has given you to do through His vision for the church, not status quo and an attendance-based measurement of success. You can't disciple people in one hour a week from the pulpit. We have to give away discipleship to the people and show them how to do it. We want to see a movement of the Spirit alone, not just go for an idea the church can get on board with."

I couldn't leave the interview

## BREAKOUTS (Continued From Page 1)

the glory of Christ our King! No conference, meeting or academic setting can solve all the problems and needs of the churches of the BMA of Arkansas. However, we have an opportunity on Thursday, Nov. 3 to be ministered to in a way that may very well help us to begin working toward greater cooperation, more effective ministry in our local contexts and to see how the Lord might empower the churches of the BMA of Arkansas to boldly and more powerfully proclaim Jesus and His Word to the world around us, in the setting of local churches. Come support your association, encourage one another and, just maybe, find a piece to the puzzle your church has been missing!

The following breakout sessions will be available on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.:

### • Fundamental Ideas for Healthy Student/Youth Ministry by Dan Carson

Dan Carson currently serves as: pastor of Family Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville; the director of the BMA of Arkansas youth department, Student Ministry Matters; coach and promoter of student ministry workers; and also hosts the weekly Student Ministry Matters Podcast. He is a graduate of CBC and BMA Theological Seminary and is completing work on the Doctor of Ministry at Midwestern Theological Seminary in Kansas City.



### • The Urgency of Prayer — The Boiler Room of the Church by Larry Barker

BMA of America Vice President Church Strategy and Training Larry Barker has been in full-time ministry for more than four decades. He has served as a pastor and church planter in both America and Romania and recently led a church in East Texas through a replant. Larry is passionate about church health and the crucial role prayer has in the life and ministry of the local church.



### • How Churches Can Help Churches and an Association by Harold Smith

Harold Smith led Lee Creek Baptist Church in Van Buren for over a decade before answering the call to a unique mission to churches without a pastor and pastors without a church. He hosts an annual preachers conference and is an active speaker, evangelist and pastor to pastors. Bro. Smith's current ministry is deeply rooted in his passion for the local church — discipleship and seeing churches grow toward Spirit-led healthy ministry for the glory of Christ. He recently served as the interim pastor of West Park Baptist Church in Ozark and helped the church to organize and find its pastor.



### • Building Neutral Communities — Why Churches Should be Invested by Clinton Morris

Clinton Morris currently serves as a BMA of Arkansas church planter in NW Arkansas (Springdale/Fayetteville) with a unique ministry of engaging the culture where they are through relationship building and genuine love for his neighbors. Clinton's model of ministry is "outside-the-box," yet finds its relevance, not in pragmatism and affinity-based models, but in simple, personal connections and genuine interest.



I hope you will make plans to take advantage of these very practical breakout sessions so we can work together, with God's help, to build "Healthy Churches and a Healthy Association for the Glory of God!"

without asking what some of you might be thinking: "Were there fears you or the other pastors or elders faced in undertaking such a big step in revitalization?" Drew answered very honestly, "There's always fear of failure, but we knew the Lord was calling us toward this and it seemed to make sense. We also decided at the beginning that we were going to try not to put a lot of stress on ourselves. We realized that we could not mandate discipleship. Jesus said if you want to follow me, **you** (individually), must pick up your cross and follow me. It's an intentional choice on each individual's part to be a disciple who disciples, and this requires individual sacrifice, commitment and obedience. We knew some would come with us, and some wouldn't. We purposed together to encourage those who didn't want to come along, but we weren't going to belittle or strong-arm them. We'd be obedient and let the Lord draw and

convict hearts. We realized that we'd been trying to force it before, with First Principles, so we surrendered trying to be in control."

Drew went on to say, "We haven't had a ton of push back, and I attribute that to prayer, moving forward as a team, allowing questions, admitting we didn't have it all together and saying we didn't know every step of the plan yet, but that we had to be obedient to the Lord. The comments that have been negative have been the ones that challenge the status quo. We changed our service time, and some didn't like that, but our thought process was to give our best time to disciple makers versus church attenders. Both matter, but our call to obedience is to show people how to be disciples who are all making disciples."

Drew explained where he is growing through all this. "I'm

See SOUTH CITY, Page 8



## For Uncertain Times — God Will Pull the Trigger

As I wrote last week, we're not the first of God's people to navigate through challenging times. All of the history in the 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 us navigate today. That's why I recently released a new book, *For Uncertain Times: 40 Truths of God's Care in National Distress*.

I previously shared a lesson drawn from when God's people faced oppression in Egypt. Over time, I'd like to share with you a lesson from those times when the nation of Israel found itself in national distress. This is covered during the reign of King Hezekiah when the Assyrians invaded Judah. We find the Biblical account in Isaiah 30-31, as well as II Kings 18-19.

### Then

As we read in the previous article (see Sept. 28 issue), God warned His people of what was to come. He warned Israel and Judah of the Assyrian invasion. The warnings can be traced back to the Exodus and the giving of the Law, nearly 700 years before the fall of Samaria — well in advance, and consistently throughout, those 700 years. Each true prophet — those whose messages are recorded and those who aren't — gave this same warning, a warning that increased during the time immediately preceding the invasion and resulting exile.

The same could be said for the people of Judah, who'd also been amply foretold. Despite warnings, even as the Assyrians closed in on Judah, the people didn't believe God would ever bring judgment. They didn't believe God would ever pull the trigger.

Their attitude is revealed in Ezekiel 12, "Son of man, what is this proverb you have in the land of Israel: 'The days go by and every vision comes to nothing?'" (Ezek. 12:22 NIV). God told Ezekiel that

He heard and knew the people of Judah said He'd never bring the judgment of which He instructed the prophets to warn. Think how amazing this is. Ezekiel wasn't talking about the Assyrian invasion, but rather the Babylonian invasion in 586 B.C. Remember, this was almost 150 years after the exile of the 10 tribes. By Ezekiel's time, the nation of Israel was gone, and Judah had experienced firsthand the Babylonian exile of its king and some of its people.

You may recall that it hadn't been too long since the Assyrians took 46 Judean cities and brought the city of Jerusalem to near defeat. Before that, the nation of Israel in the north experienced the exile of the 10 tribes. Backing up even further, there were many times when God allowed a military loss or an attack because of the disobedience of His people; and let's not forget the clear testimony of the flood. Without question, God **does** execute judgment.

Yet, in the time of Ezekiel, God's people generally believed, and even commonly said, that the Lord would never actually do what He said He would do. If this was true at this point in history, certainly it was the case when the Assyrians invaded Israel. When the prophets warned of impending doom, everyone most likely brushed it off. They didn't believe God would let the shoe drop. They didn't believe He'd pull the trigger.

But He did. He has many times. He's patient, but He'll take action.

In response to their saying that He'd never do anything, God told Ezekiel to tell the people: "Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to put an end to this proverb, and they will no longer quote it in Israel.' Say to them, 'The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled. For there will be no more false visions or flattering divinations among the people of Israel. But I the

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**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.

**Greenbrier Men's Fellowship Breakfast**, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.; Sands Springs, Quitman; Gaylon King, pastor.

**Greenbrier District Galileans**, Oct. 29, 2 p.m.; Antioch, Conway.

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

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

*Lord will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious people, I will fulfill whatever I say, declares the Sovereign Lord*" (Ezek. 12:23-25 NIV).

God did what He told Ezekiel He'd do. We'll cover that next week. But He also did to Israel what He warned through Moses, Amos, Micah, Isaiah and others.

### Now

The proverb of the people, mentioned in Ezekiel 12, is much like the popular sentiment in this day and age. It's likely something we'd say. The particular application to that warning is regarding the end of the age, but it stands as truth to all that could happen in life and especially as a consequence of sin. We may not say it as they did in that day. We might say, or at least think, "that'll never happen to us." The Biblical record, history and our lives would say otherwise.

It can happen to us. If it's punishment for sin or a promise from God, we can bet He'll pull the trigger. If it's general difficulty in life, we can also expect that calamities can happen to us. Peter wrote in His epistle a warning of this reality, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
1. Publication Title Baptist Trumpet	2. Publication Number 0 4 3 - 7 2 0	3. Filing Date 09/21/2022
4. Issue Frequency Weekly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 45	6. Annual Subscription Price 30.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 10712 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 (Pulaski)		Contact Person Jeff Herring Telephone (include area code) (501) 565-4601
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Same as above		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas, P. O. Box 192206, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Jeff Herring, P. O. Box 192206, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219 (Executive Editor) Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Same		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name Complete Mailing Address None - same as publisher		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input type="checkbox"/> None Full Name Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exemption status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		
PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com		
13. Publication Title Baptist Trumpet	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/21/2022	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	6390 6021
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	464 408
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		6854 6429
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	389 0
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	130 0
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		519 0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		7373 6429
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		164 300
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		7537 6729
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		94 100
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3. PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Paid Electronic Copies		315 337
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		7169 6766
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		7688 6766
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		94 100
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/5/22 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner 		Date
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you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you" (I Peter 4:12 NIV).

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



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## Sign up

This year during the state meeting in Conway, the Missions office will be launching a new information ministry by sending out an email newsletter filled with up close and in-depth stories from your missionaries and those to whom they minister. The *Trumpet* is our main way of reaching the masses, and we are truly grateful to Executive Editor Jeff Herring for providing us with the needed space.

But our newsletter will be less reporting and more about what is taking place on a day-to-day basis. At first, it will be sent bi-monthly with the first edition set to go out in December. We are asking people to come by our table and give us your email address so we can send you one. When you sign up, you will also have an opportunity to win a new iPad. So please visit our table. If you are not attending the meeting, please send your email address to bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com.



## Local Association

Sunday, I attended the Union Association meeting at Riverside in Fulton. It was good to be able to meet again with our sister churches. May God continue to bless their efforts to spread the gospel.

## Re:Charge

I want to thank those responsible for putting together the Re:Charge Leader's Oasis conference that was held in Hot Springs last week. It is truly good sometimes to just get away, rest and visit with fellow laborers.

## From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Wednesday and Thursday, the brothers and sisters continue to participate in discipleship groups and the new group, where no one has yet received Christ, continues to be just as motivated. This time, Norma and Juniet were added. By now they are becoming familiar with the Bible and its message. Pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of each one of them."

"On Friday and Saturday, a group of ladies from the church set aside time to prepare pupusas and sell them on Saturday. The economic activity was a complete success! They were delicious, and we had many requests. At the end of the day, sales totaled \$882. This money will be used to buy the necessary materials to paint the exterior of Sister Yolanda's house and fix the roof of the mobile home of Doña Irma, who is a member of the community."

"On Sunday, we continued the study of I Peter, and talked about our responsibility before God and before the world, based on I Peter 2:11-25."

"Please continue to pray for the

families of our congregation. God bless you all."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "Although our attendance was down a little last Sunday, we had a good time of celebration. We participated in the Lord's Supper. It is a good time to remember, give thanks for His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, the new covenant in His blood and remember that He will come for His church."

"The biblical basis of the sermon was in Acts 6, and our challenge was in serving. Based on the passage, we learned that if the early church chose only to serve the tables of people of good testimony, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, we cannot lower the standard. To serve in what we believe are simpler areas, for example cleaning the temple, we must meet those three requirements."

"From Tuesday to Thursday, my wife and I attended the Re:Charge conference and it was a great blessing for us."

"That the evening, I gave my Old Testament class. A thousand thanks for praying for us. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great week at Faith Chapel, even though our

number was still a little down. Some are out sick, and some that were sick last week were back. There is a bug going around and we have a few out for COVID exposure. We pray that won't come back strong. We did have three first-time visitors and several return visitors."

"Two of our longtime visitors, a very faithful couple, made a decision to be baptized and join us Sunday. Praise God! We will be going to Bull Shoals Lake after our morning service next week to do that. We thank the Lord for bringing them to us. We know they will be faithful, fruitful members. By the way, he is the man that got saved at our July 4<sup>th</sup> outreach along with his wife. I don't think they have missed a service since that day. We just praise God for the way He works!"

"We thank you for your prayers for us, Flippin and for all of those that we are trying to reach here. Please continue as God is hearing them and answering."

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "Another whirlwind week is in the book. DeAnna, Fox and I were able to go to the Re:Charge conference. We had a great time connecting with other pastors and ministry leaders. The sermons on prayer and reliance on the Trinity were timely and uplifting. Do not quench the Holy Spirit."

"We went from there to Payne-way to visit with DeAnna's folks. Friday, I helped a friend who owns a store in Jonesboro. I love to encourage this guy whenever I am in town."

"On Saturday, I went to Walnut Ridge and had a game day with a few people that were influenced by my previous church plant. Some great conversations were had."

"Drew and Kaley's house was invaded by two dangerous roving dogs on Tuesday. One of the dogs bit and broke their cat's leg. The cat's name is Scout. Drew was scratched up and also bit by the dog as he was trying to push them out of the house. Scary time. The dogs were rounded up. Scout had surgery on her leg this week and has a few weeks of recovery time. Pray for them as they continue to faithfully do God's will in their lives at The Table, but also for protection over their home."

"Chris and Erin, our Children's Ministry leaders, are going

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

Thank you to all who have already sent in donations.

<b>Previously reported 8/10/22</b>	<b>\$17,771.00</b>
<b>Previously reported/received through 8/31/22</b>	<b>\$12,364.50</b>
Eastside, Lonoke	\$970.00
Fairview, Jonesboro	\$265.00
Greers Ferry, Greers Ferry	\$268.72
Pocahontas, Pocahontas	\$1,000.00
Bethel #1 Joy Class, Rison	\$500.00
June Stimach	\$100.00
<b>Received through 9/15/22</b>	<b>\$3,103.72</b>
<b>Special Emphasis Total</b>	<b>\$33,239.22</b>

through medical situations that are debilitating. Pray for wisdom as they seek answers to what is happening.

"My family was at Temple Baptist Church in Jonesboro on Sunday sharing what God is doing with the church plant and what the future vision looks like. We are so pleased to have many people praying for us, and are grateful for the support that has been shown for this work."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "Faith Journey continued our study of Joshua this week. We spoke about the way God required Joshua to destroy the kings and kingdoms until there was nothing that remained. We talked about the comparison of those kingdoms to our sin and that God wants us to completely remove sin from our lives so we may live a victorious Christian life."

"We are now beginning our sixth month of meeting for Faith Journey Mission. We are starting to see relationships form between families that are faithfully joining us every week. We are sharing our lives and burdens with one another and helping each other grow in our walk with Christ."

"Please continue to pray for us as we keep seeking God's will for our mission."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "Hebrews 2:14 says *'the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.'* My dear brethren know it is something those of us who are believers need to remember since our success in ministry is nothing more than bringing the glory of God. His presence is our goal. God is working to bring that glory to the whole world, and we are in charge of bringing that glory where we go. Our lives and ministries are based on knowing God and making Him known."

"The way of discipleship is God Himself, so we need to have a correct vision of who God is, what He has done and who we are. This knowledge will depend on how the disciple sees life — his goals, decisions, everything is affected by the image he has of God. Our duty is to show the disciple that nothing is better than God and His gospel."

"I was evangelizing in Spring-

dale this week, and I was able to talk to 10 people and shared the gospel with 6 of them. Please pray for all of them."

"We continued to disciple the couple who live in Springdale on Monday. On Wednesday, a family came to our apartment and, for the first time, brought their daughter. We continued our study, which is part of the discipleship about salvation, and told them we all have a great debt to pay to God's righteousness because we violate His law constantly."

"On Thursday and Friday, I am discipling a young man and talking about salvation. We begin with the question that is asked in Mark 8:36: *'For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?'* It is important for me to start with this topic since some claim to know Christianity or have attended a church, but they do not show fruit. I show them, through the Word, that if there is no fruit, possibly there is no Christ in their life, and they need to repent."

**Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "Following our first collective worship gathering last Sunday, we announced we would host a preview night for our Connection Group this past Sunday (Oct. 2). We had two first-time visitors come and check out Connection Groups. We do things a bit differently by utilizing a Discovery Bible Study. Our leaders or 'coaches' don't teach, but rather facilitate the reading of the Word and ask simple questions. It's not easy for a first-time visitor to come into a group with that much interaction, but I'm amazed every time our first-time guests leave encouraged by connecting with others and the discovery they have in the Word."

"I actually missed our Wednesday night Connection Group meeting because I was at the Re:Charge Conference in Hot Springs, thanks to you. The conference on prayer was the exact thing I needed at that very moment. I'm so thankful that you — the BMA of Arkansas — invests in your missionaries. The encouragement and training directly impacted our work."

"By the way, though I was gone, another one of our coaches, Brian, led the group and we had another first-time guest!"

## SOUTH CITY (Continued From Page 5)

learning patience and to stay close to Jesus. On the days I'm closest to Jesus I'm less concerned about things and have relief and peace." He said the Lord has really been teaching him that he "doesn't have a choice." He has to get close to Jesus every day. This kind of discipleship lifestyle, both living it and leading in it, takes total submission!

Drew credits courage and strength coming from a multitude of counsel, and is grateful for a unified team of pastors and elders that have prayed, cried and sought God together. "We don't move forward unless we're in agreement," he said. And it's not just a team within the church that's required to lead in change. Drew referred to some older men who have poured into him over the last few years, and he emphasizes how important this is for a pastor leading in revitalization of any kind. Titus says, "Older men, speak life into younger men. . . ." Drew is resolute about mentoring. "This has to happen! There's a beautiful submission in putting yourself under the teaching and mentoring of others." Immediately he mentioned Jerry Kidd as someone who has continually been a voice of encouragement and support in his life. Bill Wellons has also been an important mentor for Drew during certain seasons. Larry Barker, a leader in BMA Missions and a cohost of the Healthy Church Podcast, is another influential mentor in Drew's life.

All this change is one thing, but is this new system effective and

reproducible? Less than a year in, South City has 30-35 triads going with people inside the church and outside the church. Some of these triads are students meeting with other students. Some of these triads have lost people attending. South City has been intentional to teach people how to have a triad, but they have not organized triads for them.

Drew said, "We asked them to pray about who and when. We just emphasized the need, showed our people how and set a biblical expectation that each person step out in biblical obedience to be a disciple-maker." And I should note, Drew and the other pastors and elders are in triads too. Mindi Stewart, a partner and leader at South City, said, "Triads are really what we should be doing anyway." Jeff Franks, a former BMA missionary to Ukraine and an elder at South City said, "Over the past year, our pastors, by introducing triads, have led us to form closer, more intensely personal relationships, wherein our goal is to make and become self-initiating, reproducing disciples of Jesus. We could never do that in a Sunday service alone, become those that make discipling others a day-to-day lifestyle!"

Drew sees further confirmation that the vision is catching on when he hears people using the verbiage they've been teaching around disciple-making. Jerry Kidd said this about how discipleship has changed at South City over the last year or so: "It's become a whole lot more personal. People have been trained to practice and have more confidence.

I really believe we are training up a church that will truly be disciplers, not just in name, but in practice."

As a church member there myself, and student director, I've noticed that some who weren't on board at first began to see that something was happening and began to hear testimony from those learning to be disciples who disciple; and it ignited something in them. Could it be that disciple-making movements can be contagious?

So where is South City headed? In another year Drew hopes that the people of South City see themselves as missionaries in a real way that has nothing to do with Drew as pastor, or even a building to meet in. "Our city changes because of the ministry of people and how they lead others to discipleship." Drew would like to hear about more discipleship happening in kitchens, workplaces, coffee shops, schools and parks. He would like to see "God's people owning and running with the mission of Jesus." He dreams of churches planted all over Central Arkansas in five years, wherever God opens doors and gives them opportunities. And he'd like to continue to EQUIP church members and leaders through biblical trainings and cohorts. Bro. Jerry said about the future, "There's no question — this will change our community!"

Drew is happy to share anything they are learning at South City with other pastors or leaders. He can be reached at [dcline@southcity.org](mailto:dcline@southcity.org).

For more information about free discipleship resources or other resources on revitalization, reach out to me at [heidi@bmaam.com](mailto:heidi@bmaam.com).



**Nelson L. Wynn**, 88 of Magnolia, passed away Sept. 30. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

**Jane Griffin**, 89 of England, passed away Sept. 13. She was a member of Southside Baptist Church.

## THINKING

(Continued From Page 2)

for our churches to meet together to continue to support State Missions, Central Baptist College, the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department and the *Baptist Trumpet*.

That's what I was just thinking. I think what our trailblazing leaders of yesteryear saw as a vision for association ministry is so important that our churches need to keep that vision in focus. I hope the churches will pray for President Michael Battenfield, the other officers, departmental leaders, the State WMA and State Brotherhood. I also pray that more



**Kaley Hill, Quitman, Brush Arbor**; Oct. 14-16, 7 p.m.; Jim Goodson 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.

**Old Hickory, Hattieville**, Oct. 23-26; Sunday, 5:30 — Jordan Bowen; Monday, 6:30 — Shawn Hammontree, Wednesday, 6:30 — Jordan Bowen; Blake Martin, pastor.

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

**Kingsland, Kingsland**, Nov. 2-4, 7 p.m.; Jeremy Horton, evangelist; Rick Bolin, pastor.

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

churches will be represented at the annual session on Nov. 3-4.



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