

BAPTIST TRUMPET

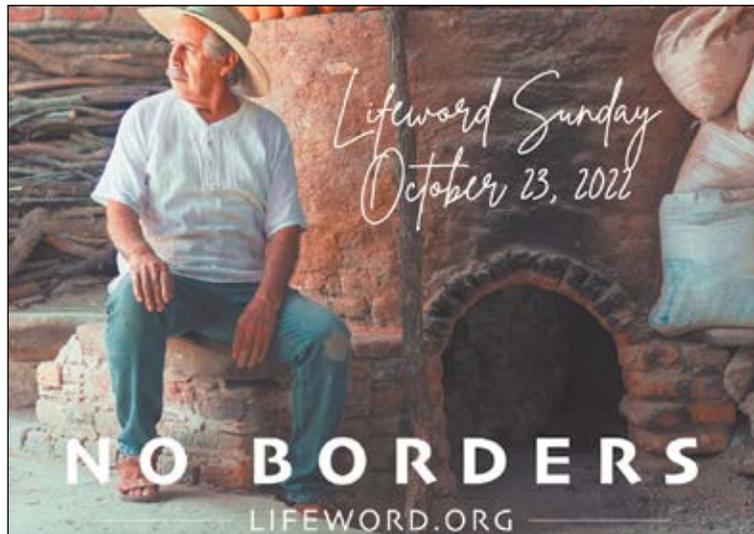
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Lifeword Sunday

By Heather Harrison, Lifeword Writer

“Go and make disciples of all nations...” When Jesus first proclaimed these words, did He envision people would still be taking His commission seriously, using a variety of methods, thousands of years later? When His words first rang out, there were no cell phones, no social media and no email. There were simply men and women who heard the Greatest News, received

it and told others. God worked mightily through their simple obedience to His charge.

God is still working mightily today, drawing multitudes into His Kingdom. We are living in a time when He has not only strategically placed foreign and local missionaries around the world to share the gospel, but a time when getting the gospel across the world can even happen with a click or post. We are living in a time when information travels faster than ever before. To pause and consider what God is doing around the globe is astounding.

In a letter to pastors, Lifeword’s Executive Director Donny Parrish shared that the audience participation for lifeword.org recently topped 2.2 million people in a 30-day span, putting Lifeword in the top 11% of all website traffic in the entire world! Those numbers reach millions more when Lifeword radio listeners are added.

Headed, “Lifeword is taking the gospel of Jesus to millions of people every day. In 140 different languages and to a potential audience of billions, Lifeword shares the hope of Jesus with those who have very little access to the gospel.... Beginning in 2023, lifeword.org will also include a discipleship portal where these millions of people, and the people in your church, can begin a discipleship journey with Christ. God is blessing

See LIFEWORD, Page 4

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.

Larry Geraldson is available for pastoral or interim pastor as the Lord leads. Contact him at (501) 733-3520 or geraldson720@gmail.com.

Corey Wood is the new youth director at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy.

Central Baptist Church in Texarkana is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to pastorsearch@centraltexarkana.org or Pastor Search Committee, 2117 E. 35th St., Texarkana, Ark. 71854.



(L/R) Walter Malone, BMMI Director Dr. Ralph Izard and Betty Malone.

“Everlasting Smiles” To Children in Ukraine

By Margaret Anderson

It’s that time of year again! These days are always very exciting around the Global Ministry Center because it feels like Christmas! Since July, we’ve been working with and hosting churches to take part in preparing Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes to be distributed to Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe, and just last week, the first container of gifts was packed and sent on its way! Missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood will receive the container in Poland and coordinate the distribution of the shoeboxes.

With your help, we reached our goal of 10,000 shoeboxes, but we still have space available on the second container. If you would like to help us fill the container, we are collecting items that have been requested by Ukrainian refugees — scarves, hats, gloves, socks, slippers, duffle bags, backpacks, blankets, warm clothes and stuffed animals. We have an Amazon wishlist which allows you

See SHOEBOXES, Page 4



Chaplain Jeremy Miller having his eagles pinned on by his wife, Beth.

Arkansas Chaplain Promoted

By Dr. Scott Carson, Director • BMA Chaplaincy

BMA of America Chaplain Jeremy Miller was recently promoted to the rank of colonel within the Arkansas Army National Guard. His promotion makes him the highest-ranking Army chaplain within the Arkansas National Guard and elevates him to the Arkansas Joint Forces Headquarters Chaplain. His primary duties, among many, are providing senior executive supervision of all chaplains serving in the state’s National Guard, and he is the lead chaplain charged with the responsibility of advising the senior Arkansas Joint Forces commander and his staff regarding religious support for all their soldiers and family members, as well as Department of Defense employees. Chaplain (Colonel) Miller is currently working to complete a four-unit Clinical Pastoral Education program through the National Guard.



AFEC Responds to Issues 3 & 4

By Larry Page, Executive Director • Arkansas Faith & Ethics Council

Out of the four proposed state constitutional amendments that will appear on November’s general election ballot, two of those amendments — the “Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment” and the “Arkansas Marijuana Legalization Initiative” — are clearly in our wheelhouse.

Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment

A few legislative sessions back, the state legislature passed a religious protection law modeled on the federal Religious Freedom Registration Act (RFRA) that was passed in 1993 and signed into law by President Clinton. The proposed amendment is needed to bolster the protections afforded for the exercise of religious liberties and make it more difficult to circumvent those cherished and venerated freedoms.

Also, a constitutional amendment takes precedence over statutes and ordinances, making its provisions less susceptible to changes a future legislature might seek to make to dilute its provisions and enervate its effectiveness. The passage of this amendment will make it more likely to stand the test of time and maintain its viability.

To better understand the relevant provisions of the amendment we can look at the summary of its purposes found in its ballot title. “...government may never burden a person’s freedom of religion except in the rare circumstance that the government demonstrates that application of the burden to the person is in furtherance of a compelling government interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling government interest.”

To stay out of the legal weeds, let’s say that the amendment is intended to “guarantee that the freedom of religion is not burdened by

See AMENDMENTS, Page 4

In This Issue

Being a Part of Their Story (pg. 2)

Building Accountability (pg. 3)

God Will Send a Reprieve (pg. 6)

Spotlight on Missions (pg. 5)

The Power of Words (pg. 6)




CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE
PROFILE

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

Terry Kimbrow
President



(L/R) Outgoing board members Zane Clark, Michele Corder and Cliff Johnson with President Kimbrow.

Board of Trustee Meeting Highlights

The CBC Board of Trustees met on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15. The three standing committees of the Board (Academic, Advancement and Finance) met on Friday evening to conduct business and hear recommendations from the college administrators.

The full board convened on Saturday morning. Board Chair Jim Fink opened the meeting with Scripture reading and prayer. All members of the Executive Leadership Team and the Faculty Council moderator gave reports relative to his/her area of responsibility. Then each committee secretary gave a report of his/her respective committee meeting to the full board. The following are some highlights of the Board meeting:

- Faculty presented departmental assessment reports during the Academic Committee meeting;
- Reaffirmed the existing CBC Mission Statement;
- Heard a report from the faculty council moderator;
- Heard a report on annual giving;
- Heard an update on the Scholarship Gala 2023;
- Heard an update on the ransomware attack;
- Heard an update on the search for a new baseball field location;
- The auditor report was presented during the Finance Committee Meeting;
- Approved the July-August 2022 Operating Results;
- Approved the 2023 Ministers Housing Allowances;
- Heard an Enrollment Report from the Director of Admissions;
- Approved the Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2023 board officers as follows: Chair Jim Fink, Vice Chair Kirk Shelton, Secretary Kellie Harper and Assistant Secretary Lisa Speer;
- Approved the election of Terry Kimbrow as President in Executive Session; and
- Recognized the outgoing board members whose terms are ending this year;

Outgoing Board of Trustee Members Recognized

I would like to thank our four outgoing Board of Trustee members — Zane Clark, Michele Corder, Cliff Johnson and Bobby Stoner — for their service to Central Baptist College. These men and women served as trustees from 2018-2022, and I cannot thank them enough.

Preview Days Planned

Central Baptist College has set our Stampede Open House schedule for 2022-2023. We have two upcoming dates for prospective students to personally experience campus life: Friday, Nov. 11 and Wednesday, Nov. 30.

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

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



Sports News
By Erik Holth

AMC Awards

• **St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 17** — For the first time this season, CBC has swept the American Midwest Conference (AMC) Athlete of the Week awards for a sport. Golfers **Alyssa Hagewood** and **Kitsakon Jairak** were named the Golfers of the Week by the conference. Hagewood shot a 161 at last week's Evangel Fall Invitational to finish in sixth place overall for the tournament, nine shots off the win. Jairak shot a one-under-par 139 last week to finish in second place, eight shots behind the winner.

Men's Soccer

• **Batesville, Oct. 11** — Playing for the final time as AMC opponents, CBC was at Huser Field for a tilt with the Scots of Lyon College. CBC (8-3-3, 1-1-2 AMC) was trying to avenge last season's two defeats to Lyon (2-9-2, 1-1-1 AMC), but neither team scored, fighting to a goalless draw.

• **Conway, Oct. 15** — Playing in their final Saturday home match of the season, CBC hosted the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State in an AMC tilt on Senior Day. CBC (8-4-3, 1-2-2 AMC) would lead at halftime, but couldn't keep HSSU (6-4-2, 1-1-2 AMC) off the board in the second half, conceding twice to lose 2-1.

Women's Soccer

• **Batesville, Oct. 11** — Playing on the road for the second straight match, CBC was at Huser Field for an AMC contest against the Scots of Lyon College (LC). In what was the final meeting between the two schools as AMC foes, **Josie Gelsthorpe's** goal just before halftime gave CBC (5-7-1, 2-2 AMC) a 1-0 victory over LC (1-10, 0-3 AMC).

• **Conway, Oct. 15** — Returning home for the first time in two weeks, CBC hosted the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) in an AMC tilt at the Centennial Soccer Complex. CBC (6-7-1, 3-2-0 AMC) played great defense and scored a goal in each half, beating HSSU (8-3-1, 2-2 AMC) 2-0.

Women's Golf

• **Springfield, Mo., Oct. 11** — Entering the final round in striking distance of the lead, **Alyssa Hagewood** teed off with **Abby Kirby** and **Laney Crutchfield** in the final round of the Evangel Fall Invitational at the Stewart Golf Club. Hagewood shot a final round 82 to finish with a score of 161, nine shots off the win in a tie for sixth overall. Kirby moved up four positions in the final standings, closing with a final round 87 for a score of 182 and Crutchfield posted a final round 100 to finish at 198 for the tournament.

Men's Golf

• **Springfield, Mo., Oct. 11** —



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



Dan Carson
Director **BMA of Arkansas Youth Department**
1410 North Porter Rd. • Fayetteville, AR 72703



Dan Carson and Elissa Cantrell Pitman

Being a Part of Their Story

There are a lot of things I love about working with students. They are full of life and potential. They are open to spiritual things in ways that adults typically aren't. They are passionate about their relationship with God. While looking at all the grey on my head and in my beard, you might not believe me, but working with students keeps me young.

However, there is one thing that is really hard to deal with, and it isn't the mistakes they make or when they let people down. The hard part of student ministry is its transitory nature of it. While lead pastors can enjoy working with families through the many stages of life, student ministry workers only have their students for six to seven years. There are students we may never see again after high school graduation. That is hard. We love these students and pour into them week after week. So, where do we find encouragement in this reality?

• **Reunions can happen.** Over the past month, I ran into two of my old students at two different Christian conferences. Both of these former students came from one of the first churches that I served at, Eastside Baptist Church of Conway. I sat down at one of the tables at the Called to Lead Conference at Cross Church of Rogers to find Kent Wiles at a table right next to mine. The next week, while at the For the Church Conference at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., I ran into Elissa Cantrell Pitman. It was a joy to see both of them on multiple levels. One, just getting to see your old students is a great joy. I was at Eastside from 1994-1996. Two, finding your former students at a Christian conference is an indication that you had a positive impact on their spiritual journey.

• **Friendship can happen.** While at Temple Baptist Church in Rogers, two of the students who came through our ministry are now married and have two cute kids. David and Emily McEuen are more than just former students from the youth group. They are friends we love to spend time with. In fact, David now serves as the family pastor at the church where he was a part of my youth ministry. We have some shared interests, and it is always a joy to share a meal or just hang out.

• **Their time in youth group is a part of their story.** Even if a reunion never happens and graduation is the end of that relationship, you have been a powerful part of their story. You shared in one of the most important phases of their lives and have given them Jesus. They may look back on their time in youth group as just a moment in time, but we want to make those moments count.

We all want to be remembered. We want our students to look back and think about those awesome times they had in youth group. The truth is, they may not even remember your name. However, God will honor your faithfulness. We may just be a part of their story, but our prayer is that they have embraced His Story.

Entering the final round trailing by 15 strokes, CBC looked to charge past the hosts Evangel to try and win the Evangel Fall Invitational on the Stewart Golf Course. CBC closed with an eight-under-par round of 272 and finished three strokes shy of the win with a total score of 575.

• **Nixa, Mo., Oct. 17** — Teeing off for the final time this fall, CBC was on the course at the Fremont Hills Country Club for the first 18 holes of the Fremont Hills Challenge. CBC shot an opening round 303 and leads the tournament by 10 strokes over

See SPORTS, Page 4



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LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department
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Bethany, Jonesboro gained one by baptism; Mitch Doss, pastor.

Bridge, Mt. Home witnessed one by baptism and two by letter; Hershel Conley, pastor.

Brister, Emerson added six by baptism, one by letter and one by statement since last report; Dr. Eric Goble, pastor.

Church at Willow Beach reports one by baptism and four by letter; Roy Tilley, pastor.

Old Hickory, Hattieville welcomed one by letter; Blake Martin, pastor.



Patricia Ann Lott, 81 of Greenbrier, passed away Oct. 8. She was a member of Needs Creek Baptist Church.

William "Bill" O. Shirley, 83 of Little Rock, passed away Oct. 6. He was a deacon at El Faro Baptist Church.

Emma Coy Doty, 92 of Bay, passed away Sept. 28. She was a member of Park View Baptist Church in Trumann.

triads is ensured by developing a list of accountability questions to be asked of one another weekly. The beauty and genius of these questions are stated in our *Multiplication Workshop* by Dave DeVries: "They are to stimulate conversations of character and confession of sin in a safe environment that values honesty, vulnerability, confidentiality and grace. Choose someone you can trust and will keep confidences. These questions can be asked in a small group if you trust the group, or with just one other person."

Here are some examples of great questions:

- How have you experienced God in your life this week?
- Did you hear from God this week by regularly spending time in the Bible and praying?
- As a result of your time with God this past week, how have you determined you can better obey God?
- Did you express a forgiving attitude toward others this week?
- Did you practice any undisciplined or addictive behavior this week?
- Were you honorable in your financial dealings?
- Did you pray for your pre-Christian friends this week?
- Were you able to talk with someone about Christ this week?

Do not be afraid to develop your own accountability questions and tailor them to the distinctions of the male and female gender-specific triads. James 5:16 states, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed." Accountability is the obedience mechanism and is quite often the missing element in our discipleship and mobilization.



By Dr. Tom Mitchell
(501) 804-6647 • temitchell1946@gmail.com



Pattern for Pupils

I was just thinking about my dad. Jesse Mitchell was a quiet, hardworking man, a carpenter by trade. He "hired" me to help him when I was about 11 years old. Most of my work was cleaning up and toting lumber. When I was 12, we were remodeling an old church building, and one of the things most needed was paint. He took me to a Sunday School room and gave me a bucket of paint, a roller and pan, and a brush. He said, "Paint this room and I'll be back to check on you later." So I started painting.

As he said, he came back to check on me. Then Dad said, "You've done pretty well." Then he handed me a single-edged razor blade. I asked, "What's this for?" He said, "Now you can scrape all that paint you left on the windowpanes." As I scraped, he began putting masking tape around the other panes not yet painted. He then told me to do the other windows the same and then paint the molding and I would not get paint on the glass. I then exclaimed, "Why didn't you tell me that first?" His wise reply was simply, "Oh, now you'll never forget!"

What a wise teacher. He allowed me to do things my way before showing me the right way. I think we can learn something from that lesson that was taught to me 64 years ago.

Christ's Commission

I feel certain the majority of our readers are familiar with what we usually refer to as The Great Commission. Jesus gave His directive to His 11 disciples prior to joining His Father on the throne in Heaven. I remind you of Christ's Commission. He said, "...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20 NIV).

Note that Jesus told **disciples** to make other **disciples**. This is a pattern for pupils, and it is goal-oriented. My dad was a carpenter whose goal was to make me a carpenter. What he taught me first was that, on my own, I had no clue what to do or how to properly accomplish it.

Churches Biggest Mistake

Some may take offense to this, but in our modern day, the churches are not doing something right. How do I know? It only takes a few minutes to research and find that, across the nation, New Testament churches are now leading people to Christ and baptizing them. Here's the biggest mistake made with those who are saved and baptized — we are leaving new converts to themselves to try to make themselves disciples. In some cases, we truly leave them at the altar to fend for themselves.

A Lesson from an Ethiopian

Phillip was one of the disciples who had been made a disciple by other disciples. He, along with six others, had been chosen to minister to the young church's Grecian widows. Later, he became an evangelist. As he traveled to Gaza from Jerusalem, he met a very important official, an Ethiopian eunuch, who was reading from the writings of Isaiah. According to Acts 8:26-30, something wonderful transpired. Phillip asked a good question: "Do you understand what you are reading?" Here's a lesson we can learn from that Ethiopian. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" (Acts 8:30-31).

Diligent Discipleship

Phillip could have said, "First thing you need to do is come visit our church. We have a great pastor, and you will learn a lot." He could have said that... but he didn't! Instead, he revealed what diligent discipleship is. After being invited to join the man in the chariot, Phillip realized the passage the man was reading was from Isaiah 53, which describes the Suffering Savior: "The

See PATTERNS, Page 4

Building Accountability

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 stresses the importance of strength in numbers. "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up" (HCSB). In Luke 10, Jesus appoints and sends out 72 disciples. They are sent out two by two, and this seems to be Jesus' plan and protocol. The times you do see the disciples alone, the

outcome was not good. Judas went alone to betray Christ and sell him for 30 pieces of silver, and Peter stood by the fire alone the night Jesus was arrested and denied he even knew Him.

Mobilization, where the church's feet hit the ground in order to advance the kingdom of God, needs a buddy system. Whenever we went to a pool, lake or somewhere to swim with a group, we employed the buddy system. Usually, someone had a whistle and, when blown, you were instructed to get to your "buddy." You were to clasp your hands together and hold your arms up high to demonstrate you knew who your "buddy" was. Do you know who your buddy (accountability partner) is in your mobilization efforts? The Bible gives us over 50 "one another" admonitions to show us how the mission of God is to be lived out in community.

In *The Leadership Ladder*, Steve Ogne and Ken Priddy state the importance of developing accountability partners and mentors, "Peer Mentoring Clusters provide a high level of accountability for leaders. Life Transformation Groups provide a high level of accountability for Bible reading. Celebrate Recovery Groups provide a high level of accountability for substance abuse." Who is mentoring you and holding you accountable? A mentor is defined as someone who has been where you want to go and is willing to help you get there. It is a Paul who said in I Cor. 11:1, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."

That's why there are many passages in the Bible that tell believers what we should do for one another. These "one another" verses can only be lived out in relationship with other believers. That is why I love building triads where three people meet together, pray together and begin living on mission together. Ogne and Priddy continued,

"Gender-specific small groups or huddles provide a higher level of intimacy and accountability for personal growth." This is where life on life occurs and adds accountability into the mix. Accountability is the obedience mechanism of discipleship and therefore, mobilization.

Life Transformation Groups are described by Dave DeVries as "a grassroots tool for growth. Through this simple system, the most essential elements of vital spiritual ministry are released to common Christians without the need for specialized training. It taps the disciple's internal motivation and provides the support needed to grow in the essentials of a spiritual life. The Life Transformation Group (triad) empowers the common Christian to do the uncommon work of re-productive discipling." These groups of three have a flexible structure to meet together, pray together and hold one another accountable.

In *Cultivating a Life For God*, Neil Cole lists five strengths of Life Transformation Groups:

- **Community** — Life change does not happen in a vacuum; it happens in relationship with others (Eccl. 4:12).
- **Accountability** — Few things would get done in life without some degree of accountability (Matt. 18:15-17).
- **Confidentiality** — It is easier to maintain confidentiality in a group of 2 or 3 rather than a larger group of 10 or 12 (Prov. 25:9-10).
- **Flexibility** — It is much easier to coordinate the calendars of only 2 or 3 than a typical small group of 15 (Matt. 18:20).
- **Reproducibility** — It is easier to reproduce a smaller, simpler group than a larger and more complex entity (II Tim. 2:2).

The mobilization element is increased for several reasons, but accountability is huge, and it is willing to ask hard questions when others in your group are struggling because of tests or temptation. When a group of three becomes four then you multiply by forming two groups of two and recruiting a third person to each group. Now you have 6 people instead of four living out community together with your eyes on multiplying again in order to make it 12. Proverbs 27:17 states it clearly: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

The accountability aspect of



AMENDMENTS (Continued From Page 1)

state and local law” and “provide a claim or defense to persons whose religious freedom is burdened by government.”

Without the means of defending against the usurpation of our religious liberties, we could be at the mercy of courts and government officials — both elected and appointed — who don't see the intrinsic and indispensable value of the fundamental rights of religious liberty enshrined in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment provide.



Nick Jacobson loading the shoeboxes in the shipping container.

SHOEBOXES (Continued From Page 1)

to place an order and have items sent straight to the Missions office: tiny.cc/shoobox2022.

We are also accepting donations online or through the mail. Visit bmamissions.org, select “give,” then “designate my offering” and choose “Christmas Shoeboxes” or make checks payable to Everlasting Smiles, 611 Locust Ave., Conway, Ark. 72034. We are accepting

LIFEWORD (Continued From Page 1)

Lifeword with more people being impacted with the gospel than at any time in its history.”

The message of Christ's life, death and resurrection is the same, but the methods we've been given are ever-expanding. What a privilege and responsibility! What a time to be alive! We don't take this lightly but believe God has uniquely positioned us to share in new ways.

This could not happen without you. We are grateful for your partnership which helps continue and broaden Lifeword's work. Your support and involvement allow Lifeword to live out the theme for this year's Lifeword Sunday: No Borders. The ministry of Lifeword has no borders because God's kingdom has no borders. God's kingdom is for every tongue, every tribe and every nation. There is no boundary or limit to the gospel's reach. The message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be stopped.

On Oct. 23, churches around the country will participate in Lifeword Sunday: No Borders by praying and giving to help continue and broaden Lifeword's work. Your partnership in Lifeword Sunday allows us to expand our reach in all areas. Things like adding radio transmitters in remote areas and increasing the number of languages we serve

Arkansas Marijuana Legalization Initiative

Where you read “cannabis” in the name of the amendment, think marijuana — high potency, harmful and dangerous marijuana. Where you read “adult use,” know the results — whether purposeful or unintended — will be a dramatic increase in the percentages of young people using the drug and becoming dependent and, in some cases, addicted to it.

Some of the more salient reasons that just about the last thing our state and its people need is for a few **See AMENDMENTS, Page 8**

SPORTS (Continued From Page 2)

AMC rival Missouri Baptist.

Individually, **Jakub Slapal** owns the lead after posting an even par 71 to carry a three-shot lead into the final round. **Paul Gomez** was next, shooting an opening round 76 to sit in a tie for fourth while both **Joaquin Ali** and **Suraprat Pareepart** shot opening round 78's and are tied for eighth. **Kitsakon Jairak** opened with an 80 and **Anupon Wandee**, competing as an individual, opened with an 83.

Volleyball

• **Paragould, Oct. 13** — Playing outside the American Midwest Conference (AMC) for the final time this season, CBC took on the Pioneers of Crowley's Ridge College (CRC) at the Carter Activities Center. CBC (3-13) kept it close all night long but weren't able to outscore CRC (4-17), falling in four sets by scores of 21-25, 28-26, 23-25 and 23-25.

PATTERNS

(Continued From Page 3)

eunuch asked Phillip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Phillip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:34-35). Phillip had been discipled, and what he had learned as a pupil became a pattern for us today. Disciples are to be diligent in making other disciples.

The account continued with evidence that Phillip taught the man the importance of knowing Christ as Savior and then following in baptism. The eunuch saw a body of water and immediately requested to be baptized.

The Effect of Discipleship

What I learned from my dad 64 years ago, I still utilize. I am glad he taught me well. After the eunuch was baptized, Philip was led by the Spirit elsewhere, but he left one very glad, very changed disciple. "... *The eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing*" (Acts 8:39).

Churches Must Make Disciples

I know that there is much mimicking today of other groups regarding “doing church.” So many have abandoned Sunday School and training ministry. However, while worship of the Lord God is paramount, discipleship is of tremendous importance according to our Lord Christ. Remember He said we are to be “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). Churches are made up of disciples who are to make disciples, who will make other disciples until Jesus comes again. That is the scriptural pattern for pupils who serve the Lord in obedience to His command.

Once again, that's what I was just thinking. I hope you will think about it as well.

Mount Vernon Brotherhood Meets

By Lance Madden, Reporter

The Mount Vernon BMA Brotherhood met Monday, Sept. 12 at Central Baptist Church in Hughes for our quarterly meeting with 46 in attendance and an offering of \$347. The offering will be sent to BMA of Arkansas State Missions.

The host church fed the men a delicious fish and chicken meal with all the trimmings. After congregational singing, Jackie Davis sang a special, Joe Kemmer played several songs on the accordion and Christopher Tucker sang three songs. Paul White, director of BMA of Arkansas State Missions, then preached an encouraging and challenging message from Rom. 1:16 about the power of the gospel.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon BMA Brotherhood will be Monday, Dec. 5 at Bethel Baptist Church in Forrest City at 6:30 p.m.

Southwest District GMAs Meet

The Southwest District GMAs met on Oct. 15 at College View in Magnolia. The 2022 project total for Jeremy Hambrice's work in Papua New Guinea was \$1,728. Reports and updates for the District WMA, State GMA and National GMA were given. New officers for 2023 were elected, and the installation of the officers was performed by Valarie Fish.

A “Finding Your Way” challenge was issued and also helping others find theirs. A prayer of dedication was given for the upcoming year.

Officers for 2023 are: President Lilli Medlin of Pleasant Springs, First Vice President Brooke Hanson of First at Waldo, Second Vice President Riley Johnson of Pleasant Springs, Recording/Correspondence Secretary Ana Wilson and Song Leader Abigail Hall of First at Taylor, Goal Chairman Dixie Almand of College View and Attendance Chairman Allie Hall of First at Taylor.

The 2023 Project will be Missionary Care.

— Ana Wilson, recording/correspondence secretary

Central, Prescott To Celebrate 95th Anniversary

By Judy Duke • Anniversary Committee

Central Baptist Church of Prescott will celebrate 95 years of serving our Lord and Savior on Nov. 6. Everyone that has attended or served as staff at CBC is invited to attend this great day of celebration. Services will begin at 10 a.m. Songs of celebration and a time of reminiscing will be part of the service. Dr. Tom Mitchell will be the guest speaker. After the morning service, there will be a potluck lunch held in the Stokes Center. Join us for a great time celebrating our 95th Anniversary.

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JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor
editor@baptisttrumpet.com

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

ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor
associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com
(mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

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Baptism at the Jordan River

Sam Jordan • Jordan

Hello friends, we have some wonderful news to share with you. God has blessed our ministry in many ways.

• Baptisms in the Jordan River

— Eleven people were recently baptized and have dedicated their lives to the Lord. During the baptism, I had three pastor friends who joined me in baptizing our new church members. These baptisms were quite a special moment since they took place in the Jordan River. The Jordan River is known for its significance in the Old and New Testament and is known as the place where Jesus was baptized. Through these baptisms, we saw God's ability in bringing people to commit to serving Him and others.

• **Mercy Clinic** — Throughout the summer, God has blessed our Mercy Clinic and has allowed us to treat and provide for those in need. During the month of July alone, we treated 2,161 patients and another 2,074 in the month of August. We also began to transfer and provide treatment for patients suffering from incurable conditions of acute lung disease, such as tuberculosis.

During our very hot summer in Jordan, we were able to provide fans to refugees as well as distribute hundreds of food packages to Syrian and Jordanian families who are

in need. For the parents who came in with their children to the clinic, we were able to distribute vitamins to their kids, many of whom were found to have vitamin deficiencies.

• Non-Formal Education

— Our Non-Formal Education program has seen many blessings and has blessed many children this year. Just as we did last year, we were able to provide school supplies to the students this school year. We were also blessed enough to provide the students with nutritious meals each day and food boxes for their families. We continuously do home visits to the kids' homes to check up on them and their families.

We were also able to see the fruits of our labor when many of our program graduates came to us during the spring for help in passing their finals and we were very pleased with their high marks in Arabic, Math and English. Last but not least, we were able to register our school teachers in a trauma recovery course for children. This course will equip the teachers in knowing how to help, understand and work with these children, many of whom suffer from PTSD and other psychological disorders.

• **Equipping Leaders in the Arab World** — We give thanks to God for our growing and thriving Theology

Program that is shaping new leaders from different countries for the harvest. We have just added a new course on the subject of Hermeneutics (How to Study the Bible). This class has helped equip the students with the ability to read, understand and interpret the Bible.

• Mafraq Refugee Camps

— The Lord has blessed us to go beyond the center and help those in refugee camps. In the month of August, we were able to once again go to Syrian refugee camps located in Mafraq, Jordan, which is near the Syrian-Jordanian border. Visiting once a month has been sufficient in seeing three different camps that are located near each other. We are still providing to those in need, specifically those with chronic conditions, free medicine and transferring them for lab tests if necessary. Last month alone, we were able to see and help 301 Syrian patients during our visit to the camps. On top of that, we have also been providing our students at our Mafraq school at the camp with food, medicine and school supplies.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Because of you, we are able to continue serving hundreds of people and show them the practical love of God. (bmajordan@gmail.com)



Gavin & Haley Roberts • Morgan, Utah

It has been an eventful summer and fall for the team at Morgan Grace Church. We had 11 teams throughout the season where there was no snow on the ground! We had multiple block parties in Morgan, as well as in Coalville and Henefer. We appreciate the help of all of the teams who came out.

God has blessed our work. A year and a half ago when Haley and I moved out to join Chase and Becky in Utah, a good Sunday was around 30 folks in attendance. Now we are pushing up into the

90s. We are thankful for God's blessing in bringing people to hear the Word preached. The City Council will meet this week to decide if we are able to lease a new meeting space on Commercial Street in Morgan. We are past capacity in our current location and need this space to become available for the growth of our church plant. Please pray for a favorable vote from the council members.

Many of the folks who attend our services are not believers. We pray that God will draw these people to

Himself as they sit under the teaching of the Word. Chase, Becky, Haley and I have different folks from the church that we meet with for formal and informal discipleship. Pray that our people will continue to grow in their love for God and others.

By God's grace, we have started to see the snowball effect of building relationships in Morgan. Both of our families live in Morgan and we have all made friends through coaching, playing at the playground with our kids, buying feed at Tractor Supply, skiing and other day-to-day

Rose • Cambodia

Time flies, and I will graduate with my EdD in August of 2023. Praise God! I can't make it without your prayers, support and love, and I am thankful! As planned, after graduation, I will prepare to return to Cambodia's mission field as a BMA missionary. That will be in 2024.

I am so very excited about that. Up to this moment, I already know exactly what I need to do when my foot touches the ground. We will start the school and name it Hope to the Future Bible Institute & Vocational/Technical Trainings — a mission of the BMA of America.

It will become a place where children who have no birth registration will receive a birth registration, learn how to read and write Bible literacy and be trained to do nursing, sewing, plumbing, fixing electricity, building, cooking, teaching and more. I am passionate about the nursing program because I know they need it.

After graduation, I will sit down with professionals in the field to develop a special curriculum for the target population so they can move forward in life and become a blessing to their family and community. I will share more about that in a detailed project, but I warn you, folks, it will keep you busy with joy and praise! The future is coming! Please keep praying! More importantly, I wish y'all, my beloved friends and supporters, a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Love and appreciation to y'all!

More on Hope for the Future

Hope for the Future is a special project of Jesus' lovers and followers to deliver His hope to the children who are born without a birth certificate and illiterate to become productive citizens before God and man.

Hope for the Future will provide for students:

• Vocational training: Nursing programs, baking and sewing, electrical and plumbing, construction skills, computer, electrical devices, book-keeping, etc. — anything that could help them earn a living! They will become a blessing to their families and the community around them.

• We also plan to provide a particular birth registration form to the children. That will give them a name to call and a birthday record.

Please pray that BMAA will approve it as the first department of the association overseas. The mission will not only serve the stateless population but also intends to be a leadership and cultural center of BMAA overseas, which presents the goodwill of BMAA on a global scale. (putting my studies into action, folks!) Please pray!

If you have any questions, please contact me at roseng2021@gmail.com.

If God puts this in your heart, please pray for: my study (the dissertation, graduation), the Hope and Future Institution, the transition of my legal status from student to worker and the plan to come back to the field in 2024. (roseng2021@gmail.com)

activities that come with normal life here in Utah. Morgan has started to feel like home to all of us. Our kiddos don't talk about moving back to Arkansas anymore. They just wish their grandparents would move here! We have a great community in our church family, and we spend time with our people weekly. God has blessed us with wonderful friends who have become family.

I have neglected to send out email updates as often as I should but do post regularly on our Facebook group "Morgan Grace Church Support Page." Please ask to join that page so you can keep up with regular updates, prayer requests and the life of our church plant. We are only able to be here because of the financial support of churches and individuals like you.

Thank you for your help in the work that the Lord is doing in Morgan. We appreciate you. Our church appreciates you. Because of your help, we hope to be able to make the changes necessary to the new space to make it the perfect, permanent home for Morgan Grace as we seek to love God, love others and plant churches in the Morgan area.

Here are a few specific prayer requests to keep in mind:

• New visitors who have attended our services to continue to ask questions,

• New space to hold our worship services,

• Partnering churches and individuals who will support the ministry financially and

• Discipleship of our people. (wgavin.roberts@gmail.com)





In Uncertain Times, God Will Send a Reprieve

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 navigate us today. That's why I recently released a new book, *For Uncertain Times: 40 Truths of God's Care in National Distress*.

I want to give a glimpse not just of my book, but of how we can gain direction from these times God's people faced struggles nationally. I shared a glimpse from the time of Egyptian bondage (see 9/28 issue), the Assyrian invasion (see 10/5 issue) and the Babylonian captivity (see 10/12 issue). This glimpse is taken from Daniel 5, II Chronicles 36 and Ezra 1, which tell of when God's people were subject to the Persians.

Then

When King Cyrus defeated the Babylonians and rode into the city, he saw himself as a liberator. He did liberate the exiled Jews. Amazingly, it happened exactly as the prophet Jeremiah said it would, some 50-70 years earlier. To be even more precise, the prophet Isaiah mentioned King Cyrus by name twice — nearly 200 years before the event happened. After inheriting the exiled people of God, King Cyrus issued a decree for the temple to be rebuilt and allowed the Jews to return home.

A reprieve had come. The captivity had ended. Jews returned home on a mission to rebuild the temple. Conditions for the Jewish people also seemed to ease initially under Persian rule. Reprieves are constant when there is calamity in the Bible. When God's people face hardship, even the warnings of difficulty always come with a promise that the hardship will end, and better times lie ahead.

There's always hope.

Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel

were the chief prophets of the exile. Jeremiah and Ezekiel especially told of the punishment that had befallen Judah. They pronounced the severity of the city's destruction and captivity. The two didn't mince words about the anger of God due to the people's sin. Yet, in the writings of both, they tell of the end of the captivity. They tell of the people's return and ultimately the establishment of an eternal kingdom. Both even point to the New Covenant. Daniel speaks a lot about this eternal kingdom to be ruled by the Messiah.

What Cyrus did for the Jewish people was remarkable. He returned the articles of the temple taken by Nebuchadnezzar and funded the program to rebuild the temple.

Now

By now, we know what God promises, and we know that what He's placed in His Word will come to pass. In a previous article, you read the instruction: "God will bring His Word to pass." Another article gave the truth: "God will pull the trigger." Those truths resurface every time promised calamity comes, but they apply to more than just the punishment God will bring to pass or pull the trigger on. He will also bring blessings to pass. Good promises will come true. God will do good things.

He's going to bring punishment. He's going to allow suffering, but He will also do good. He will bring reprieves. God's people experience darkness, as we've presented, but there will always be a sunrise.

Though God's people were enslaved in Egypt, they were rescued and brought to the Promised Land.

Though Assyria invaded and destroyed much of the nation, God supernaturally rescued His people.

Though His people received what they deserved for turning from Him and toward idols, the

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.

Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.

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

HOMECOMINGS

95th Anniversary/Homecoming; Central, Prescott; Nov. 6; 10:00 a.m. — worship (Dr. Tom Mitchell, speaker); noon — potluck; Roy Johnson, pastor.

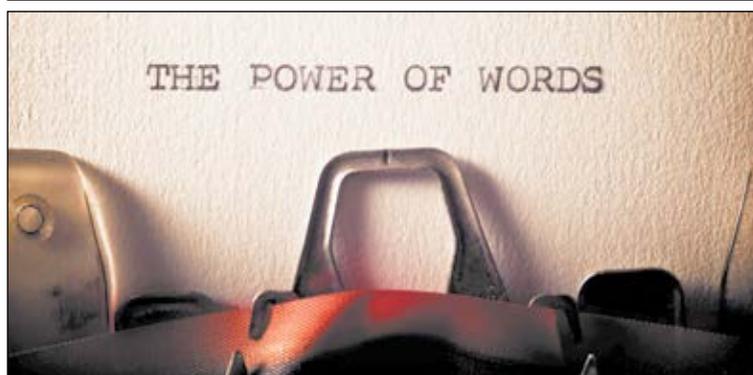
captivity only lasted 70 years.

Though there will always be darkness to walk through, the sun will rise.

Interestingly, in Revelation 22, as the apostle John relays the nature of the New Heavens and New Earth, he writes, "There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:4). Therefore, for the believer, dire situations will never end in darkness. Ultimately, darkness will no longer exist, for God the Father will dwell with us.

We can count on these reprieves because it's in God's nature. In Exodus 34, God reveals Himself to Moses more intimately than He has with anyone in history. It was an emphasized moment. What God revealed of Himself at that moment is something we should take to heart. God revealed His nature. Although He'll punish sin, He prefers to give His people mercy and love. "Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation'" (Exod. 34:5-7 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 get a copy of Jake's new book, *For Uncertain Times*, on Amazon.



The Power of Words

This past month some student leaders, Hanna and I had a chance to attend the Student Ministry Workers Retreat, which is a professional development conference for student ministry workers hosted by Student Ministry Matters (also known as the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department). The focus of this year's retreat was the power of words and how they impact ministry.

Over the course of three group sessions, we saw that students struggle to master their speech, and so do those who lead and serve students. There were two impactful verses that stood out to me that day:

- "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matt. 15:19 ESV) and

- "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37).

When I started putting together the implications of these two things that Jesus said, what I realized was more than a little frightening. He said that from the depraved heart within me come a host of evil things, including sins of the mouth like false witness and slander, and that on the day of judgment, I will account for every careless word that comes from my mouth. So, not only will I account for every **willfully** spoken evil, hurtful, and damaging word that comes from my mouth, but I will also account for all the **carelessly** spoken evil, hurtful and damaging ones that come from my mouth.

What I also realized during the conference was that I was not alone in the waves of conviction that were washing over me. During one session, our group was sitting together on a row of chairs in a lecture room. As we heard more and more about how what comes out of our mouths is representative of the condition of our heart, I could feel a tsunami of conviction crash over the row.

On our way home, we stopped for supper and had a discussion about what we had heard at the conference. As we shared, each one of us expressed how we felt our words were not as honoring to God as they should be. We confessed to one another what we felt convicted about, which ranged from gossip to slander to cursing to sarcasm to lying. There was an air of corporate repentance as we reflected on what the Holy Spirit had revealed to us.

As hard as it was to bear the conviction, it fills me with joy to know that the Lord was working in a group of us. He was doing that to make each of us more holy, but He was also doing it to make The Hedge a more holy community. We've already seen our conversations at the ministry be kinder and more life-giving as a result of the convictions we felt.

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



Lifeward Sunday, Oct. 23.

Fall Festival, Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.; Calvary, Morrilton.

Trunk or Treat, Oct. 29; 3-5 p.m.; Friendship, Greenbrier; James Crews, pastor.

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

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

Trunk or Treat, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.; Fellowship, Walnut Ridge; John Dur-

ham, pastor.

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

Gospel Singing, Nov. 6; 10:30 a.m.; featuring The Kinsmen Quartet; potluck lunch to follow; Joe Brown, pastor.

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

Community Thanksgiving Meal, Nov. 19; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Center Grove, Cord; Barry Anderson, pastor.

BMA of America, April 25-27, 2023; Antioch, Conway.

National Galilean Camp, June 23-26, 2023; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

SOAR Student Conference, July 3-5, 2023; Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Tex.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

Missionaries

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



PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
arstamis@comcast.net

Winding Down

Another fall, great weather and the local association meetings are coming to an end. I have truly enjoyed all the meetings I have been able to attend. Sunday, I was blessed to be with the Shiloh Baptist Church in McRae. They allowed me to share the work of our State Missions Department and to bring the morning message. It was a pleasure to meet Pastor Rodger Cole and his wife. We enjoyed good services and a good meal afterward. It was my first time being there, and I hope it won't be my last. What a great fellowship of brothers and sisters!

This Weekend

Friday night, we will be attending the Arkansas Prairie Association meeting at Forks of Lagrue in DeWitt. After the meeting, we will make our way down to attend the Howard Association meeting at Center Point Nashville on Saturday. After the afternoon service, we plan to drive over to Magnolia to spend the night and share missions and preach at Antioch East with Pastor Ron Owen.

Reflection

Having had the opportunity to attend several associational meetings, it is obvious to see that attendance continues to drop. As a result, some associations have difficulty transacting needed business for lack of a quorum. May our churches see the need of attending as there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "We had a health fair Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We began with a prayer with all the volunteers from the different organizations present and, right at 10, people from the community began to arrive at the temple. Their blood pressure was taken and they were offered tests for cholesterol, glucose, hepatitis and HIV, and the flu vaccine and the COVID booster were given. Organizations also participated that provided information on drug abuse, support in cases of domestic violence and English classes. My family's dentist, Dr. Dan Ballenger, also participated in the fair, teaching attendees (especially the children) how to care for their teeth, and providing them with toothpaste and toothbrushes.

"Our church, in addition to hosting, also had a table to serve the community by providing them

with environmental disinfectants, diapers, backpacks and other things. If they wished, they could leave us their names and telephone numbers in the list of participants.

"Sunday, I was blessed by the church with the celebration of Pastor's Day. Serving God is a privilege, and I enjoy serving Him so much alongside my family that it has been a formidable team. I thank God for the lives of Sayra, Jose Carlos and Fernanda. I pray that God will keep them steadfast and that they will never stray from His path."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "Our God is good and is always faithful. Last week, I asked you to pray that God would introduce me to people, and He introduced me to Herson. At a quinceañera (birthday celebration of a 15-year-old young lady), I was invited to meet a family and that family contacted me last week so that I could take the Word of God to their drug-addicted son. I visited him and introduced him to the Bible.

Herson did not make his decision to follow Christ, and only the power of God can break his chains of bondage. I ask you, ministry partners, to pray for this young man. What for man is impossible, through God all things are possible.

"We had an inspiring service at Ebenezer as we continue with our series of a panoramic view of the Bible. We have already finished the introduction, and next Sunday we will see everything that is the theme of creation.

"Thank you for your prayers. Keep praying for God to introduce me to people who have a spiritual thirst. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a very busy and productive week at Faith Chapel! We have been making plans and preparing to build a building, and there is a lot of work involved in that. This week, we had a dozer come in and take the trees out where the building will sit. We had to get the stumps and small limbs cut off so he could stack them up to be burned before he left. We left the trunks and big limbs for some of our members to cut up as firewood. Racing a dozer with a chainsaw is a lot more work than it sounds like, but we finished at about the same time, and it all worked out. Boy, did we sleep well that night!

"Saturday, I got to perform a wedding ceremony for a couple that has been coming to church with us for a few months now, and that was indeed a blessing!

"Our numbers were a little down on Sunday. Three of our families with children were out, but we had some come that we hadn't seen in a while and that is always good.

"If you go to our Facebook page, you can watch the drone footage of the baptism last week at Bull Shoals Lake. One of our members has a drone photography business, and he has blessed us twice now with his excellent skills.

"Thank you all for your support and prayers. Please continue because God is hearing and answering them."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "Faith Journey Mission was busy this week. I had the opportunity to help as one of the leaders at our local school in the Fields of Faith event. Fields of Faith reaches students every year in our local schools through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program. It is a

Opportunities For Service

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

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.

Victory Baptist Church in Gentry is seeking a pastor. Call or text Mark Betts at (479) 752-7140 for more information.

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

First Baptist Church in Carthage, Texas is seeking a full-time student pastor. Resumes may be sent to James McRight at james@firstbaptistcarthage.com.

combined effort with other area school districts to have one night of worship, all at the same time at different football fields, to bring the Word of God to students. It was a night of praise, worship and sharing of the gospel. It was amazing to see God working in these students' lives.

"We continued in the book of Joshua in our Sunday evening meeting. Joshua 13 teaches us that our work isn't done, even in our older years. God wants us to continue working to expand His kingdom. As Christians, we aren't to grow comfortable with where we are in our walk after salvation. We must continue to grow in faith and share the message of salvation with those who are lost. That is what we are called to do while we are still able to do so during our time here on earth. Keep moving forward in faith and sharing God's love this week."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "This week we were able to attend 'The Sanctity of Life' and the 'Eugenics, Abortion and Our Future' by Joe Owen, director of Answer in Genesis in Spain conferences that were organized by Answer in Genesis. Secularism through the various stages of life has been attacking Christianity, specifically attacking the authority behind the individual, the family, civil authority and the church. Every life has value because it has been uniquely designed in the image of God. Psalm 139:13-14 says we were fearfully and wonderfully made. No matter the naturalistic Evolutionary Worldview, Christians must defend the biblical worldview about the value of life. We must not only say we are pro-life, but must do something for those women who suffer and are tempted not to have their babies.

"There are no excuses, church, we must get into that fight and not be indifferent. Every Christian in this world should weep with those who mourn. The church must recognize

Revivals

Old Hickory, Hattiesville, Oct. 23-26; Sunday, 5:30 – Jordan Bowen; Monday, 6:30 – Shawn Hammtreee, Wednesday, 6:30 – Jordan Bowen; Blake Martin, pastor.

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

First, St. Charles, Oct. 26-28, 7 p.m.; Luke Watson, evangelist; music by The Walker Sisters.

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.

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.

the intrinsic value of life, recognize that life begins at conception and that the 'fetus' has the same value as a baby, prepare for apologetics, commit to helping and supporting single mothers and families in need, and share the gospel with women who have had abortions.

"Monday, we shared the gospel and a woman in great need gave her life to Christ. We were also able to pray for a group of families who had different needs.

"Tuesday, we continued praying and sharing the gospel in Springdale. We had breakfast for siblings who are in need of Bible counseling on Wednesday and had a beautiful time.

"Thursday, we met with our large discipleship group. A total of 12 people arrived and, after a time of testimonials of thanksgiving, we sang and had the lesson, then had questions and shared food. We usually meet on Fridays, but we changed the day this week due to our trip to the conference. We are preparing for our first service in November."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "This Sunday, we will have our second Worship Night. Though it is an opportunity for outreach, we focus our worship nights to be for our Connection Group members to have an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing and to corporately worship. Pray with us that we can gather with that heart and visitors will come and experience it with us.

"We have Facebook ads running throughout the week. Even if they don't lead to direct attendance, the ads bring awareness to our event.

"I also had the chance to share about Epic Life at Prairie Oaks Baptist Church this past Sunday morning. I love the opportunity to share how God has worked in our lives to bring us to this point and how we're approaching this mission in a way anyone can — just loving and caring for our neighbors. I'd love to share this with other congregations!"



Jose Carlos (L) and Marlon (R) on left side of the Church Table during the Health Fair.

From the Mailbox

Baptist Trumpet
P.O. Box 192208
Little Rock, Ark. 72219-2208
e-mail: editor@baptisttrumpet.com

Opinions expressed in the Mailbox Column are those of the writer, and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the churches of the BMA. All letters are subject to editorial review and editing. Letters for the column should clearly indicate they are for publication. Please include a daytime phone number and the name and location of your church. Letters should be no longer than two to three pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. type or larger. Letters are accepted by mail, fax or e-mail. All letters must include the name and address of the writer, which will be published.

More Than We Ask or Think

Dear Editor:

In January of 2012, I told the congregation in First Baptist Church in McNeil, where I had served almost 29 years as pastor, that I was resigning and intending to leave in two months. That was not done because I was going to another church; I simply felt impressed that it was time to leave. I had some ideas of certain things that I would like to do, but wasn't really for sure if that was God's will. I was going to see what doors God would open and where He would lead. Over the past 10 years of trying to follow God's leading, there is one Scripture passage that has come to my mind multiple times. Paul said in Eph. 3:20 that God "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..."

Shortly after resigning, Mike Goodwin, president of EIM (Evangelistic International Ministries), asked me to take the responsibility of teaching and training pastors in other countries where they either did not have access to Bible colleges or seminaries or could not afford those that were accessible. In the first year and a half, we went to the Philippines, Ghana and Nepal, and had intentions to go to Bangladesh.

Then, in 2014, God opened doors for us to go to Tanzania in East Africa and begin to teach 22 pastors who had requested help in better learning the Bible and in better understanding how to pastor. The situation there led Mike to commit us to spend three years bringing in pastors three times annually to teach for a week. That was our goal, and we then intended to go back to other countries. However, God had bigger plans, and those plans were more than "we ask or think."

After bringing almost 20 different preachers from the USA and Ghana over that time period, God had done more than we had intended to do. We brought these Tanzanian pastors together to study,

worship and eat together for over seven days at a time. We did that on nine different occasions. While we were busy teaching and training, God was busy building an association. That was not our goal. We never asked them to join the BMA. I gave them one of our Doctrinal Statements the first time I went to teach so they would know the beliefs of the men who would be coming with me. As BMA pastors and personnel from Lifeword, BMA Missions, CBC and BMA Seminary poured into these men, those African pastors made a choice. They wanted to be a part of an association like that, so they formed the BMA of Tanzania. All the glory for this goes to God. We did not ask for God to help us begin an East African association when we began in 2014; that never even entered our mind. We were simply responding to a need and trying to keep our commitment. Ephesians 3:20 is so true. God is not only able to do more than we ask or think — He does it!

Another area over the last 10 years where God has shown that His thoughts are higher and bigger than mine concerns taking people to visit Israel; which is the main reason for this letter. In 2017, I promised my wife that I would take her to Israel since she was not able to go with me the first two times I went in 1992 and 2006. Hoping that we might find someone else at First Baptist Church in Magnolia to go with us, I spoke with one man to ask if he had ever thought about going to Israel. To my shock, he said he had just finished asking two other couples if they might want to go to Israel.

Feeling that God was at work in this, I told him I would make some contacts and see what we would need to do to put together a small group that would enable us to have our own private tour. I thought I was being optimistic in hoping to find 15-20. After a month of working to put together a package to offer a trip to Israel, I shared all this with those from our congregation who had interest. Before I left three weeks later on a teaching trip to Tanzania, we had 42 people signed up to go to Israel. We ended up taking 49 in February 2018.

Interest and excitement were so high after that trip that we planned another in June 2019 and took 31 that time. We planned a third tour to Israel and Jordan for 2021, but COVID shut that one down. We rescheduled for February 2022, but COVID concerns again caused us to cancel. We now have that same tour rescheduled for 2023.

While waiting for this one to finally be completed, I helped Mike Goodwin plan one for supporters of EIM. We leave on Oct. 24 with 30 more travelers. All I intended to do was, hopefully, take 15-20 on one trip. As is so often the case, God's plans are so much bigger than ours. By the time we return Nov. 4, I will have been blessed to

AMENDMENTS (Continued From Page 4)

marijuana growers and sellers to have a monopoly and virtually unfettered license to market their dangerous wares. First, the amendment will not allow the state legislature or any local government body to enact laws to control the marijuana business.

Marijuana today is not the marijuana of the 1970s. People who wrongly believe that marijuana is not a big deal simply are woefully uninformed and that lack of knowledge is dangerous in this context. In the 70s, the concentration of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component of marijuana, was roughly 1-3%. Over the years, the plant has been genetically engineered to contain a greater percentage of THC and was 17.1% in 2017 (up from 8.9% in 2008).

The percentage of THC continues to climb. In THC concentrates, like gummies and edibles (that are particularly enticing to children and very harmful when consumed by them), the concentration of THC reached 55.7% in 2017. This relentless demand for stronger marijuana is fraught with danger. The following bullet point statements are an attempt to bring some of the more significant problems to light, but suffice it to say, there is a large amount of accurate, reliable and empirical evidence to make a solid case against the legalization of recreational marijuana. What follows is just a small sampling. However, the evidence I speak of is readily available and accessible, so one should avail himself of it.

- **Mental and physical health can suffer.** Marijuana has been shown in studies to be significantly linked to psychosis, schizophrenia, depression and anxiety. Daily users of potent marijuana have four times

take 110 people to Israel — more "than we ask or think."

This 2023 tour that goes to Petra and Jordan after the Israel portion will probably be my last to plan since I have now gone back to pastoring full-time. If you would have interest in joining the 22 who are already signed up to go with us, feel free to contact me at danbull0550@gmail.com or (870) 904-5032. The dates are Feb. 25-March 11. You can pay the Land Package of \$3,120 per person (double occupancy), make your own flight arrangements and meet us in Israel. (I currently have four round-trip airline tickets out of Shreveport for \$1,302 for anyone taking the Petra extension.) Should you not want to take the Petra extension, your Land Package cost would be \$2,200 per person (double occupancy).

Maybe you would like to finally see the places and sites of the land chosen by the God who continues to do more "than we ask or think."

— Danny Bullock, Pastor, Antioch West, Magnolia (danbull0550@gmail.com)

the odds of developing psychosis.

Researchers have found a connection between marijuana use and lung damage, and cardiovascular ailments, including hypertension, myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, stroke and cardiac arrest.

- **The legalization of marijuana has led to increasing numbers of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and calls to poison control centers.** Consider the state of Colorado after legalization: a 54% increase in emergency room visits in four years; a 101% increase annually in hospitalizations during that same four-year period; pediatric marijuana exposure was commonplace, even though the state had mandated childproof packaging and warning labels, with a 140% increase in one eight-year period; from 2010 to 2014 the cases of Cannabis Hypertension Syndrome increased 46% and experienced at least two deaths caused by the condition.

- **The legalization of marijuana has seen increased use among the young.** In legal states, the young purchase it by circumventing the law — often with sellers' inattention to detail and carelessness in checking identification and age or by accessing the black market for marijuana — which tends to flourish in the legal states. Increases in the percentage of young people using marijuana in legal states far exceeds that in states where it remains illegal.

- **Legalization is often cited as a prime means of undercutting**

crime. The statistics don't bear that out. Crime rates in states that have legalized marijuana have risen at a much faster rate than in non-legal states. For example, the black market for marijuana in California has a three-to-one advantage in sales over the legal market.

Again, consider Colorado: that state's crime rate in 2016 grew 11 times faster than 30 of the country's 30 largest cities since legalization; in 2018 the state's Bureau of Investigation reported a 14.2% increase in property crime and a 36.5% increase in violent crime since 2013; neighborhoods near marijuana dispensaries in Denver saw an 84% increase each year in crime, compared to neighborhoods with no dispensary nearby; marijuana-related charges brought under the state's Organized Crime Control Act increased by 639% between 2013 and 2017.

Space here doesn't permit details about other categories, but the reliable research and resulting data confirm that marijuana legalization has harmful impacts on young adults, minority and low-income populations, the workplace, the homeless, the environment and leads to increases in impaired driving.

For the reasons set out above and so many, many more, Arkansas voters should roundly defeat the Arkansas Adult Use Cannabis Amendment in November's general election and protect our people, particularly the young, and enhance the quality of life for our families, our communities and our state.

CBC INVITES YOU TO A

Pastor's Breakfast

DURING THE STATE BMA MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

MABEE BUILDING
COMMUNITY ROOM

7:30AM-9:00 AM

RSVP TO
DUFFY GUYTON AT
501.205.8920 OR
DGUYTON@CBC.EDU

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