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New BMA of Arkansas Insert

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

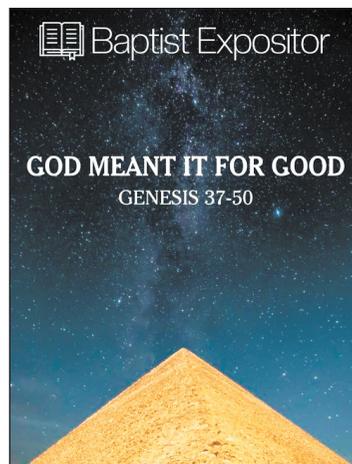
In this issue, you will find a new insert that we are excited to debut in conjunction with the BMA of Arkansas annual meeting that meets this week. The idea behind this insert is to share stories of transformation from the ministries of the BMA of Arkansas that go beyond the usual reports that appear in each issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

As I have been traveling to the association meetings (local, state and national) over the past few years to represent the *Baptist Trumpet*, I have noticed the decline in participation from many churches on every level, but

especially at the district meetings. In discussing this with others in leadership, we began brainstorming ideas of how we can attempt to reengage these churches and pastors about the importance of being involved with the association on every level. What led to this insert was the idea of telling some of the stories that we don't have room to share each week about how God is working through the associated work in the BMA of Arkansas to transform lives for His honor and glory.

My prayer is that, through these stories, we will all be encouraged that, not only is God still working, but He is doing so because the churches in the BMA of Arkansas are coming together to support the departments that are carrying out their respective missions. The old adage, "We can do more together," is never more true than when we consider what we are able to do as an association of churches. The reach of the ministry of your local church goes much farther than where you and your church are located. It reaches every place where our state missionaries are serving, the homes of every student at Central Baptist College and the lives of every worker and student that is touched by the work of Student Ministry Matters (BMA of Arkansas Youth Department).

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet* as we seek to keep you informed about the BMA and inspired to live your life for the glory of God every day!



Winter Curriculum Is Here

By Jordan Tew, Executive Director Baptist Publishing House

This series of lessons will conclude a four-book study of Genesis. This study highlights the paraphrase of Joseph's words to his brothers, "... *You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...*" (Gen. 50:20 NKJV). Through this study, learners will see how God can cause good for His people when others intend to do them harm.

The lessons in the study include: Joseph the Dreamer (Gen. 37:1-36), No Lion of Judah? (Gen. 38:1-30), The Lord was with Joseph (Gen. 39:1-23), Interpreter of Dreams (Gen. 40:1-41:37), Over the Land of Egypt (Gen. 41:38-57), Famine and Fulfillment in the Land (Gen. 42:1-38), An Astonishing Reception (Gen. 43:1-34), God's Sovereignty within Chaos (Gen. 44:1-45:15), When God's Plan Comes Together (Gen. 45:16-46:27), Grace Upon Grace (Gen. 46:28-47:12), God's Promises Remain (Gen. 47:13-48:22), Jacob's Last Words (Gen. 49:1-33) and God Meant it for Good (Gen. 49:33-50:26).

The authors for this study are:
• **Dr. Philip Attebery** is the Dean of BMA Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of BMA Seminary and has earned two terminal degrees (D.Min. and Ph.D.). He is a member of New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

• **Ryan Burchett** is pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church of Winnsboro, Texas, and earned the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree from BMA Theological Seminary. He also serves as a chaplain in the Texas National Guard.

• **Jordan M. Tew** is the executive director of Baptist Publishing House and earned a Master of Arts (Religion) from BMA Theological Seminary. Jordan is a member of First Baptist Church, New Summerfield, Texas.



Old Friends and New Friends

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

I was just thinking about the gospel song Bill and Gloria Gaither co-wrote titled, "Old Friends." I share with you some of those lyrics: "Old friends, after all these years — just old friends. Through laughter and tears, old friends. What a priceless treasure; old friends."

The Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas will convene on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 3-4. While there will be committee meetings and breakout sessions during the day, the first session will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium Thursday evening.

A time of worship will be led by the Music Department of CBC. That will be followed by the annual message to be preached by Hershel Conley, pastor of The Bridge Church in Mountain Home. The alternate for the message is Jimmy Brock, ABS director from Southern Ark. University in Magnolia.

Of course, the primary purpose of the two-day meeting is to conduct the business of the association of churches.

There's Much More

So why did I provide those lyrics? Because after being involved in the BMA of Arkansas for 58 years, I have learned that, for me, it has

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Politics, Ugh! — VOTE

By Dr. Rick Caracciolo

What's the first thing that you think of when someone asks you, "Are you going to vote?" or "Are you registered to vote?" Ugh, politics! Your response is not as uncommon as you might think, but should it be? With only between 53%-62% of the eligible population voting in the last three presidential elections, that leaves almost one-half of the eligible population not voting.

Voting is one of the cornerstones our founding fathers envisioned so that America would be a democratic nation forever. The Constitution has been in place for over 200 years and has been called a "living document" because its people can take action to the needs of a changing and emerging society.

Our first presidential election was held on April 30, 1789, with George Washington being elected. The Bill of Rights guarantees our right to vote, something most people in the world do not have. There have been constitutional voting amendments added that have expanded the rights

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CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Terry Kimbrow
President



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Wrestling

• **St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 25**—The American Midwest Conference (AMC) released their preseason poll earlier today and CBC was picked to finish third in the conference. CBC finished fifth in the AMC in the 2021-22 season. CBC returns eight wrestlers from last year, including NAIA National qualifier **Christian Richer**, who earned a preseason ranking of #19 at 165 pounds last week. Wrestling season begins Nov. 5 in Williamsburg, Ky., at the Patriot Open.

Women's Soccer

• **Conway, Oct. 25** — Looking to end the regular season on a high note, CBC, who has already clinched a spot in the upcoming AMC tournament, hosted the Eagles of Williams Baptist (WBU) in windy conditions at Centennial Soccer Park. CBC (6-9-2, 3-4-1 AMC) couldn't muster any offense and surrendered a late penalty to fall to WBU (3-11-1, 3-4-0 AMC) 1-0.

Men's Soccer

• **Conway, Oct. 25** — Playing for the final time at Centennial Soccer Park this season, CBC hosted the #14 Eagles of Williams Baptist University in an AMC match. CBC (8-6-3, 1-4-2 AMC) allowed a goal in the first 26 minutes and couldn't respond, allowing #14 WBU (13-0-2, 7-0-1 AMC) to clinch their first AMC title in program history.

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Student Ministry Matters

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Dan Carson
Director

BMA of Arkansas Youth Department
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CBC Fine Arts Department Announces Coming Events

Central Baptist College Fine Arts is pleased to announce several upcoming dates for the fall and spring semesters. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for these events:

• **Thursday, Nov. 3:** CBC will be hosting the 73rd Annual Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas meeting. The CBC Band will open the session and the CBC Singers and Choir will also entertain guests on Thursday evening. The meeting is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium inside Cooper Complex.

• **Tuesday, Nov. 29:** This year's Christmas concert is titled "Sounds of Christmas," featuring all vocal and instrumental groups. The festival of music will include the band, jazz band, worship and chamber choirs, singers and handbells. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium inside the Cooper Complex.

• **Friday, April 21 & Saturday, April 22:** This year the CBC Fine Arts will perform *Beauty and the Beast* and will offer multiple shows on Friday and Saturday. Details and ticket information coming soon!

• **Thursday, April 27:** The Fine Arts Spring Concert will take place on Thursday evening and will feature the CBC band, Worship and Chamber Choirs, Singers and Handbells. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium.

Do you know a student interested in auditioning for the Fine Arts Department? Auditions will take place on the following dates: Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Feb. 7, March 7, April 4 and May 2. To register for an audition time, contact Jim Turner at jturner@cbc.edu.

For more information on our Fine Arts Department, including details on the department and upcoming events, check out cbc.edu/music.



Christmas Time Is Around the Corner

With Halloween in the rearview mirror, it is now time for us to focus our attention on the celebration of Christmas and how we can optimize the holiday for ministry impact. There is no mandate from Scripture to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but it does provide opportunities for us to talk about Him and to share Christ's love with a lonely and hurting world. This is especially true in the lives of students who may not know much about Jesus and His birth, but they do understand love when they experience it and know of Christmas.

How do we make the most out of the holiday season? What can we do to make Christmas count? Here are some ideas:

• **Share biblical messages.** As you teach your students during this time, it is all the more important to give your students the facts and truth of the Bible — Jesus was prophesied about, His birth was heralded and He was born of a virgin. Those biblical facts are important as we help shore up our students' biblical knowledge. It is not enough to simply share messages about the themes of Christmas. Let's give our students the Bible.

• **Look for needs to be met in our local church body.** To help your students understand service, it is important to start by investigating the church you are connected with. The "one anothers" of Scripture point us to helping and serving one another. That is a lesson our students need to learn while they are in student ministry. It may be a single parent needing a night out to do some Christmas shopping. It may be a widow who needs some company. It might be an elderly church member who needs some leaves raked and repairs done.

• **Look for opportunities for students to serve in the community.** It doesn't simply need to be something you or your students want to do. It should be something the community needs. See where God is working and join Him there. Henry Blackaby shared that concept, and it still holds true today. If we aren't careful, we will simply seek out those things we like to do and make us feel good. Our goal should be to seek out ways to love our neighbors and neighborhoods in a way that provides value to the community.

• **Don't forget the fun.** There is great joy in celebrating Jesus' entry into the world. As you work with students and children, there are plenty of ways to embrace the joy of the season. Look for God-honoring ways to do just that.

I'm not sure what the holidays look like at your church, but with some intentionality, they can be used to make an impact for the gospel.

Job Announcement: Vice President for Advancement

Reports to: The President

Mission Statement: Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Responsibilities: The Vice President for Advancement is charged with supporting the mission of CBC and elevating the institution's profile through:

- Serving as the institution's chief fundraising officer;
- Developing effective donor, community, and alumni relations;
- Championing CBC through ongoing engagement with alumni, donors and community leaders to continuously maximize the potential for revenue;
- Provide leadership to the Offices of Development, Public Relations, Church Relations, and Alumni Services, working with them to design, implement and direct an integrated and comprehensive development program, with special emphasis on identifying, cultivating, soliciting, engaging and stewarding support to provide long-term financial sustainability for the college;

• A voting member of the President's Executive Leadership Team.

Qualifications: Minimum bachelor's degree; master's degree preferred

- Minimum of seven years of supervision/team leadership
- Demonstrated leadership abilities and strategic thinking
- Ability to manage donor relations with a high degree of professionalism, integrity and confidentiality
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills
- Ability to manage multiple projects/deadlines and possess a service-oriented, team-player attitude
- Fundraising experience preferred
- Travel required, including weekends and evenings.

Candidate must support the Christian identity of the College and demonstrate mature faith, a Christian lifestyle and a strong belief in Baptist Doctrine.

Salary: Competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Application review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

To be considered for the position of Vice President for Advancement, interested candidates must complete an Application for Employment at cbc.edu/jobs and send a cover letter, resume (including references) and statement of faith as PDF attachments addressed to Terry Kimbrow, President, at tkimbrow@cbc.edu. Electronic submissions only. Background check required.



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Removing Barriers And Obstructions

Mobilizing believers and mobilizing your church sounds simple, but it is not easy. There are always obstacles in the way that separate us from the task and even sin that creates a barrier in our relationship with the Lord. Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Step one in mobilization is removing any barriers in your own heart and life. It requires a willingness to turn loose of any desires or interests that might keep you at arm's length from Him. Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV) makes it quite clear, "He that covers his sins will not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."

Isaiah 40:3 says, "...Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Because of sin in both Israel and Judah, they now lived in exile. The land between them and the land God had promised them was a virtual wasteland. The prophet told them to prepare a road that would make quick and easy access for God to return to the promised land in order to restore His people. The wilderness is a difficult place to cross so they were to build a pathway to make it easier to travel. The immediate fulfillment of this declaration was the Jewish people returning from 70 years of exile and the ultimate fulfillment is the work of Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist in Mark 1:3 (NKJV) declared, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." The next step to building this pathway is repentance. He was saying, "God is going to visit you. Remove every obstacle. Prepare a clear and unobstructed highway for God!" What are you doing to make sure there is a clear pathway for God's presence and power in your life and in your church? Is your life and your church characterized by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit? Are you crying out in desperation for the extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit? What would it look like to earnestly seek the manifest presence of God?

Moving the church forward requires building a highway to encounter God. Is there anything in your way of advancing His kingdom work? How would you describe the spiritual condition in your church right now? Consider meeting with leaders in your church to honestly evaluate the spiritual health of your congregation. Get them together in groups of three or four, making sure you receive and listen to every group that is represented in your congregation. Listen to young and old, male and female, seasoned believers and new believers. Have them answer and discuss the following:

- Describe the spiritual condition of the leaders of your church.
- Describe the spiritual condition of the followers of your church.
- Is your church's leadership leading the church in a positive spiritual direction? Have them explain their answer.
- Is your church's congregation following its leadership in a positive spiritual direction? Again, have them explain their answer.
- Does the leadership of your church have a clearly defined vision for the church's future?
- Can they state clearly and easily what that vision is? Have them write out what they believe is the vision for your church.

Now you as a leader, with others, can begin going even farther in building a pathway for God's presence and purpose to be fulfilled in your church. Have them use the Great Commission, the Great Commandment and Acts 1:8 as their guide to describe what ways your church is fulfilling its biblical purpose. It will be an eye-opening exercise when you compare notes in your smaller groups and when you bring two or three other groups together. It may be a little uncomfortable, but it can be a very healthy experience. Have them also answer:

- How is God blessing this church?

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

• **Hannibal, Mo., Oct. 29** — Closing out the regular season on the road, CBC looked to end the month of October on a high note against the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) in an AMC contest. CBC (8-7-3, 1-5-2 AMC) allowed three first-half goals but scored one in the second, falling to HLGU (7-6-2, 3-4-1 AMC) 3-1.

Volleyball

• **Conway, Oct. 28** — Returning home for the first time in 27

• What have we seen Him do in the last 6-12 months?

If you are ready to dig even deeper, and if you truly want to be spiritually healthy and build a pathway that makes quick and easy access for God to move in your midst, ask the following questions:

• Are there any unresolved sins (such as a bitter spirit or a prejudicial attitude toward the community) in the history of your church?

• Is there any unresolved sin on the part of pastoral staff, key lay leaders or the congregation? If there are then write out what they are and what the steps to correcting them might be. This is a great time for them to list what they believe are the three primary strengths and the three primary weaknesses of your church's ministry.

This can be a challenging process, but it is very worthwhile. Scripture reminds us several times to consider our ways, evaluate and examine our spiritual condition. When the Lord's house was being neglected, the prophet Haggai challenged the people with these very words, "Consider your ways" (Hag. 1:7). Even in the observance of communion, a believer is told to examine himself because you are not to partake of the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner. The purpose of the examination is not so you can talk about how unworthy you are but rather how you can remove the obstacles from your life so you can partake.

In building a pathway for God to move powerfully in your midst, what motivation does your church need to embrace significant change to be who God desires you to be? What biblical goals would become so important to the people in your congregation that they would be willing to do things differently, to sacrifice? In Acts 5, the early church found out that Ananias and Sapphira would not be allowed to abort the manifest presence of God because too much was at stake. The same is true today, and if you do not believe it, you might want to check out Rev. 3:16.

If you would like the worksheets referred to in this article, to lead your church through this spiritual health process, email me at larry@bmaam.com or Heidi Sorrells at heidi@bmaam.com.

days, CBC hosted the Stars of Stephens College in an AMC match inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (4-15, 1-6 AMC) won the first set, but couldn't win another, falling in four to Stephens (15-11, 4-3 AMC) by scores of 25-16, 18-25, 19-25 and 11-25.

• **Conway, Oct. 29** — Playing their final match at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse this season, CBC hosted the #14 Cougars of Columbia College (CC). CBC (4-16, 1-7 AMC) led early but was overpowered by #14 CC (22-9, 8-0 AMC) in straight sets by scores of 15-25, 12-25 and 12-25. **Mikayla Lawrence** finished with nine digs in the match and joined **Lenee (Gibson) Johnson** as the only players ever in program history with over 1,000 digs, as Lawrence now has 1,006 in her career.

Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Oct. 29** — **Gabe Johnson's** jump shot with 2.1 seconds left in regulation gave CBC a 69-68 win in their 2022-23 season opener against the Wildcats of Louisiana Christian University. CBC (1-0) led at the half, but saw their lead dwindle in the second half until Johnson rescued them with the final field goal of the game.

• **Conway, Oct. 31** — Hosting another team for the first time ever, CBC took on the Wildcats of Wiley College (WC) at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (2-0) led at the break and made over half their second-half shots to push past WC (0-1) 78-62.



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.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to Immanuel Baptist Church Search Committee, P.O. Box 212, Nashville, Ark. 71852.

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.

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



Joanne Williams, 65 of Jonesboro, passed away Oct. 27. She was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

FRIENDS

(Continued From Page 1)

become a gathering of old friends. It is a joy to see messengers and guests greet each other with broad smiles, strong handshakes and often friendly hugs. It's fun to see grandparents introduce their grandchildren to old friends.

Seeing old friends is wonderful. But still there is more... much more. New friends are to be made as well. I wrote about Trailblazers of the Association for several weeks in this column. When I was a young, wet-behind-the-ears preacher boy, it was those older men and women who made me feel welcome. They taught me that being a part of the association was not only important, but also extremely rewarding. As the years passed by, many of us became old friends. That should continue — so that new friends in the years ahead become old friends.

Let's Gather at CBC

Churches, please send your pastor, messengers and others from your congregation to represent you as the business is conducted. Every church should want to be represented — because every church should be!

For years now, I have written about the entities that depend on the churches for monthly support. It is at the meeting of the association that the churches learn how those ministries are functioning, how they are touching the lives of others and how they are united in carrying out the Great Commission throughout our state and around the world. Central Baptist College, BMA of Arkansas Missions, the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department and the paper you are now reading, the *Baptist Trumpet*, belong to the association of churches.

Please pray for the president of the association, Michael Battenfield, as he moderates the meetings. But also pray for the other officers, the department directors and the college president as they prepare and present their reports and as they continue to serve the churches.

Let's gather at CBC — old friends and new friends, God's people. What priceless treasures!



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 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.



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

Ark. Children's Hospital Voices Concerns About Issue 4

Arkansas Children's Hospital joins a growing list of organizations that have expressed concerns about Issue 4, the amendment to legalize marijuana in Arkansas.

In a statement, Arkansas Children's Hospital said, "Preventing injury and illness is at the heart of safeguarding child health. Our first responsibility, as parents and caregivers, should be to our children — because they rely on us to keep them safe and well. Marijuana policies are no different. We must be careful, thoughtful and keep our children in mind. Various states have legalized marijuana for recreational use. These changes coincide with a decrease in the perceived harmfulness of the drug and an increase in its use among youth. Even with age restrictions, any policy that leads to increased adult use of marijuana is likely to lead to increased adolescent use, despite attempts to restrict sales to underage youth. This is of critical concern because of the potentially harmful impact of marijuana exposure on children and adolescents."

Arkansas Children's Hospital's concerns about Issue 4 echo concerns that other Arkansans have raised about marijuana legalization. A 2020 study published in *JAMA Network Open* found that more than 1 in 8 teen drivers reported recently driving after using marijuana, and teens were more than twice as likely to drive after using marijuana than they were to drink and drive.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the CDC report that after alcohol, marijuana is the substance most often associated with impaired driving. In Colorado, traffic fatalities where the driver tested positive for marijuana have increased by 138% since the state legalized marijuana in 2013. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes in Washington doubled after the state legalized marijuana. (familycouncil.org)

Abortions Drop 6% In Two Months After Dobbs

A new report in the *New York Times* shows abortions quickly declined after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*. In just the first two months after the Dobbs decision in late June, abortions had already dropped 6% as more than 10,000 babies were saved from abortion.

"Thirteen states banned or severely restricted abortion during those months, mostly in the South, and legal abortions in those states fell to close to zero, according to detailed estimates made by a consortium of academics and abortion providers,"

the report said. "Nine more states added major abortion restrictions, and legal abortions in those states fell by a third. In states with bans and restrictions, there were about 22,000 fewer abortions in July and August, compared with the baseline of April, before the decision."

That 22,000 decline in the number of babies killed was more than enough to offset the increase of 12,000 abortions in blue states that advertised abortions to women in pro-life states that protect women and children.

While the CDC and state health departments are notoriously slow to report abortion data, the new statistics come from a pro-abortion group that gets its information directly from abortion businesses, which makes it quicker to compile and possibly more accurate. (lifeneews.com)

Canadian Bill Would Allow Doctors to Euthanize Patients Without Consent

Senator Pamela Wallin, who strongly supports euthanasia, known as Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) in Canada, introduced Bill S-248: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying), to permit involuntary euthanasia (MAiD) by advanced directive when a person is not capable of consenting to be killed.

When Canada legalized euthanasia (Bill C-14) in 2016, it specifically created an exception to homicide in the Criminal Code. S-248 would amend the Criminal Code by creating another exception — enabling a person to sign a contract so that, if a person loses the ability to request or consent, a medical or nurse practitioner can still "administer a substance to a person to cause their death." Bill S-248 also enables the person to include in the contract a specific date and time that they have chosen to be administered a substance to cause their death.

Bill S-248 and the recent push by the Quebec College of Physicians to approve infant euthanasia, undermine that a person needs to be able to request or consent to euthanasia. (lifeneews.com)

After Court Win, Coach to Be Reinstated

A high school football coach whose right to pray at midfield following games was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court after he was removed from his job is to be reinstated by next spring.

In a 6-3 opinion in June, the high court ruled Joseph Kennedy did not violate the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion with his post-game prayers. Instead, the justices

decided the Bremerton (Wash.) School District actually violated his First Amendment rights by removing him as a coach because of its concerns his practice infringed on the Establishment Clause.

In a joint filing on Oct. 25 in state court, lawyers for Kennedy and the school district said the coach "is to be reinstated to his previous position as assistant coach of the Bremerton High School football team on or before March 15, 2023."

A spokeswoman for the school district told ABC News that areas remain "where there are still questions" between the sides as to how Kennedy's prayers will be accommodated in keeping with the high court's decision.

In the court's opinion, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote, a "government entity sought to punish an individual for engaging in a brief, quiet, personal religious observance doubly protected by the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment. And the only meaningful justification the government offered for its reprisal rested on a mistaken view that it had a duty to ferret out and suppress religious observances even as it allows comparable secular speech. The Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination."

Joining Gorsuch in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote a dissenting opinion that was endorsed by Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. (baptistpress.com)

Majority Believe US Meant To Be a Christian Nation

Close to half of Americans (45%) believe the U.S. ought to be a "Christian nation," according to new data collected by the Pew Research Center.

Interestingly, a clear majority of those surveyed (60%) believe the U.S. was, in fact, intended to be a Christian country. However, only 33% of respondents said the U.S. remains so today.

The data also revealed that about half of Americans (47%) think Scripture should have "a great deal" or "some" influence on U.S. laws. And 27% of survey participants said, if the law and the Bible conflict, Scripture "should have more influence than the will of the people."

Of those who believe the U.S. should be a Christian nation, 78% said the Bible "should have a great deal or some influence on U.S. laws." Interestingly, 21% said Scripture should have "little or no influence."

The new data comes as debate swirls over the ambiguous definition of "Christian nationalism." Dr. Michael Brown, a Christian apologist, recently spoke with CBN's Faithwire about the oft-divisive topic, explaining that, in his view, "there's a healthy Christian



Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry

Jim Thompson surrendered to the ministry on July 8, 1962, and has marked 60 years of active ministry for him and his wife, Carolyn. During his ministry, he has been involved in associational work on the local, state and national levels. He pastored many churches, including: Pleasant Grove, Annieville; Center Grove, Cord; and Center Hill, Jonesboro. The Thompsons are currently members at Big Creek Valley Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

Their church is hosting a celebration to commemorate 60 years of active ministry on Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the church (1023 CR 204, Jonesboro, Ark. 72421). Lunch will be catered. All are encouraged to come out and help celebrate the faithful ministry of this couple.

nationalism, there's an unhealthy Christian nationalism and there's the boogie man Christian nationalism that the left has kind of exaggerated."

"Healthy Christian nationalism would be, 'I love Jesus and I love my country. Our country has strong Christian roots. Let's recover those because that's in the best interest of the country,'" he said, noting he doesn't see "a contradiction between loving America and being a Christian." Brown went on to explain, however, that such a perspective becomes unhealthy and dangerous if people begin to combine their American and Christian identities.

"Unhealthy Christian nationalism... is the merging of American identity with Christian identity," he explained. "The idea that America is kind of like ancient Israel, with a special

covenant with God; and, therefore, we must be Christian, that it's a certain destiny and that... you want to make Christianity the religion of the nation."

That "blurring of politics with the gospel" can become problematic, he elaborated. "When the things get blurred — the kingdom of God gets too mingled with the kingdom of the world — that's a concern," said Brown. "The moment we forget that America is a fallen nation like every other nation and that the church is God's people in the midst of the nation and the midst of all nations — the moment we forget that and think of America as somehow equaling the kingdom of God, or that God will uniquely back America because America's 'a Christian nation' — that's where we lose our perspective." (faithwire.com)

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ARKANSAS: TRANSFORMED

Stories of Transformed Lives



Student Ministry Workers Retreat Transforms Lives and Ministries

“Students in today’s world have many challenges that face them. It doesn’t matter what their home life is, what socio-economic background they come from, where they go to school, how many extracurricular activities they do or don’t take part in or how active they are in their church student ministry. It’s just a different world than it was even 10 years ago.

“For those of us who work in student ministry, that means reaching out to students is also challenging. We aren’t teaching students anything new because, obviously, the Bible and its truth are unchanging. However, our students today have hard questions, and they need us to be real, honest and vulnerable. Simple answers don’t cut it, and they are desperately seeking how to navigate through life. They need hope, their parents need encouragement and both need to see that we aren’t just fun and games but really are ready to roll up our sleeves and fight in the battle with them.

“That is why the Student Ministry Workers Retreat is so incredibly vital! My husband and I look forward to this event each year because it provides much-needed fellowship with other student ministry workers serving in the trenches with us. It is convicting as we hear God’s Word and are stirred to evaluate our own relationship with God, each other, our church family and the students we are entrusted to work with. We worship together, laugh together, sometimes shed tears and cheer each other on as fantastic door prizes are handed out. It’s a day to catch our breath and to be reminded why we do what we do.

“I am so incredibly grateful for the hard work that goes into the retreat and those who help make it happen each year. We come home refreshed and ready to continue pouring into the students God brings to our ministry. We are also sent home with many resources in our ‘swag bags’ that not only provide encouragement and support throughout the year but also provide great study material to incorporate into our student Bible studies. If you have never attended the retreat, you are missing out on a huge blessing and should do whatever you can to make plans to be a part of 2023.”

**Glenda Herron, Volunteer Student Ministry Leader
First Baptist Church, Decatur**



— photo by Abigail Weihe (A.Vivian Photography)



— photo by Abigail Weihe (A.Vivian Photography)

“If I had to summarize the Student Ministry Workers Retreat experience in a word, I would choose ‘refreshing.’ This retreat has challenged me to view student ministry through a different, yet biblical, lens that helps me be effective in the current cultural climate while also reminding me of the essential to successful ministry—a daily personal walk with Jesus. The Student Ministry Workers Retreat is one of the most valuable resources the BMA of Arkansas offers to youth ministers, their spouses and their volunteers. It is my belief that every church should invest in their youth ministry workers by sending them to this retreat, trusting God to provide the means and funds to do so. When you do, watch and be amazed at what God will do.”

**David McEuen, Pastor of Family & Worship Ministries
Temple Baptist Church, Rogers**



“As I reflect on my time at the retreat this year, I am grateful for the opportunities it provided for our group from the University of Arkansas Association of Baptist Students to be refreshed by outside perspectives. If I had to describe the event in one word, I would choose the word ‘convicting.’ Our group of six attendees was impacted by the conference’s theme this year, and we all walked away thinking more about how our words represent the condition of our hearts.

“The main group sessions led each of us to consider how we should not only be more thoughtful about our words in general but also in the specific context of youth ministry. The ideas shared were grounded in biblical insight and were also practical enough to be able to start implementing them right away. As our group traveled home, we all discussed how we felt the Holy Spirit convicting us to repent of some patterns of speech we had developed. Since then, we’ve seen that impact trickle down to the ministry at ABS, where our speech and conversations have already started to be more life-giving and kinder than they used to be.

“In addition to the impact of the main group sessions, the various breakout sessions were insightful and relevant. My wife, Hanna, was particularly impacted by Temple Carson and Rodney Fry’s session on navigating issues of gender identity as they shared ways ministry workers could help their students with biblical perspectives and support in this regard. In conversations I had with Hanna after this session, I could sense that she was deeply motivated to be more thoughtful about these things in our interactions on campus and with our own children.

“In one session I attended, I was convicted by Jake McCandless’ exhortation to ‘play small ball,’ as he encouraged us to forego the pursuit of attendance and instead strive for multiplication through intentional, small-scale discipleship. I could see how I fell into the numbers trap so often when I thought about the effectiveness of my ministry, and since then, I’ve started to trust that the Lord’s model of ministry is not necessarily what seems best to me.

“While the day was full of conviction, that also meant the day was full of regeneration and sanctification. I’m so happy Student Ministry Matters continues to host this conference, and I am thankful for the work the Lord does through Dan and his team’s efforts!”

**Stuart Estes, Ministry Team Leader
Association of Baptist Students (University of Arkansas)**



The 2023 Student Ministry Workers Retreat is scheduled for Sept. 16 and will again be held at Central Baptist College of Conway. The speaker for the sixth annual event is pastor, professor and author Dr. Tim McKnight. He is the editor of *Navigating Student Ministry* and author of *Engaging Generation Z*. He is the pastor of Mosaic Church of Anderson, S.C., a multi-ethnic multi-generational church plant and serves as associate professor of youth ministry and missions at the Clamp Divinity School at Anderson University. You can register for next year’s event at SMWR2023.eventbrite.com.





71 years (1951-2022) of sharing the gospel across ARkansas and beyond.
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spread the gospel by planting new churches in AREas where
people need to be connected to Jesus through a community of faith.



God Is Still Saving People

By Clinton Morris, Missionary • The Table Mission, Northwest Ark.

God has been doing beautiful things at The Table Church Plant in Northwest Arkansas. We were led to start a neutral community event at our house, which for us was a board game event every Monday. Because of this event we have seen over 250 people come to our house, and over 1,000 collective attendees. So many people to be praying for and relationships forming.

One of those relationships was with Gio. He started coming to our board game event in April and building relationships. He invited people from the Board Game event to come to his house on a Saturday to see MMA Fighting with him and his family. It was because of this interaction that he, his wife and his daughter began coming to The Table. It was so good to interact with them and to begin leading them toward Christ.

Near the middle of August, they moved 40 minutes away. The church family kept in contact, sending sermon notes and encouragement. We did a housewarming party and are trying to find some stable ways of keeping our connection.

Gio was stopping off at my house on Mondays to meet with me and discuss the Bible. One Sunday right before our service, Gio called me and said that he wanted to get baptized and that he was ready to take Christianity seriously. I told him that we needed to have a conversation about that and I was excited to hear this news. On Monday, we were able to discuss his beliefs, and he accepted Jesus Christ. He also understood that baptism was an outward sign of an inward work and was excited to be able to publicly demonstrate his faith. He also said that he was going to have a long conversation with his wife about what Baptism actually meant and why he was going to do it. We put a date on the calendar to perform the baptism.

The week before he was to be baptized he called me on Sunday. He said that he had good and bad news. First, he told me that he wasn't going to get baptized that Saturday, then he told me that as he had discussed getting baptized with his wife and daughter, and they came to faith in Jesus Christ. He said that he now would like to wait to be baptized with his family.

God is still saving people! Praise God for how He has worked in these events!

The Power of a Testimony

By Bryan Clay, Missionary • Faith Journey Mission, Benton

A few years ago, I was at a men's Bible study at Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell. The pastor, Allan Eakin, challenged the men to write out their testimony. I got up early the next morning and began to write my story. I was saved at the early age of 9 and, after almost 45 years, I couldn't remember a whole lot about that day. I started to pray and ask God what to write, and He revealed to me that I should just tell the story of my childhood and how I came to be saved.

I titled my testimony "God's Grace and Two Pieces of Bubble Gum." My story starts with Mary Palmer. Mrs. Mary was a bus captain for First Baptist Church in Springdale. She would travel the neighborhood streets of Springdale on Saturday afternoons, looking for homes that had kid's toys out in the yards. If she saw a house that looked like kids were living there, she would walk up and knock on the door and offer to come by on Sunday mornings to take them to church. Each week, she would bring my older brother and me two pieces of bubble gum and take us to church on the bus. My family life was changed through that bus ministry.

The first time I was asked to tell my story in church, I was so nervous I could only read it straight from the notebook paper I had written it on. The Lord started giving me more opportunities to speak. I began to slowly get more comfortable speaking in front of people and my confidence began to grow. This summer, I was asked to speak during Vacation Bible School at a church in the area. I had never visited this church before, much less given my story to this many people, so I was excited about the opportunity.

When my wife and I pulled up in front of the church, the first thing we saw was a bus full of kids pulling into the parking lot. The church was investing in their community with all they had to reach the youth in their city. I was able to share with the kids that night that I was just like them when I was their age. I would also have a bus take me to church so I could



Divine Appointment

By Roberto Marcelletti, Missionary • Sovereign Grace Mission, Northwest Arkansas

We are very excited because we are very close to starting our Sunday services in November. We already have almost seven months on the field since we arrived, and God has pleasantly surprised us by opening doors unimaginable for us. We did not know anyone when we arrived, and we began to seek the direction of the Lord through prayer and fasting.

We started working and people have accepted Christ, others have been reconciled to God and we have also gotten a person of peace (Luke 10:5) — a Hispanic woman from the area who has introduced us and helped us get to know the area and people. At this time, we have 3 discipleship groups that meet each Monday, Thursday and Friday, with a total of 14 people who come every week and are growing in their love and devotion for the Lord.

We are praying for another 10 people who have begun to attend the meetings, but for different situations have not persevered. I go out to evangelize every Monday and Tuesday and continue with the plan to proclaim the gospel, disciple the converted and then establish them in the church. Our goal is to become a community that is formed and transformed by the gospel. We have so many testimonies of God's grace in each family that has joined the Sovereign Grace Mission. We are very grateful to the Lord to be able to humbly participate in what He is doing in the midst of Hispanics in Northwest Arkansas.

Here is the testimony of an adult woman who, since she moved from Florida to Northwest Arkansas, wanted to serve the Lord but was very discouraged. She had visited several churches, but she wanted to be more than a spectator. What she heard in the places she visited did not satisfy her. It was more of the same, and she felt that she was dry and only received milk. She did not feel a part of the places she attended. She had decided to leave the state and go live with her son in Colorado since she is a widower, and he is her only family.

Three months ago, a woman who gave herself to Christ invited us to eat at her apartment. She also invited several acquaintances, since she works in a bank in the city and it was an opportunity to introduce us to other people. We met this woman and, after lunch, we began to know each other more. They asked us what we were doing in the city, and the Lord gave us the opportunity to witness to them and to hear from the woman who was about to leave Northwest Arkansas next month to go live with her son in Colorado.

She shared, "When I heard about the mission and the leadership formation project, I accepted the invitation to join them for the presentation of the project at the church of Pastor Kenneth Strickland." At the end of the service, she approached us. She was crying and told us that our arrival was an answered prayer for her since she needed a family and a community centered on the gospel, where the Great Commission is the central work of the church. She joined the mission project and gave up her idea of moving to Colorado.

She is very faithful in every discipleship and event we have and is eager to be a useful instrument in the hands of the Lord. This woman has become part of our family. During these few months, the gospel has been transforming her into a woman who rejoices and delights in the Lord and is an example for those who are coming of love and fidelity.

learn about the Bible and be taught about Jesus. I told them of how God saved my family and what a huge change He made in our lives. As I was talking, you could see the conviction in their eyes. They were soaking in the words that God had laid on my heart through my story. The Lord had given me a testimony they could relate to in their lives. Through God's grace (along with two pieces of bubble gum), many were saved that week of VBS!

Since that special week, I have had several more opportunities to help spread the gospel by sharing my testimony. Every time I give it, a different part of the story reaches someone in a way that they are needing to be touched at the time. There are so many that can see themselves in the people in my testimony like the family members who are lost, the church workers or even the bus captain that is picking up the kids from the neighborhoods.

Someone's personal testimony is just that... their story. God has uniquely equipped each Christian with their own story to tell, and our testimonies are given to us through the grace of God. He means for us to share them with others so that others may begin to have their own story to share when they are saved and start a faithful relationship with Christ.

I challenge every Christian to take some time, sit down and write out their testimony and begin sharing it with others about the saving grace of God. Testimonies are powerful!



Full Circle (and I Mean Full Circle)

By Jake McCandless, Missionary
Epic Life Mission, Pea Ridge

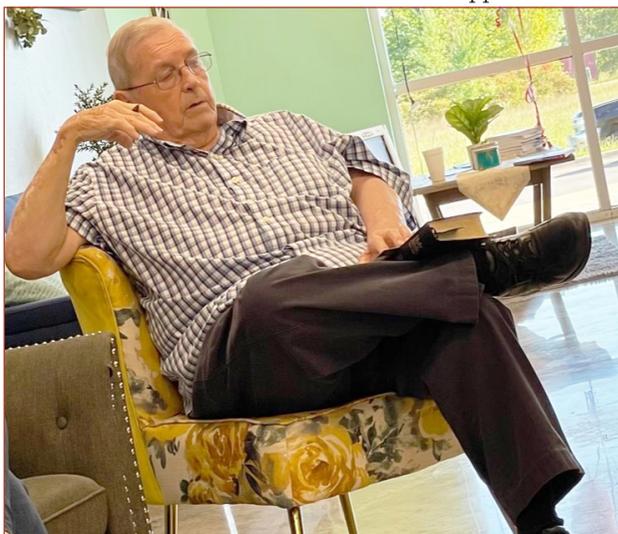
I absolutely enjoy every time I share the story of how my family came to be BMA of Arkansas state missionaries in Pea Ridge, the town in which we've lived for five years. I don't think of myself as an emotional guy, but each time I've shared the story before a church I've gotten choked up and teary-eyed. The emotions come from seeing God work in those I deeply care about in Pea Ridge, but also in seeing part of the fruition of a sojourn of faith our family has been on since 2016. I also get emotional because, to steal a line from the SEC, "it just means more" to us. Now I know that's not fair to say, but I think you would at least agree it should mean a lot to us when you finish this article.

There are several stories of how we got here, which I usually share before a church or anyone willing to listen. Stories such as how we ended up in our house in Pea Ridge or how, thanks to Wade Allen, I ended up on the Missionary Advisory Board which I knew nothing about.

Then there's the response to COVID at Epic Church NWA where we decided to focus on reaching people in our neighborhoods and personal networks through Discovery Bible Studies. Which led to an unexpected conversation on a less-than-ideal Facebook post that then led to 24 near strangers gathering in the home of someone I had met twice.

There's also the email from BMA of Arkansas Executive Director of Missions Paul White asking if I knew of someone to recommend to be a missionary in Pea Ridge.

All good stories. All part of God bringing this thing together. All, hopefully, reminders to you that God is at work and a reminder to me that I'm where I'm supposed to be.



Former BMA of Arkansas State Missionary Larry Morrison praying over the core group at Epic Life Mission's "Commitment Night."

But there's one more story that takes the cake. (What does that even mean?) It's the origin to which my family has recircled. My wife, Amanda and I grew up on opposite ends of the state — her in Rogers and me in Ashdown. We met at CBC and have done ministry together ever since.

In Rogers (well, actually Little Flock, but it's basically Rogers) she grew up on Hilltop Dr., which emptied out to Little Flock Dr. In the early 90s, Larry Morrison left South Arkansas to become a state missionary in Rogers. He came to what later became Unity Baptist Church, which sat on Little Flock Dr.

Bro. Larry immediately began going door-to-door sharing the gospel, inviting people to the new mission and leaving tracts. One of the doors he knocked on was 4406 Hilltop Dr. There he visited with Amanda's mom as her dad slipped out the back door to avoid the preacher. After visiting, Bro. Larry left a tract. Since the tract had Bible verses on it, Amanda's mom didn't feel she could throw it away, so she put it on the refrigerator with a magnet. Day after day every time she walked by the fridge, the tract would inevitably fall and each time, she'd pick it up and put it back on the fridge. This went on for what she says was forever.

Finally, it fell one too many times and Amanda's mom took it as a sign that she needed to go to church. She had made a profession as a teenager, but there hadn't been any follow-up. Twelve years later, God was continuing to draw her to Him. That Sunday, Amanda and her mom went to what Amanda says, "this thing that was called church."

Amanda was 11 at the time and hadn't been to church before. She tells how she went in and was taken into "this thing called children's church," and they kept talking about "this man named Jesus." At age 11 she did not know about Jesus. After "this thing called children's church," she was led out to the sanctuary where the church was gathered at the altar around her mom, who was crying. Everyone was ecstatic, but Amanda was scared, because crying didn't make this seem like a good thing.

That morning Amanda's mom rededicated her life to Christ. A couple of weeks later Amanda would be saved and baptized. After Amanda and her mom had heard the gospel and had their lives transformed, they set their prayers toward Amanda's dad. He refused to go to the mission with them and continued to slip out the backdoor when Bro. Larry came by. As they went to church, he'd take an ice chest of beer to the river and fish.

After a year of praying, one Sunday night as Amanda and her mom were headed to church, they met her dad on the road. Surprised, they stopped and asked what he was doing. He replied that he was going to church with them. Amanda says her mom told him "no" at first because he had been drinking and smelled like fish. Amanda then reminded

her mom this is what they had been praying for.

That afternoon on the creek bank, Amanda's dad had an encounter with the Lord and gave His life to Christ. Amanda says she can still remember her dad walking into that mission for the first time while her Mom was pulling a stringer out of his back pocket and fishing line out of another. Amanda's dad shared his salvation that night. A year later, through the discipleship from Bro. Larry and the members of Unity, he overcame his lifelong battle with alcohol.

From that point on, the trajectory of Amanda's family and her life changed forever. So much so that her teacher held a parent-teacher conference to see what had changed her behavior. And from that point, they haven't looked back.

Amanda would later feel called to commit her life to be a pastor's wife, and I was the lucky pastor. She turned down other opportunities to go to CBC. Her mom has continued from that point on working with children and many other ways within churches of which they've been a part. For a long time, her dad would run vans, picking up children to come to "this thing called church" and hear about "this man called Jesus." He is now a deacon.

This amazing transformation came because you gave to State Missions and a missionary came to their area. As you can see, BMA State Missions means a lot to us. We're so thankful to be able to give back in some way as we serve in the same way. As you can also see, we've come full circle. From being reached through a new mission to now launching a new mission, but the circle goes around further.

The mission in Pea Ridge isn't there because of me or even the decision of the Missionary Committee. It's there because of that once-state missionary, Larry Morrison who retired to Pea Ridge and prayed that there would be a BMA work there. He may have also persistently reminded Bro. Paul that Pea Ridge should be the next target.

Full circle was when Bro. Larry prayed over our "Commitment Night." He prayed over the core of Epic Life which included Amanda, me, our daughters and her mom and dad.

Though that's about as full circle as it can get, I look forward to when we can also tell of a young girl who comes to Christ and has the trajectory of her life transformed.



Unity Baptist Church Building

71 years (1951-2022) of sharing the gospel across ARkansas and beyond.
Our heARTbeat is to see lives changed for the glory of God as we
spread the gospel by planting new churches in AREas where
people need to be connected to Jesus through a community of faith.





Mustang Message

I Knew I Wanted to Be a Mustang

By Tabitha Ward

"My name is Tabitha Ward, and I was born and raised in Conway. I am the public housing manager for the Conway Housing Authority/HUD. Several years ago, I graduated from the CBC PACE program with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

"I've always had an appreciation for CBC because of the relationship/partnership my family has had with the school. My family established the Ward Family Singers Scholarship at CBC. Over the years, I had heard my family talk about the student success stories of those who received our scholarship and how genuine and caring the faculty was. When it became time for me to choose a college, I was instantly drawn to see what CBC had to offer me.

"After my initial meeting with Amy Reed, the PACE Enrollment Director at the time, and a lot of praying, I knew that I wanted to be a Mustang! For most people, choosing which college they will attend can be one of the scariest times of their lives but for me, it was coming together just as God had planned it. I knew it would be difficult at times to juggle a full-time job while being a single parent and a full-time student, but I also knew that it was possible with the flexibility of the PACE Program. I was able to go at my own

pace and comfort level. During my time in the PACE program, I even managed to find the time to buy my first home.

"One of my favorite experiences was the fabulous people that I met along the way. My professors went above and beyond to help in any way they could. They genuinely cared about my success in the program, and it was like having my very own set of cheerleaders. The professors understood that most of the students had just left an eight-hour job and they were very understanding about any needs or concerns we might have.

"I formed some of the most amazing lifelong friendships. To this day, no matter how busy life gets, we still find time to catch up with them, either through a phone call or a lunch date. One memory that really stands out to me happened during our graduation ceremony. Chad Linn, former PACE Director, presented me with the Greatest Contribution Award. I was in complete shock that I was chosen for this award and that CBC valued its students by giving such an award.

"CBC led me to my career and, more importantly, my calling. When I first started in the PACE program, I was working at a commercial insurance company and had been there for around 11 years. As my time at CBC progressed, I realized that I wanted to pursue a different route. I wanted a job that was more fulfilling, and where I could help serve others and try to implement faith, guidance and hope in the crazy world of business. After I graduated, I started praying that God would lead me to a job where I could use the business administration knowledge I gained and combine that with the God-given talents I already possessed.

"The business degree I received from CBC has helped me tremendously in navigating through the ever-changing world of government housing. My career has provided many rewarding experiences that I do not believe I would have fully appreciated if it were not for my love of Christ and the heart I have to serve others. During my attendance at CBC, I had the opportunity to understand how much the world around us needs more Christian people who want to make a difference in the business world.

"CBC embodies compassion, integrity, camaraderie, a sense of warmth, faith and a solid foundation, just to name a few. So, to answer the question "What does CBC mean to me?" — a sense of gratitude for all that CBC has given me: an education, life lessons, lifelong friendships, a closer walk with God and a realization that, even though I may only be one person in the giant world, there are still numerous ways I can leave my godly imprint on the work I do every day."

TABITHA
WARD



"I am now in a career field which wouldn't have been possible without a college degree. It's an exciting time in my life and I feel like my road to success is endless."



PACE
PROFESSIONAL
ADULT College
EDUCATION

Tabitha is just one of the many students that have graduated from CBC's PACE program. CBC is currently offering a one-time \$1,400 tuition discount for first-time entering or transfer students. President Terry Kimbrow said, "Adult students are often reluctant to go back to college. It is a huge decision to take on college classes, but we know it can transform your life. It can also be expensive, and we want to make that decision much easier for adult learners by offering a \$1,400 scholarship." "There are many reasons that prevent adults from obtaining a college degree. Sometimes it is family and job obligations, but our flexible degree options in PACE can accommodate busy schedules. Sometimes it is the cost, or it could be the fear of going back to school. If either is the case, we can help overcome those issues by offering a \$1,400 scholarship. Let CBC pay for your first class, and let us help you achieve your dream of earning a college degree," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister.

To take advantage of the one-time \$1,400 tuition discount, first-time entering or transfer students should apply for admission and complete the registration process. The registration deadline for our next block is Monday, Jan. 2, with classes set to begin Jan. 10.

To learn more or to complete an application for admission visit cbc.edu/pace or contact the Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873. Use the code "MUSTANG" when you apply to claim your scholarship.

PACE offers an Associate of Arts in General Education and Business and an Associate of Science in Military Technologies degree. Bachelor of Science degrees offered are in Church Administration, General Studies, Human Resource Management, Leadership, Leadership and Ministry, Management Information Systems, Organizational Management and Psychology. CBC also offers a Bachelor of Business Administration, including Business Administration, Business Analytics and Business Information Systems.

CBC is committed to transforming lives by providing an education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Spotlight On Missions

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



The Risners at Piata Sfantului (town square)
Bryan & Pam Risner • Romania

Family Update— We have not slowed down since last month. Our mornings are busy with school, the kids in homeschool and Bryan and Pam working on college classes. The evenings are filled with the ministry here in Brasov.

We have intentionally spent more time with our new church plant families in Brasov and enjoy seeing those relationships grow. In addition, we are thankful to have had more opportunities to visit our ministry in Santandrei and spend time with friends in Oradea this past month.

We all (well, mostly all of us) love the colder weather here in Romania. It is the perfect opportunity to see historic buildings and landmarks while sipping hot tea or local coffee.

The Risners are Moving— We are thankful for our time in the Ghimbav area, but we are moving back to the Oradea region next year to begin our third church plant. We have a meeting this weekend to share our bold vision with potential families who could be joining us.

We are so thankful for this church. It is our home church in Romania, and they are more like family than friends. At the beginning of the month, we visited the Oradea area to work on church planting details and visited the church family at Auseu.

Our ministry in Brasov meets on Sunday mornings. Each week we have a time of fellowship, worship and Bible study. Candra leads the children in a special Bible story time each week. We have two families who have committed to join us and a third family prayerfully considering joining us.

While in the Oradea area this

month, we had the opportunity to visit our Roma (Gypsy) ministry. After our church service, we enjoyed dinner with the Hamouch and Porumb families. We could not be more grateful for these families and their dedication to the ministry in Santandrei.

Santandrei (Roma/Gypsy) Ministry Update — Our kids' program meets weekly under Lavi's direction, and Marius has continued making home visits. He has discovered that the Roma adults are more open to hearing the gospel in a 1:1 environment versus meeting in large groups. As a result, Marius is often able to share the gospel and pray for each family's specific needs.

Lavi meets with Carina (the young lady who accepted Christ at camp) on Sundays following the children's program. Carina is very concerned with how her community will treat her if she publicly shares that she is choosing to follow Christ. She has allowed herself to be vulnerable with Lavi and shares that she does not feel "good enough" to be a Christian.

We are still having issues with vandalism, as the windows were completely busted out last week. As a temporary solution, Marius has boarded up the windows. In addition, we are considering fencing off the building. Please continue to pray for the children and adults in this community.

Brasov (Return Church) Ministry Update — Our Brasov ministry and church plant are officially outgrowing our homes! We have approximately 30 people each Sunday attending our services, and we also

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

A couple in our church was faced with a decision about their car. They just put in \$10,000 of repairs and now faced even more repairs. Last Sunday after church, the couple said, "Pastor Poirier, our car goes all over the road like it was very windy. Can you check it?" As I test-drove the car, I realized it was not safe. They had to say goodbye to their 2010 GMC Terrasse, and had to be on their way to purchase a new vehicle.

It is always hard to say goodbye to an old habit, tradition or culture when you are not in your own country. Someone said, "You can take a man out of a country, but you cannot take the country out of the man." Things they have been doing for years stay in the person and, like sin, are attached to the heart of a man. But, in Christ, you are made clean of the sin that causes so many problems and keeps you from serving Him. Sin will make us pay more than we can afford, take us deeper in the hole than we want to go and lead us further than we want to go. As I lived the experience with this young couple, it reminded me that this life of sin, if not taken care of, will destroy anyone who doesn't care.

Quebec — The work is going slowly, but surely. Praise the Lord for His Word that works in the heart of the hearers. We have a new couple we are working with from Brazil, another from the Philippines and, of course, my helper, who is from Chile. We have great fellowship in the Lord. Even though the Brazilian couple has two hours of driving to get to church, they love it and spend much time on Sunday with us and others for fellowship and learning French words. We had our thanksgiving last month and there were around 50 people. We had an international meal from all the countries represented — there was a lot of food! In all, God is always good, bringing us together for worship and fellowship around His Word.

Haiti — Haiti has a great need today more than ever. I suggest that you go to Haiti in 2022 and look at their living conditions and the danger they are living in every day. Last week, for no reason, 18 people were killed across the street from the preacher's house. Some streets are to be avoided if at all possible. Gasoline is very hard to come by because of the price and the lockdown by the gangs. You can buy gas but you have to go through the gang who controls it, and you will have to pay \$25 per gallon.

We have been sending extra money to our churches in Port au Prince (Haiti) for food, medical attention and water. So far, every week we have sent \$1,000 and we receive thanks and praises to the Lord. Ruth and I have a special place for these people in our hearts because they don't complain, even in great affliction, because they know the Lord is with them. Please, if you can help us to help them, it would be a blessing for these people to be able to eat every day.

Cameroon Africa — Four people have been added to the church by baptism, and new people are coming to church, excited to get to know the Lord. Most people, like those in Haiti, have been in the dark concerning their life after death. We have sent 90 Bibles (3 cases) and songbooks. We praise the Lord for the part we have serving Him in Cameroon.

Benin Africa — One of our men is back in Benin and has already begun teaching our discipleship program to the people attending the cell group.

Ivory Coast — Praise the Lord for a faithful servant of the Lord who ministers to people who are hungry for the Word every day. Pastor Paul is doing wonderful work with the 75 souls who attend the discipleship program, and he is teaching the people about Baptist doctrine. We share teaching online every Saturday, providing an important tool to help the preacher and Sunday School teacher to use in their ministry.

Dominican Republic — Our Haitian ministry is doing well with messages preached three times a week. We praise the Lord for men who want to serve the Lord no matter what. We are planning to go in January to look for a permanent place of meeting. At this time, we meet in a private home in town, and it is a tight fit — it's hard to put 20 people in an 8x12 ft. room. God is very good to allow us to meet in that room. Pray for the ministry for the Lord is working in the heart of the people.

May God bless you as you read this report, and bless you as you continue to pray for us in this ministry. Time is short, and eternity is long, we need to get busy for the Lord while it is time. Thank you for your faithful prayers and sacrificial giving for the ministry and the encouragement we get from you.



This is how little \$400 of food gets you — 15 pounds of rice, 5 pounds of peas and a coke bottle filled with cooking oil. This was given to 28 people. There is more we can do; we just have to trust the Lord to supply funds for the food.



This is Jean Monnaie Pierre, leader of the Haitians group in the Dominican Republic.

have ladies' and guys' growth groups meeting every other week.

As we plant the desire with this new group to share the gospel with others around them, we are intentionally building deeper relationships as a church family. This past weekend we spent Saturday evening fellowshiping together and Sunday morning worshiping together. After worship, we shared a special time of eating together and playing games. It is a true blessing to spend time being encouraged by other believers.

Our church plant is partnering with a local university to offer a literacy program for a nearby Roma community. Please pray that gospel conversations will be

made and lives will be changed for Christ's sake as we go weekly into the Roma village, teaching the children to read and write.

Oradea (New Church Plant) Ministry Update — Our family and Candra have made a few trips back to the Oradea area over the past few weeks, and we are seeing this new ministry opportunity coming together quickly. We started praying this year in late spring and early summer about the next steps for our ministry.

We feel confident that God has opened the doors for this new church plant, and we have agreed on our bold vision — for every adult and teen of Oradea to hear the gospel from a friend. We could

not be more excited about this new opportunity. We had a meeting in Oradea on Oct. 29 where we shared our vision with people interested in joining us.

We ask that you join us in prayer for: the Santandrei Roma Ministry (1:1 Bible studies, vandalism issues, fence for property, children's behavior and Carina's walk with Christ); the Brasov Ministry (college ministry with Roma Community, weekly discipleship meetings, Sunday meeting location, evangelism opportunities); our transition (in January) and new ministry opportunity in Oradea; the Risner kids' being accepted into CBC, kids' scholarships for college and for language skills to increase.



Risner Kids, Bagosi Family and Candra sang specials for the service.



STAND FIRM & LIVE EPIC
HELPING YOU NAVIGATE SUCH A TIME AS THIS
By Jake McCandless
jake@standfirmministries.com www.standfirmministries.com



The Great Deception Trap is Set (Part V)

I hope I've been able to prove through the past 50 articles — yes, 50 — that I'm not trying to be sensational in writing on Bible prophecy, but rather trying to rightly divide the Word. Of course, it's for you to decipher if it is according to the Word, for we all need to be "Bereans" and test all things. Along with trying not to just share things because they sound sensational, I try to begin with the text not the "Times." We all can easily open our newsfeed or turn on our TVs and find something that looks like the unfolding of prophecy. It may or may not be, but Scripture tells us enough for us to have a foundation of what will happen in the last days.

There appears to be overwhelming evidence that the Antichrist and his empire will rise from the Middle East. It's a safe assumption then, that it will be an Islamic kingdom. If that's the case, it's possible that Islamic eschatology reveals what could be the Great Deception warned about in II Thessalonians 2.

In previous articles, we looked at how their messiah, the Mahdi, matches the Biblical Antichrist. Their "Jesus" who returns, matches the Biblical False Prophet. Their Dajjal or Antichrist matches the Biblical Jesus. Add in the forewarned counterfeit miracles done by the False Prophet and this is the recipe for a great deception. Therefore, it's likely that Satan set the trap for the Great Deception in a cave near Mecca in 610 AD.

Before this last installment (for now) of the possible actual Great Deception, I want to make clear that we shouldn't look to the evil twist of Islam's prophecies as the only ingredient to this Great Deception. There will likely be other factors and players. Satan has done what any wise investor would do — diversify. I believe there are many Great Deception traps set. Whether they are backup plans or

additional traps, there are multiple modes of deception for sure.

Part of the danger of these deceptive traps is that the biblical truth that would warn us seems to be veiled to some degree in modern Christianity. I'd argue that the avoidance of a level-headed look at prophecy veils the danger of this Islamic deception. Another area in which the truth may be veiled for us is a biblical understanding of the "unseen world."

There's one element within Islamic prophecy where the biblical topics of the end-times and the supernatural collide. Along with the other things said about the Mahdi, one is that he will have control and dominion over the jinn. We don't use the term "jinn," but you may recognize it from the term Genie. They are one and the same, but in *Aladdin, I Dream a Genie* and others, only partially describe the nature of these jinn. In Christianity, jinn are called demons.

Therefore, you see the potential for deception already, I'm sure. But in Islamic prophecy, their Messiah, who could be our Antichrist, is in control of demons. This also matches teachings of the Antichrist in Revelation: *"Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the beast (Antichrist) and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty (Rev. 16:13-14 NIV)." That's one place demons are directly connected to the Antichrist, and they're doing exactly what is said the jinn will do for the Mahdi. This is far from the only mention of demons and other supernatural entities mentioned in the Book of Revelation. A couple of these are in Revelation 9, where we read of an entire army of demons coming out*

of the Abyss and of angels being released from the river Euphrates. Our imaginations could run wild of how a man seeming to have control over demons could deceive the world, but we're not given much detail there. One thing that does seem to be found in Scripture is that there will be an increase in supernatural activity in the last days. We could have a fair debate over how visible this supernatural activity will be, but I believe we can use the first advent of Jesus as a template. There is more evident activity of demons described in the gospels during Jesus' time on earth than any other point in Scripture. Other traditional Jewish writings from around the time of Jesus' first coming tell of an increase in the supernatural at what we know now as Jesus' return. Now this sounds wild, but we believe in wild stuff already. We believe in a Savior who was born of a virgin and was resurrected from the dead. We believe the Spirit of God dwells in each of us. The supernatural is all over the pages of Scripture, yet we seldom embrace the reality of it. The verdict is out if the falsely received messiah, the Mahdi, will have any influence over demons, but it's not a stretch since they will be working for the same team. I do believe one way we can prepare to stand firm from this possible part of the Great Deception is to embrace a truly biblical view of the unseen world. I'd also argue this isn't just something that will prepare us for then, but even now as there is a rise in interest in the occult and paganism in America. *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)*

Reports from the Churches

Bradford, Bradford added one by baptism and five by letter; Dal Hogan, pastor.

First, Cave Springs gained eight by statement; Michael Battenfield, pastor.

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

Old Hickory, Hattiesville welcomed two by baptism; Blake Martin, pastor.

Spring Lake, Texarkana reports one by letter; Randy Shepherd, pastor.

Weddington, Fayetteville witnessed two by baptism; Gene Fulcher, pastor.

Revivals

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

First, No. Lewisville, Nov. 20-23, 7 p.m.; Eric Barbaree, evangelist; Jerry Evans, interim pastor.

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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)



Reaching Mexico Through Local Churches

By Eric Johnson

The first BMA church in the country of Mexico was organized in 1956. In those humble beginnings, no one could have imagined the plan God had in store for the BMA in Mexico. Since then, God has used the churches of the BMA to grow His work in Mexico. For 66 years, new churches have been started, an association formed and organized and missionaries called and sent to new fields. The seed that was planted in the 1950s continues to bear fruit. Today there are more than 100 congregations working together in the BMA of Mexico.

The hero in this story is the Lord. He works to reach the nations through local churches. The local church is the means God has established and empowered to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The BMAA is made up of churches working together to accomplish that task. I have traveled to almost 50 countries around the world, and every one of them needs the gospel and needs more doctrinally sound Missionary Baptist churches to be started there. If we are to send missionaries to start churches, men need to be disciplined to follow Jesus and they need to be established in the sound doctrine of God's Word.

In the last few years, there has been a growing burden in the BMA of Mexico to train more young men to start new churches that make disciples. God's work is continuing to grow His work. A very exciting recent development in this area is that the churches of Mexico are working to reinstate the national BMA Bible Institute, and the churches there have elected Josue Osorio to coordinate this effort.

In the 1980s God called Bro. Josue to preach. At the time, he was a veterinary student and expected to live his life working in that profession, but God called him to the ministry. He graduated from a prestigious university, hung up his veterinary diploma and went to work for the Lord Jesus Christ in missions.

Disciplined in the Lord's work by BMA Missionary Buddy Johnson, Bro. Josue worked to plant churches in central Mexico and later became pastor of First Baptist Church (FBC) of Huejutla, Hidalgo, where he has served as pastor for more than 30 years. God has blessed, and FBC Huejutla has started dozens of churches over the past several years. Thousands of people have been reached with the gospel. Bro. Josue has always worked side-by-side with young men the Lord was calling to ministry, and God has mightily blessed those efforts.

It is amazing to see how, over the years, God's plans have come together in our associated work:

- God has called missionaries from our churches,
- They have been sent by our churches to the nations,
- God led those missionaries to men who would be disciplined,
- Working with those men, churches were started in Mexico and
- Those associated churches and are now taking the gospel farther than ever before.

What an amazing God we serve. Unto Him be glory in the church! Please pray for the following:

- Bro. Josue and other Mexican pastors who will be involved in teaching and training young men for ministry,
- That many more would come to know Christ as a result of the associated efforts of the churches of the BMAA and BMA of Mexico,
- That the Lord of the Harvest would send laborers for the harvest,
- That God would use the churches and the BMA Bible Institute in Mexico to train many for the gospel ministry and
- How God might use your church to support and be a part of this great work.

Thank you for your faithful example. God bless you.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

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 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752
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Keeping You Informed

It is our prayer that with the combination of the weekly missions' reports featured in the *Trumpet*, along with an occasional insert like the one in this issue, coupled with a new bimonthly newsletter that will be starting in December, our people can stay informed and involved in sharing the blessings of their mission work.

Beginning in December of this year, we will start sending out a bimonthly newsletter that will keep you abreast of the current happening in your State Mission's Department. Please be sure and drop by the State Missions table during the BMA of Arkansas meeting to sign up to receive it, as well as to register to win an iPad. It could be a win-win situation for you. After all, someone will be leaving with it! You will need to be present Friday morning for the drawing.

Also, if you don't attend the state meeting and you would like to receive a newsletter be sure and email us (bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com) your email address and we will put you on the list.

First Time Happening

This year, you will be receiving not only recommendations from the Missionary Committee, but also from the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. The Advisory Committee is a sub-committee of the Missionary Committee and is elected by that committee. The Revolving Loan Fund Committee is elected from the floor and, being a standing committee, answers to the body directly.

From Our Missionaries

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "Prayer is a very important part of ministry. Every new congregation should begin because we have been praying. At Ebenezer, this truth does not escape us. Last week, I asked them to pray that God would introduce me to people to minister to, people in need of Him. I had the opportunity to talk for about two hours with a young agnostic man named Ricardo. I sowed the Word of God in his life, and we are praying for God to grow that seed."

I also had the opportunity to talk with a family who recently arrived from Venezuela. I talked with Eduar for about an hour, and he told me how he has seen the hand of God in his migratory process. He is now in the process of adapting to a new country and a new city. I ask for your prayers for Ricardo and Eduar — only God can bring change in their lives. Ask God for wisdom so I will know how to deal with them and sow the Word of God.

"Pray that God will continue to introduce me to people in need of Him. May God be glorified."

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great week at Faith Chapel! We had very good attendance, even with two of our families with children out. We still had our second-largest attendance ever with four first-time visitors. If those two families had been there, some would have been standing."

We are going to try and rearrange some this week to see if we can fit any more chairs. It is a good problem to have.

"We are very busy with planning and getting cost estimates for material and labor for a new building. And we are looking forward to seeing you all at the State Meeting this week. Thank you for your prayers, please continue. God is hearing and answering them."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes "This week at Faith Journey, we were able to get out in the community. We made some contacts with one of our local nursing homes to see what we could do to help minister to their residents and staff. We hope to be able to be a blessing to them with anything they may need in the near future."

"We combined our meeting this week with our sending church, Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell, as they held their annual Fall Fest. There was a great turnout from church members and the whole community! There were games, food and a hayride for everyone to enjoy! We are looking forward to the time when we grow as a mission into a church and can host our own Fall Fest!"

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "When we look for the difference between Christianity and other religions, we realize that other religions think they must always do something to earn salvation if there is an ex-

pectation of eternity. Christianity is the only one that teaches that salvation is granted by the merit of Another. In other words, Another earns it for you, and that is called 'grace' — since our salvation is a gift from God to a sinner who is guilty and unworthy of it. It was out of the sheer affection of His will that He saved us because we did not deserve it.

"When we began the church planting project, we prayed that God would give us a meaningful name so that every time we said it, we would remember the precious gospel — that we would be amazed to remember that it was 'by grace alone' that our great debt was paid, that it was 'by grace alone' that today we are saved that it was 'by grace alone' that today we have eternal life and that it is 'by grace alone' that allows us to serve Him. So, every time we repeat our name, 'Sovereign Grace,' it is not just a name, it is a reminder of all God did through Jesus for His glory and for our good and that there is no merit in us that gives us the humility to depend every day on Him."

"We call our small groups 'Missionary Zone.' So far, we have two Missionary Zones — one in Springdale in the house of Francisco and Maria and the other in our apartment in Rogers. These are places where, every week, we see the work of God through the testimonies, and how they want to please God."

"On Friday, in our Rogers Mission Zone, a woman who is a new believer asked a question: 'What was the purpose of continuing in the world after being saved?' I said, 'Very good question. I congratulate you for seeking what we call the purpose of life.' We went to the Bible because that is where our rules of faith and conduct are, and we spent the rest of the night thanking God for saving us and for having these two purposes of life — make us every day in the image of His son, Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:19) and fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). Since they came to us, we tell them that all Christians have a mission and that 'Sovereign Grace,' our church, is the training center for them to fulfill the mission God has for them where they are."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "Blurred lines

VOTE

(Continued From Page 1)

and lowered the voting age and given rights to all sexes, races or ethnic backgrounds of citizens in the United States. This was done to help ensure that there are not any disenfranchised voters.

The following is an acronym for the word VOTE to help us remember the reason we should not pass on our opportunity to exercise our right to vote:

Validate — Who are you voting for? Before you vote, take the time to know the candidates and what they stand for. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan" (Prov. 29:2 NKJV). This is our opportunity to validate and show our support for our Constitution. When we vote, we show elected officials, younger generations and other countries that we take our liberties seriously. Voting helps to preserve our freedoms and validates that we believe in voting freely when we vote for the candidate of our choice. Gertrude Baines believed in voting. She was the oldest person, at 115 years old, to vote until her death.

Opportunity — Eligible citizens have the opportunity to vote for who and what public policies they desire. "Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you" (Deut. 1:13). The methods for voting have changed over the years — from the paper ballot, lever pull, punch cards and now touch screens at most polling locations. Voters in the United States have the opportunity to freely express their preferences in a private manner when they vote. This is something that people of other countries desire in their country.

Do you remember the Tiananmen Square protests of June 1989? It's hard to forget the picture of the student staring down Chinese military tanks as they attempted to move forward in the square and threatened his life. There are millions and millions of people around the world who have laid down their lives to have the freedoms we have in America. Are you taking the opportunity to vote?

Time — Every time we vote,

between church and life — I love it. When I pastored in Central Arkansas, it was in a very close-knit community. I would find it fascinating that there would be someone in the hospital, they'd have 15 family members, neighbors and friends, who were all church members, visit them. But once they were back home, they'd say that no one from the church or just the pastor came by. There was a clear line between church and 'real life.' I get where they're coming from, but I see some irony. My hope with Epic Life is to erase

we reinforce that our freedom to vote is important. The time-proven freedoms and democracy in the United States are the model that others wish their country would emulate. Time has shown that it is possible for just about anyone to become president. Proverbs 14:34 reminds us that, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." We have had presidents that have been farmers — George Washington and Jimmy Carter. Lyndon Johnson had been a schoolteacher and Woodrow Wilson a college president before they became the president of the United States. By taking the time to vote in every election, we can eradicate the belief that Americans are apathetic.

Election — Every vote in every election is important. When you vote, you are expressing your opinion and making your voice heard. How many times have you heard someone say, "It doesn't matter if I vote, I'm only one vote." Even worse, how many times have we gone along with that type of thinking and said, "You're right." Every vote counts, period. History has shown, time and time again, that one vote did make a difference. Some of those one-vote differences are:

- In 1776, **one vote** gave America the English language instead of German.

- In 1850, **one vote** made California a part of the United States.

- In 1868, **one vote** stopped the impeachment proceeding against President Andrew Jackson.

- In 1923, **one vote** in Germany gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

- In 1984, **one vote** was the margin for Monroe County, Florida commissioner.

Your vote does make a difference. Voting results have repeatedly proven the enormous power of one single vote. Each time we vote, whether it is a local election, primary or presidential election, we help to guarantee our rights, our right to worship, free speech and to vote for whom we desire. Don't take your rights for granted, vote to be heard!

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14).

those lines.

"We saw a glimpse of that yesterday at our Bonfire and Hayride. Everyone from our core Connection Group was there, but it wasn't clear if the event was a 'church event' or 'just family or friends hanging out.' Perfect!

"Amazingly, that blurred line made it so natural for members to invite family and friends. It wasn't a church event, but a life event with people who go to church together.

"We blurred the lines again as the Epic Life families with kids went to trick or treat together."

HOMECOMINGS

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

71st Anniversary/Homecoming; First, No. Lewisville; Nov. 20; 10:30 a.m. – worship (Adam Rogers, speaker); noon – potluck; Jerry Evans, interim pastor.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.

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ARE YOU A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
OF A BMA OF ARKANSAS CHURCH?**



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BMA of Arkansas 73rd Annual Session Nov. 3-4 • Central Baptist College

Thursday Morning • Nov. 3 • 10 a.m.

WMA
Brotherhood

Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex
Toland Worship Center, Cooper Complex

Thursday Afternoon • Nov. 3

1 p.m. Breakout Session #1 Watkins Academic Building, 3rd Floor (Rooms 305, 306, 310 & 311)
2:30 p.m. Breakout Session #2 Watkins Academic Building, 3rd Floor (Rooms 305, 306, 310 & 311)

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

- **The Urgency of Prayer: The Boiler Room of the Church** — Larry Barker (Room 310)
- **Building Neutral Communities: Why Churches Should be Invested** — Clinton Morris (Room 305)
- **How Churches Can Help Churches and an Association** — Harold Smith (Room 311)
- **Fundamental Ideas for Healthy Student/Youth Ministry** — Dan Carson (Room 306)

4 p.m. Missionary Committee Watkins Academic Building, Mitchell Lecture Hall (Room 212)
4:45 p.m. Nominating Committee Watkins Academic Building (Room 210)

Thursday Evening • Nov. 3 • 6:30 p.m. — Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex
“Healthy Churches, Healthy Association, for the Glory of God!”

Call to Worship
Welcome
Special Music
Annual Message

CBC Band, directed by Darrell Spigner
CBC President Terry Kimbrow
CBC Worship Choir/CBC Singers, directed by Jim Turner
Hershel Conley (Pastor, The Bridge, Mountain Home)
Alternate — Jimmy Brock (ABS Director, SAU, Magnolia)
President Michael Battenfield

Introduction of Theme
Call to Business (First Business Session)
Prayer
Initial Enrollment/Finance Committee Report
Seating of Messengers
Recognition of New Churches
Election of Officers for 2023
Selection of Meeting Place and Date for Annual Meeting in 2023
Election of Annual Speaker for 2023
Central Baptist College Report
Proposed Constitutional Amendments
Reports from BMAA Departments Special Guests
Adjourn with Testimony/Verse and Prayer

President Terry Kimbrow

Friday Morning • Nov. 4 • 7:30 a.m.

Community Room, Mabee Student Services Complex

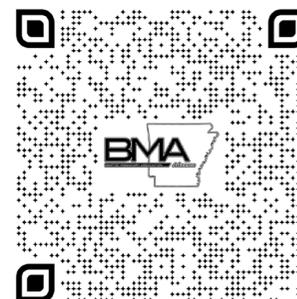
Appreciation Breakfast for Pastors/Church Leaders & Wives

Friday Morning • Nov. 4 • 9 a.m. (Second Business Session)
Burgess Auditorium, Cooper Complex

Worship
Devotional and Prayer
Interim Enrollment/Finance Committee Report
Reports from BMAA Departments and Special Guests (not included in Session 1)
Vote on Constitutional Amendments
Master's Builders Report
Brotherhood Report
WMA Report
Youth Department Report
Publications Department (*Baptist Trumpet*) Report
Missionary Committee
State Missions Report
Revolving Loan Fund Report
Final Enrollment/Finance Committee Report
Recording Clerks' Report
Credentials Committee
Nominating Committee Elected
Other Business
Introduction of BMA of Arkansas Officers for 2023
Adjourn with Testimony/Verse and Prayer

Andrew & Mallory Guyton
Jorge Vasquez

Eddie Sikes
Brotherhood President
WMA President
Director Dan Carson
Executive Editor Jeff Herring
Chairman David Inzer
Executive Director Paul White
Executive Director Paul White



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