

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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Part 1 — That They May Be One, As We Are

By Hershel Conley, Pastor • The Bridge Church, Mountain Home

I love to see these verses we are about to read because I see Jesus really taking care of some important prayer requests to the Father. It was so important to Jesus that He pleaded with the Father to watch over His men that were carrying out Jesus' commands. Today I truly believe the church that desires to be a healthy one will focus on the Gospel of Christ and never allow the world to influence its purpose.

(John 17:1-6) Jesus knew it would be just hours until He would give His life on the cross for all

mankind. He looked up toward Heaven and asked the Father to glorify Him so He could glorify His father. Jesus has the power over everything, as we saw in His life here on earth through all His miracles. His power to give eternal life to all that will call upon the name of Jesus is the most wonderful gift that was ever given. When we that are saved truly believed what Jesus did upon that cross to save us, Jesus called us His! And to know Him through His Word is actually what Jesus was praying in this prayer in verse 3.

With all the years Jesus walked upon this earth, He always was about the Father's business. How wonderful to think that Jesus went back to Heaven and took His place beside the Father, where He once sat and spoke the world into existence. Jesus said, in verse 6, that His disciples "have kept thy Word." That is so very important for the work of the Lord. These disciples knew that the Word of Jesus came from the Father, and so do we! We know that Jesus was referring to His disciples, but I believe He was talking about everyone that would call upon the name of Jesus. His church should be full of saved people who are doing the same thing.

(John 17:7-10) The disciples knew that everything Jesus had taught them was from the Father, just as we know the true Word of God.

We have also received this wonderful Word, and we know that Jesus

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Former Camp Director Passes Away

James Speer, 78 of Carthage, Texas, passed away Nov. 3. He was a member of First Baptist Church, where he sang in the Churchman Quartet, served in the AWANA program for over 30 years and taught the Adult 3 Sunday School class for 40 years.

He received his Associate of Arts degree from Central Baptist College. In 2014, he was honored as CBC's Distinguished Alumnus of the year, an honor for an individual who has served their community for more than 20 years.

He held ministerial positions in youth, music and pastorate in many churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas. He served as the Executive Director of the Daniels Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas for 36 years. He ended his career working for Carthage Independent School District as the OCS (Occupational Course of Study) program director, again serving the youth of his community.

Survivors include: his wife of 57 years, the former Barbara Kay Miller; two daughters, Kim (Paul) Turner of Carthage and Tammy (Robert) Ramm of Arlington, Texas; four brothers, Don (Carolyn) Speer of Rogers, Charles (Linda) Speer of Little Rock, David (Angela) Speer of Conway, Ben (Melissa) Speer of Olive Branch, Miss.; a sister, Mary (Dale) Ceren of Spring, Texas; two sisters-in-law, Phyllis Speer of Coffeyville, Kan. and Jan Speer of Rison; four grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

A memorial service was held Nov. 9 at First Baptist Church in Carthage with Dr. Allen Tilley officiating.

Memorials may be made Daniels Springs Encampment (P.O. Box 310, Gary, Texas 75643) or the GIMP (Go In My Place) fund at First Baptist Church of Carthage (256 S. Market St., Carthage, Texas 75633).



2022-2023 BMA of Arkansas Officers — (L/R) Recording Clerks Wes Hulvey & Danny Paul, 2nd Vice President Daniel Williams, First Vice President Tony Crocker, President Michael Battenfield.

BMA of Arkansas Meets

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

The 73rd annual BMA of Arkansas meeting was held Thursday and Friday, Nov. 3-4, at Central Baptist College. The theme, chosen by President Michael Battenfield, was "Healthy Churches, Healthy Association, for the Glory of God" based on Eph. 3:14-21.

The final Enrollment Committee report indicated there were 110 messengers enrolled with 94 churches represented at the meeting (60 by messenger and 34 by letter only) with 15 visitors for a total of 125 registered in attendance. Total money received for the Minute Fund was \$5,280.

Thursday morning included meetings of the WMA and Brotherhood. The breakout sessions were back this year in the afternoon, with two chances to attend one of the four sessions offered.

The Missionary Committee meeting was well attended, and there was discussion on the recommendation from the Advisory Committee to permit the sale of the BMA of Arkansas building for at least \$500,000 should an offer of that amount be made by an interested party. The recommendation was approved and brought to the full body during the Friday morning session, where it was approved.

The Thursday evening session was opened by the CBC band under the direction of Darrell Spigner. After a welcome by CBC President Terry Kimbrow that included an introduction to the new mascot, the CBC choir then continued leading in worship. Paul White, executive

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BMA Global Missions Update

By Larry Barker, VP for Church Strategy and Training

We do a lot of things at BMA Global Missions, but everything we do centers around planting churches that make disciples. We believe God ordained the church as His chosen way to carry out His mission.

What does this mean for BMA Missions? Missions agencies do not plant churches, churches plant churches. That we constantly say that we are your partner in God's mission. You plant churches, and you choose to partner with us to assess, train and be accountable for God's work around the world. So we want to say thank you for all you do. Here is some of what is going on around the world:

- The BMA is currently present in 65 countries around the world.
- We have 60 U.S. missionaries in 23 of the 65 countries.
- We have approximately 300 ChangeMaker missionaries we are actively engaged with, and this does not take into account the self-

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Terry Kimbrow
President



CENTRAL
BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Save the Date: Homecoming 2023

CBC will host its annual Homecoming week beginning Monday, Feb. 13, and continuing through Saturday, Feb. 18. Several events will take place during the week as we gear up for our main events on Friday and Saturday.

The annual Chili Cook-Off will take place in the Mabee Student Center. Students, alumni, faculty and staff are encouraged to compete. The event will take place during lunch, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration is **free**; all we ask is that you provide enough chili for our students to sample. The event will have free admission and our Dining Services staff will provide hot dogs to accompany the chili. Prizes will be given for the best chili and overall presentation. To register a Chili Cook-Off team, email Amy Reed at areed@cbc.edu.

Immediately following the Chili Cook-Off, we will be hosting our Second Annual Chapel Pep Rally. The pep rally will consist of the presentation of the Homecoming Court and the announcement of varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams. Friends and family are invited to attend; however, seating will be limited. The pep rally is set to begin at 1 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium.

Thursday evening, we have a Talent Contest planned for current students and alumni. If you have a special talent you would like to perform, contact Blake Pittman for all the details. The Talent Contest will be at 7 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium.

Join us on campus Friday night for fun and games on the lawn. This outdoor event will begin at 5:30 p.m., and will include food, fun games and laser tag.

Saturday, we will be honoring Joyce Garrison, who was a longtime employee in the Business Department at CBC. She began her career in 1956 teaching Typewriting, Shorthand and Accounting. Garrison played a vital role in the beginnings of the CBC Business Department. We will be honoring her by naming the Business Department after her. We will have a short program and unveiling beginning at 10 a.m. in the Burgess Auditorium.

The CBC Alumni Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Hall of the Mabee Student Services Building. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at cbc.edu/homecoming. Proceeds from the luncheon will go toward the Kenneth Brown Scholarship fund. Awards will be given to several alumni who have demonstrated incredible service to the community, their careers and steadfast faith.

The highlight of the day will begin in A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse at 1 p.m. with the Lady Mustangs taking on Harris-Stowe. The 2023 Homecoming Court will be announced after the women's game and will be followed by the Mustangs taking on Harris-Stowe. For more information, go to cbc.edu/homecoming or contact Mallory Guyton at mguyton@bc.edu or (501) 205-8875.



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Women's Basketball

• **Springfield, Mo., Nov. 1** — Opening the 2022-23 season away from home, CBC took on the Patriots of Baptist Bible College (BBC) at Dowell Fieldhouse. CBC (1-0) led at halftime and fought off an early fourth quarter deficit to beat BBC (0-1) 83-74.

• **Conway, Nov. 3** — Opening the home portion of the 2022-23 schedule, CBC hosted the Warriors of Bacone College at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (2-0) shot 55% from the field in the second half to hand Bacone (0-4) a defeat, 74-50.

Volleyball

• **St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 3** — Beginning their final stretch of the regular season on the road, CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist (MBU) in an American Midwest Conference (AMC) tilt inside the Petty Student Resources Center. CBC (4-17, 1-8 AMC) finished the night with only 12 kills, falling in straight sets to MBU (25-3, 8-1 AMC) by scores of 16-25, 6-25 and 9-25.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 4** — Looking to end the season on a high note, CBC wrapped up the 2022 season with an AMC contest against the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) at the Emerson Performance Center. CBC (4-18, 1-9 AMC) won the first and fourth sets and played HSSU (13-11, 4-5 AMC) close all night, but they couldn't pull off the victory, falling in five sets by scores of 25-20, 22-25, 25-27, 28-26 and 15-17.

Men's Cross Country

• **Columbia, Mo., Nov. 4** — Competing for the final time this season, CBC was on the course at Cosmo Park for the AMC Championship. CBC would finish in sixth place.

Women's Cross Country

• **Columbia, Mo., Nov. 4** — Running for the final time this season, CBC was on the course at Cosmo Park for the AMC Championship. CBC would finish in seventh place in the race.

Women's Soccer

• **St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 4** — Looking to win their first match ever in the AMC tournament, CBC took on the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) at Hornet's Field. CBC (6-10-2) had an early lead, went into the locker room tied, but allowed three second half goals to see their season end against HSSU (12-4-1) 4-1.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 7** — After only two all-AMC selections last year, CBC earned four AMC honorable mention selections for

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Dan Carson
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Associational Meetings

Over the years, I have come to appreciate our association meetings at whatever level they are held. This past week, we had the opportunity to join together at Central Baptist College of Conway for the annual meeting of the BMA of Arkansas. These gatherings are a time for us to hear about God's work through our churches and invest in relationships, new and old. I especially want to thank President Terry Kimbrow, Duffy Guyton and the rest of the CBC team as they served as our hosts. I know it takes a great deal of effort to insure that we have everything we need to pull off the two-day meeting. The staff of CBC meets that challenge with a servant's heart.

I have often wondered why we have seen a decline in our associational meetings over the years. I know you can get much of the information shared through different means of communication like the *Baptist Trumpet* and the digital outreach of our departments. However, there is much to be said about shaking the hand of a new ministry friend or giving an old friend a hug. So let me make a case for physical attendance to all of our association meetings, especially the BMA of Arkansas:

• **Location, location, location.** It is a treat to be on the CBC campus and see what God is doing there. If you never been to CBC or if has been a while, you need to make the trip. With a standing invitation from the leadership at the college, there is a good chance our meetings will be there for the foreseeable future. Take the opportunity to get on campus. You will probably even get to hear from CBC ☐ that continues to be one of my favorite moments. In addition, Conway is the home of the BMAA Global Ministry Center, which houses our national missions office and Lifeword. I know their ministries would love for you to visit.

• **We are made for community.** Spending time with others that share our history and doctrinal beliefs is important. It helps encourage us when we feel alone. In addition, it provides opportunities for new relationships to form. As leaders in our churches, we are faced with unique challenges. Ministry friends give us the chance to bounce around ideas and questions in a way that isn't always possible in our congregations.

• **You can talk to your department leaders face-to-face.** At a state meeting, you can walk up to representatives from Central Baptist College, the *Baptist Trumpet*, our state missions office and our youth department and ask questions. Many of our national ministries are also represented, but you know that, unless providentially hindered, you will have access to our state departments. This year, President Kimbrow of CBC shared some hard things during his report about the recent cyber attack. I appreciated his honesty and openness. It was a report that would have been lessened if he had just simply sent out a letter or video.

• **You can learn something new.** Whether it is from a conversation with a new friend, ministry leader or through one of the pre-association breakout sessions, there is an opportunity for growth. I am a big fan of continuing education. Most professions not only ask for it but require it. We should embrace that mind-set as ministers of the gospel. The gospel doesn't change, but our world and culture continue to do so. We need to look for insight and knowledge as we seek to serve in the areas of ministry in which we have been placed.

I know many of our churches and leaders have given up attending our state and national meetings but I encourage you to reconsider that. It is hard and sometimes inconvenient to participate, but if we want to see our churches continue to have an impact as a group, we need to gather. Whether you work with students, seniors, children or the congregation as a whole, know that it can be impactful to see what the BMA is doing on a state level.



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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HOW TO DEAL WITH TOXIC PEOPLE



Removing Toxic People

Mobilizing the church requires removing barriers that stand in the way of advancement. This will require, with great care, confronting and even removing toxic people. Dealing with difficult people automatically comes with church leadership, and it should not surprise you. Conflict is inevitable. Take a look at the people the Apostle Paul confronted, called out and corrected. Paul faced opposition from church members that hurt him deeply and forced him to defend himself. All churches have conflict, and you must be prepared to address it correctly.

After 40 plus years of full-time ministry, it is easy to remember names and faces of people who were very difficult to pastor. I am fully aware that there were times I was part of the problem because I did not handle conflict resolution well. Sometimes I was just too thin skinned and other times too hard-headed. Conflict resolution is exhausting because it takes a lot of time and emotional energy, but you cannot afford to look the other way and jeopardize your church's health and stability. You must fulfill your duty, as a shepherd of God's flock, by addressing conflicts (Acts 20:28-29).

Sometimes there is nothing you can do to resolve the problem. You will never be able to make everyone happy, nor should you try. Romans 12:18 says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Even if it cannot be resolved, our goal should always be that when we can look in the mirror we can honestly say, "I did my best, by the grace of God, to resolve it." How well you deal with conflict and difficult people will have a major effect on the health and growth of your church. Do not ignore the conflict and, before you give up in any situation, do the right things to resolve it.

Conflict is not sinful, but it can easily become sinful. On a recent podcast, Sam Rainer said

this, "Your church members will not always agree with you. Just because someone disagrees with you or has a different opinion, that does not mean they are toxic." Our DCPI training states, "Expect, and welcome, differences of opinion. Conflict does not present trouble in itself. Often, conflict can bring creative solutions to problems. Trouble comes when people act sinfully in their conflicts." There is a huge difference between constructive criticism and someone with a critical heart. You must do what is right and handle it the right way.

You will not always be able to avoid conflict and you must be prepared to handle it in a biblical manner. In Gal. 2:11 we have an example of Paul confronting another leader: "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed." Usually, the best approach is the direct approach because, all too often, we think it will work itself out if given enough time. More often than not, it gets worse if left to itself. You will struggle with confronting conflict if you are a people pleaser who desires to be liked, but you must love them enough to speak the truth in love.

Your first step in confronting toxic difficult people is prayer. You should pray for them and about them. God is still able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we ask or think. Maybe this is the perfect time for God to deal with their hearts and for a miraculous transformation to occur. Pray for God to give you the right heart to minister to them the best you can. Pray for them to receive the rebuke as a divine moment for spiritual growth and biblical resolution to occur. Pray that God will give you the right things to say and the right time to say them. Prayer enables you to stay in tune with the Holy Spirit.

At the end of I Thessalonians 5, Paul challenged the church to do three things. In verse 25 he says,

Opportunities For Service

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

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.

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

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

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

"Pray for us." All churches should pray for their leaders and the leaders should be praying for those they lead. Pray for wisdom, discernment, endurance and unity. In verse 26 he says, "Greet with a holy kiss." We are told multiple times in the Scriptures to love one another. How we treat others shows what our relationship is really like with Christ. Our love should be shown, but it should not be showy. If we love Him like we should, then we love others as we should. The two go hand-in-hand.

In verse 27, Paul tells them to read the letter he wrote to one another out loud. He gives a command, "I charge you" to submit to the Word of God and to bind it as an oath. If I love you, I will confront you with the truth about unhealthy behavior that is detrimental to you and damaging to the body of Christ. If I love you, I want you to be able to approach me and talk with me about your concerns and challenges in following my leadership. Sam Rainer also said, "Usually a toxic person does not care, or they do not realize, that they are toxic." He stated that he has never met a toxic person who was truly aware of their toxicity.

Could it be that they are partially unaware because we have never had the courage to confront them? You must confront the toxic individual with a specific plan for them to correct their unacceptable behavior. Proverbs 6 reminds us that "he that sows discord among the brethren" is an abomination. We must pray that we are never guilty of loveless truth where we handle conflict only from the pulpit or in a public setting. We must also not be guilty of truthless love where we are unwilling to confront any toxicity that is evident in the body of Christ.

More to come on this topic!



The Longer We Serve Him

I was just thinking about the many events Karen and I have been part of in recent months. We have been doing things like this together for almost 54 years, and that reminded me of yet another song's lyrics. Bill Gaither wrote: "The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows, the more that I love Him more love He bestows, each day like Heaven, my heart overflows, the longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows."

I alter those words to say, "The longer we serve Him the sweeter He grows." Jesus did not die for just one person; He died for all the world. He doesn't just bless one individual — He blesses people of all ages, of all colors and from all over the globe. Yet, those blessings are felt individually... while in the midst of many. These have been some of the occasions I have thought about:



(L/R) Incoming President Michael Battenfield receives the gavel from outgoing president Tom Mitchell in 2022.

• **Central Baptist College c 70 Years.** In 1952, what is now the BMA of Arkansas purchased the properties of a former women's school in Conway. Today, that is the campus of Central Baptist College. Earlier this year, a celebration was held at CBC with many former and current students, as well as administration, faculty and staff attending. As Karen and I visited with old friends and met new ones, it struck us just how great the impact of CBC has been and continues to be. The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows.

• **The BMA of Arkansas — 73 Years.** Last week, messengers and guests assembled on the campus of CBC to conduct the business of the association and to worship together. It was the 73rd annual meeting of this group of churches. Our churches band together to carry out the Great Commission in ways no one church could do alone. For 73 years, the Lord has blessed the combined efforts through state missions, Christian education, ministry to youth and the publication ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

Over the course of these 73 years, many have already received their heavenly promotions, but the consolidated efforts of the association continue. May it ever be so. The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows.

• **Central Baptist Church, Prescott — 95 Years.** This past Sunday, Karen and I traveled back to the church where we spent 22 years in ministry together. It was the church's 95th anniversary. W.J. Burgess and 13 others organized the church in the courtroom of the Nevada County Courthouse on Sunday, Nov. 6, 1927. From those humble beginnings, the church has weathered the storms of every sort, but God has proved Himself faithful. Under the leadership of Roy Johnson and Max Sullivan, the Lord continues to bless that church 95 years later. The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows!

• **The Call to Ministry — 58 Years.** On Sept. 27, 1964, in a dormitory room of Williams Hall at Central Baptist College, I finally answered God's call to the gospel ministry. Talk about a life-changing occasion! Never in my wildest dreams could I have envisioned what God has wrought in these past 58 years.

To say I have been greatly blessed would be a tremendous understatement. The Lord has taken me around the world where I have ministered in six different countries. He has allowed me to pastor four churches and to plant another and remain her pastor for 18 years. Through it all, I have faltered many times, but God has remained faithful. The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.

• **My Ministry Partner — 54 Years.** This coming Dec. 7, Karen and I will have been married 54 years. We were married in Antioch Baptist Church of Conway, with her brother, Jurl Mitchell, officiating.

When God said He was going to provide Adam with a suitable helper, it was because Adam was alone and could not do everything he needed alone. Karen has been more than suitable — she's been superb! We have been blessed to serve the Lord together, and the people to whom and with whom we have ministered have blessed our lives. The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows!

Well, once again, that's what I was just thinking. May God bless you all!

MEETING

(Continued From Page 1)

director of missions introduced his “brother” and friend, Hershel Conley, pastor of The Bridge Church in Mountain Home to preach the annual message. Bro. Hershel shared a message from John 17 entitled “They May Be One, As We Are.”

At the conclusion of the annual message, the business session was called to order and the messengers were seated, along with one petitionary church, Cain Baptist Church of Mountainburg. The messengers reelected the current slate of officers, with the exception of Recording Clerk Don Embry who asked that he not be considered for reelection. Danny Paul (pastor of Calvary, Conway) was elected to fill the vacancy. You can see a listing of the various committees and committee members, along with a collage of photos from the meeting on page 8 of today's *Trumpet*.

The reports from the four departmental directors — Terry Kimbrow, Paul White, Dan Carson and Jeff Herring — appear on pages 9-10 of today's *Trumpet*. These reports were made available in the digital *Combined Reports* booklet that was shared from the recording clerks. We have videos of each session and will get them edited and uploaded to the BMA of Arkansas YouTube channel in the next week. Visit BaptistTrumpet.com to keep up with the latest information on how to access these videos.

Department Reports

Central Baptist College—The highlight of the business session on Thursday night was the CBC report from President Terry Kimbrow as he shared about the history of CBC over 70 years of ministry, “transforming lives” in higher education. While the history and accomplishments over the 70 years was very encouraging, the resulting loss from the recent cyber-attack (estimated to be \$600,000) brought a challenge to help meet the immediate need. Bro. Kimbrow asked churches, friends and alumni of CBC to help raise at least \$250,000. A personal challenge to help was given to seven churches earlier, and five of those seven churches have already responded to give \$107,000 toward this need. See CBC report on page 9 for more information.

Other highlights of the report included:

- Announcing the 2023 Gala with the theme “Fearless Faith,” on March 23, 2023, that will focus on mental health with Guest Speaker Harry Miller.

- Plans are underway for a new baseball field to be built on currently-owned property near the campus, and a \$500,000 gift that has been given to get the project started.

- PACE program “First Class Free” scholarship to encourage new students to “get started” on

completing their education.

Youth Department — Director Dan Carson shared about the success the department has had in fulfilling its mission to connect with and provide continuing education and coaching to student ministry pastors and leaders. He challenged the churches of the association to support the ministry through prayer, regular financial support and helping connect with those that work with the youth in the churches.

State Missions — Executive Director of Missions Paul White shared his 12th report to the body and allowed all current missionaries to share a brief report. He reported that two missions had organized in the past year and three missionaries had been added.

Baptist Trumpet — The report included an overview of “Where We Have Been,” “Where We Are Now” and “Where We Are Going.” A 20¢ per issue rate increase was approved as recommended, along with a recommendation to authorize the Publications Committee and the Missions Advisory Committee to work with the Executive Editor of the *Trumpet* and the Executive Director of Missions to discuss and negotiate the sale of the BMA of Arkansas building, should the need arise. Plaques were awarded to outgoing board members Michael Hight and Carolyn Colvert for their faithful service.

BMAA Department Reports

- **Baptist Publishing House** — Executive Director Jordan Tew shared about the success of the *Baptist Expositor* as it continues to grow and teach people how to study God's Word for themselves. He also shared that the new children's curriculum should be ready by spring (February/March).

- **Lifeword** — Executive Director Donny Parrish shared how Lifeword is reaching more people today than ever in the history of the ministry. He shared that in the last 30 days, 3.7 million people have visited www.lifeword.org. They are now sharing the gospel in 140 languages (praying for 200 in the next few years) to over 2 billion people around the world.

- **BMAA Missions** — VP for Church Health and Strategy Larry Barker shared about the work of BMAA Missions around the world. *Editor's Note: See the Missions Update article on page 1 of this issue for more details.*

- **BMA Theological Seminary** — Dean Dr. Philip Attebery shared about the many ways the seminary is working to provide biblical instruction, including working with Spanish-speaking countries to provide seminary training.

- **Minister's Resource Services (MRS)** — Executive Director of MRS Dr. Steve Crawley shared about the new partnership with Ronald Blue Trust and their record keeper NWPS Benefits. He encouraged all those that have not yet made the transition to contact

UPDATE

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supporting pastors that were once ChangeMakers.

- There are approximately 2,000 BMA churches around the world — 1,200 in the U.S. and 800 in other countries.

- We have 450 active church plants.

- We have 17 countries with an organized BMA association of churches, and many are now sending missionaries.

We are partnering to take the gospel to the world, but the world is also coming to us:

their office for help getting it taken care of soon. You can contact them at MRS@bmaamerica.org or (844) 262-8637.

- **Daniel Springs Baptist Camp** — Executive Director Jason Prewitt shared that in 2022 there were over 1,600 campers with 43 professions of faith, 4 recommitted their life to Christ, 1 made known their need for baptism and 2 surrendered to ministry.

Other Reports

- **WMA Report** — Newly elected President Kelly Williams shared they had raised approximately \$7,000 for this year's project (Just the Crumbs). They selected CBC's Cyber Account as the project for next year. The National WMA project is Daniel Springs Camp, and she shared that a friendly challenge had been issued by the Texas WMA to see who could raise the most funds for the project.

- **Brotherhood** — Recording Secretary Bill Thornton shared the report on behalf of President Robbie Staton, who could not be in attendance.

- **Master's Builders** — Eddie Sikes shared that this was his 43rd report to the body, as a state missionary for 31 years and as the representative of the Master's Builders for 12 years.

- **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Report** — Paul White shared the report from the RLF. He shared that the total funds available are \$1,663,067.91, with loans out of \$836,277.45, making the total funds \$2,499,345.36. The recommendation to modify the repayment schedule for missions/churches was adopted as presented and discussed in the Missionary Committee meeting. The new plan would make interest-free loans for 15 years and any outstanding balance at that time would require securing funding from outside, if possible, or they would start paying interest after 15 years.

The 2023 annual meeting of the BMA of Arkansas is set for Nov. 2-3 at Central Baptist College. Dr. Clif Johnson (pastor of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope) was elected to bring the annual message, with Ed Stephenson (pastor of Springhill Baptist Church in Greenbrier) as the alternate.

- We now have church plants in the United States in seven languages — English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Garifuna and French (Canada)!

- Our church planters in Oklahoma City are working with an Afghan refugee there.

- We have an Arabic speaking planter in El Cajon Ca., Mkram Shahateet. The population is approximately 105,000, and 75,000 of those speak Arabic.

- We just approved two new Spanish-speaking planters — David Nava in the greater Orlando, Fla. area and Edixon Pina in Phoenix, Ariz.

- We expect to be planting churches in at least 12 languages in the next 5 years!

Thank you for your prayers and support of our BMA missionaries who are all involved in making disciples, building leaders and planting churches. Our BMA family is being greatly used of God in His mission.

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

the 2022 season — Bayleigh Williams, Jayme Selph, Lexie Sengmanivong and Amanda Parreiras.

Men's Soccer

- **Walnut Ridge, Nov. 5** — Looking to advance in the AMC tournament for the second straight season, the #8 seed CBC took on the #1 seed Williams Baptist University at Eagle Field. CBC (8-8-3) kept the game scoreless in the first half, but allowed three second half goals to WBU (15-0-2) to see their season come to end by a score of 3-0.

- **St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 7** — The AMC announced the 2022 men's soccer all-conference teams and four

Mustangs — Callum Bisset, Daniel Mondragon, Daniel Pinkney and Manny Almaraz — earned honorable mention selections.

Men's Basketball

- Conway, Nov. 5 — Playing the final game of a three-game season opening home stand, CBC hosted the Golden Eagles of John Brown University inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-0) led by seven at the half and used lockdown defense to defeat JBU (2-2) 70-48.

Wrestling

- **Williamsburg, Ky., Nov. 5** — Competing for the first time this season, CBC was on the mat at the Rollins Center for the Patriot Open. CBC had 10 wrestlers compete at both the Freshman/Sophomore division and the Open division. **David Corretjer** (125), **Isaiah Hendrix** (141), **Endrick Theodore** (149), **Guillermo Ramos** (149), **Antwon Singleton** (285) and **Gregory Pierre-Louis** (285) all competed in the freshman/sophomore division while **Brian Mas** (141), **Alejandro Mas** (149), **#19 Christian Richer** (165) and **Darron Harvey** (285) competed in the open division. Corretjer went 3-1, defeating his first two opponents by fall before earning an 8-6 decision in the semifinal before losing in the championship match to finish second. Hendrix went 0-2 in his weight class while Theodore went 1-2, Ramos went 1-2, Singleton went 1-2 and Pierre-Louis went 1-2. On the open division side, Brian Mas went 0-2, Alejandro Mas went 3-2 with all three wins coming by fall, Christian Richer was forced to finish sixth because of a rule limiting him to six matches (he was 5-1) and Harvey went 2-2.

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mission:world

NEWS



INDIGENOUS MISSIONS

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The fourth value of BMA Global Missions is that we practice indigenous missions principles. The word indigenous simply means that something belongs locally. The ministries that we initiate around the world must be sustainable and reproducible in each of those local contexts. Those ministries will not last, and certainly will not multiply, if they are dependent on outsiders to provide vision, finances, and leadership.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the attempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In his efforts to convey his message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with the cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to his mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate his message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. These, of course, are obviously taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers. Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things that Jesus did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of his day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles, and they continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the “Three-self” model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church that is self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means that the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . all without outside interference or help. This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the “self” part and creates isolation. Another criticism offered that it was incomplete and two more “selfs” were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing. These simply mean that the local

church looks like a church in that culture in architecture, worship style, communication style, leadership selection, etc. Self-theologizing does not mean it can create for itself some special system of theology, it means that they must build and apply biblical theology in local themes that we simply do not have very often in the West such as polygamy, animism etc.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that “missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice.” Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms that will allow us to develop local leaders in local systems that will carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.

Two primary ways that BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the “principle of the thirds.” Both of these efforts have as their stated goal to partner without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the “self” part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person, but it is not open-ended. It is intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is intended to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they want to make a major purchase or build a building etc., they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we will try to help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate; we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us as parents in finances, decision making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship, it merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful that we have many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet they are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enablement and dependency must come down.

mission:world

NEWS

OPEN HEARTS AND GOSPEL RESPONSES

BY: Jeremiah S
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Editor's Note: For the past decade, Jeremiah has been serving in the district of Ahmednagar, located in the southern state of Maharashtra, which has a population of 4.5 million people, most of whom are Hindu. Ninety-four percent of the world's Hindus live in India, but there are substantial populations of Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists. India's massive population includes not only the vast majority of the world's Hindus, but also the second-largest group of Muslims within a single country behind Indonesia. While there are legal protections for religious groups and minorities, Indians still experience "high" levels of government restrictions on religion.

Our work is growing, and most of our churches are also growing after the lockdown period. God is tremendously blessing our efforts in one mission area in the district of Ahmednagar where we have baptized more than thirty people in the last six months. I am working with a young church planter named Bro. Jayesh in three church plants in this district, and Bro. Jayesh and his wife were some of the first people that I baptized eight years ago.

God is opening people's hearts, and the people are responding to the gospel. I want to tell you about two stories, each story about new believers and how they came to know Christ:

First, a lady named Savita visited our prayer meeting at one of the church plants with one of our members three months ago. She had a very rough life and found herself deep in sin after suffering abuse and experiencing drug addiction. Savita lived with multiple partners in the last six years but never married any of them. That day when she visited our prayer meeting, God opened her heart and she was filled with guilt. She cried in front of the whole group and accepted that she was a sinner, repented of her sins, and accepted Christ. She was baptized just three weeks ago. We are gracious to God for opening people's hearts to receive his word, changing their lives forever.

The second story is about a man named Shiva. His wife came to our church regularly, but Shiva never came; he was a very staunch Hindu and an alcoholic. A few months ago, their daughter had pneumonia, so we went to their home to pray for her, and by God's grace he was home at the time. He did not speak a word and almost seemed angry as we prayed for the little girl. After praying, we spoke to him and told him about

Jesus, but he just sat there, listening to what we had to say, never speaking a word. A couple of weeks later he visited our Thursday prayer meeting and listened to the message being preached from the third chapter of John, the story of Nicodemus. The Holy Spirit opened his heart, he was filled with guilt, and that day he accepted Jesus and insisted on getting baptized immediately.

God is great and faithful. He is bringing a revival in this church plant. We praise and thank God for what he is doing in Ahmednagar.



mission:world

NEWS



ENABLING BELIEVERS TO REACH THEIR OWN PEOPLE

BY: Jeremy Hambrice
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Seven years ago we began to build our jungle houses in the mountains among the Wantakia people of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Before we ever learned their language, created an alphabet for it, or translated any scripture in it, we asked God to show us men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable (F.A.T.). We knew that many years down the road we would be doing ministry with them and eventually handing God's Word over to them so they could continue teaching it long after we were gone.

As we started learning the Wantakia language, we began to see men and women display those F.A.T. qualities, and as we spent time with them, we could see God revealing both men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable! Pasei was not one of those people.

When we first moved out to the village of Pinji to live with the Wantakia, Pasei was not there. We had no idea that all three of us missionary families had built our houses on his property. His older brother had given the okay, but when Pasei heard the news, his first thought was that he had struck it rich, and he would come and demand from us missionaries that we build him a tin roof house too.

When Pasei first arrived, he didn't make any demands, but we could sense that he was a very arrogant person, always telling people his way was right and theirs was wrong. Pasei had been married to his wife Wumlin for about five years at this point. They were childless, and he would beat her and tell her how easily replaceable she was. They tried eating magic fertility leaves from the bush doctor, but that didn't help her conceive. Pasei was convinced Wumlin's brothers used sorcery to make her barren.

After three years we finally learned Pasei's language, created an alphabet for it, began to translate the scriptures into it, and developed a literacy program so people could read it. How surprised we were when Pasei, the man who knew everything, came to us with his three dollar school fee and faithfully attended our literacy program for three months. On the heels of that first literacy class, we taught the people of Pinji village God's Word for the first time.

We prepared around seventy Bible lessons that would take the Wantakia from the beginning of God's Word all the way to the end with the hope that many would repent before God and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

It took us a little over two months to teach the entire story of God, and Pasei and Wumlin faithfully came every day. As they sat on a log under our teaching tarp, hearing God's Word in their own language, looking at pictures of the stories and watching many of these scenes acted out by us missionaries, Pasei and Wumlin heard for the first time how they were sinners who had come from Adam and were born in Satan's clan.

They heard their only hope was the promised Savior Jesus who came and did all the work necessary for them to leave Satan's clan and live in God's. After hearing that message very clearly, they both, along with many other Wantakia people of Pinji village, believed in Jesus and went from "darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26).

When that happened we began to see such a transformation in the



lives of Pasei and Wumlin. Pasei changed from being the most arrogant man in the village to the humblest! He went to apologize to Wumlin and her family for how he had acted and told them that he now believes that God is the author of life and could give them a child if he desires. After praying for over a year, God provided a child!

Not long after Pasei believed, we began to train Wantakia literacy teachers to take our place. That is the way of indigenous missions—"we do things with people and not for people, enabling them to reach their own people." Because Pasei, through the power of the

Spirit, was beginning to show some of those F.A.T. qualities, we began to train him to become a teacher as well. In the meantime, we kept teaching the new believers through the book of Acts. They all heard that one of the church's main responsibilities is to share the gospel, and they wanted to do just that.

As a result, there was great interest in hearing the entire story of God just like we had taught it the first time. This time, though, we missionaries didn't want to teach it by ourselves. We wanted to involve the new believers, teach with them, and enable them to reach their own people. To do that, we began to train Pasei and others to be Bible teachers. This time they stood up with us and faithfully proclaimed the good news. The result was that we saw many more believe in Christ and join the church! Because we have done this with them and they are being equipped to reach their own people, the church desires to take the gospel to Wumlin's home village of Asi.



COMPLETING THE TASK

BY: Holly Meriweather

Lifeword

lifeword.org

Lifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation.

Lifeword fully understands that the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, the only authorized body to fulfill this great task. These are her marching orders as given by Jesus, so Lifeword, rather than doing the work for the local church or doing things for the local indigenous peoples, has come alongside with media tools, training, and various forms of support.

The men and women who create gospel media content for lifeword.org serve their own communities, their own cultures, and their own languages and dialects. There are currently more than 160 community radio stations and seven online radio stations run by local churches in their communities and for their communities.

The evangelistic gospel presentations they create are broadcast in 140 languages and led by local indigenous believers in our churches. Hundreds of these programs are 100% produced by churches for ministry to their own communities. Meant to be extensions of church outreach, these videos are produced for the various cultural niches in their own context.

In each of the four regions, Lifeword global partners work to create these relevant videos. In Africa, the BMA Ghana, BMA Liberia, and BMA Nigeria associations are reaching their own communities using tools Lifeword has provided. Nigerian Joseph Eniowo's use of smartphones distributed in three mission points to help evangelize children and families then begin discipleship.

In the Americas (Central and South), the Gaitans (Nicaragua) produce marriage and family videos in a culture where infidelity and bigamy are acceptable lifestyles. Valmori Zelaya ministers in an area of El Salvador that is hungry for the gospel, so he produces 60-90 second evangelistic videos and is seeing positive results. Peruvian Paul Tinoco installs powerful transmitters as close as he can to people groups in Peru's remote jungles when he hears of those without access to evangelical radio stations.

In Asia, Filipino Pastor Pete Etabag is helping BMA churches there to reach

communities from the cities to the jungles. Most of his trainees only have cell phones, so he teaches them how to produce gospel content with them. In Lebanon, Joe Costa records programming for several niche cultures in Arabic including Muslims, women, Armenian diaspora, and agnostics.

In the European region, Lifeword has come alongside Brother Bogdan Bilav with media tools that share the gospel. Using gypsy-language Bible recordings and translations of the four Gospels, he targets this marginalized people group. Also, Ukrainian Pastor Pasha Onatsko continues ministering to refugees and produces videos explaining why the war with Russia is happening instead of what is happening. His content is for people who need hope and an understanding that God is in control.

Lifeword Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is an honor for Lifeword to be invited by the local church to help fulfill the great task given to her by her leader, Jesus. Making disciples of Jesus in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation requires believers in each of those areas to do their part, and who better than local indigenous believers who are passionate about the task and familiar with their own context, traditions, beliefs, and needs, serving their own immediate neighbors."



BMA of Arkansas Departmental Reports

Central Baptist College

By Terry Kimbrow, President

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

As believers, we are comforted by God’s powerful truth in Eph. 3:20 that God “*is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*” As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, this monumental milestone reflects God’s goodness that has been affirmed through His churches since the first classes convened on the campus on Sept. 15, 1952. Thank you for your consistent support of the ministry of Central Baptist College! We praise God for your prayers and generosity each year because they are the foundation for what God does in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. You are making a difference — you are contributing to the “transformation of lives” through the gospel of Christ to all who encounter Central Baptist College.

We believe all truth comes from God, and we share this Christ-centered worldview unashamedly. This worldview sees God as the source of truth for all disciplines, be it mathematics, science, history or any other subject. Therefore, the student receives a deeper, more thorough education when the professor is not limited by mandates prohibiting discussions of faith.

70th Anniversary

We commemorated our 70th Anniversary on Sept. 15, 2022 with a campus-wide celebration. Many of you were able to join us. We kicked off the day at 11 a.m. with a complementary catered catfish and chicken buffet under two big tents in front of the Story Library. Over 300 community leaders, pastors, employees and friends of CBC gathered in the beautiful weather before moving into the Story Library for a program. The lunch event was capped by the unveiling of a huge anniversary cake, complete with sparklers, prepared by Chef Don Bingham. The new Mustang mascot also made a surprise grand entrance. Later in the evening, students, employees and fans gathered for “Meet the Mustangs,” an annual event to highlight each player from all 16 athletic teams.

Mustang Athletics

Central Baptist College competes in 16 different sports in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes (NAIA) and American Midwest Conference (AMC). The Athletic Department connects many non-Christian student-athletes, many who are from other countries, to the

gospel every year and fosters a sense of Mustang pride. By joining the Mustang Club, the Athletic Department booster club, you support the effort of transforming lives through spiritual, academic and athletic excellence. Join the Mustang Club and follow the Mustangs on social media or text and e-mail alerts at cbcmustangs.com.



CBC Day in the Churches

The College’s special emphasis day, CBC Day, began on Sept. 11, 2022. CBC Day contributions go directly into the CBC Annual Fund that supports, among many other things, the ministry grant, academic and performance scholarships, spiritual life programs and the development of new academic programs. If your church has participated, or is scheduled to participate, we thank you! We are humbly asking you to set aside a Sunday this fall or in the spring, to devote a specific part of the morning worship service to a special called time of prayer. We are also available to share on a Sunday night or during a mid-week service. We gladly welcome invitations to participate at ministerial events and BMA of Arkansas events such as WMA and Brotherhood meetings. For more information, contact Director of Church Relations Duffy Guyton at dguyton@cbc.edu or (501) 269-6784 or go to cbc.edu/alumnifriends/cbcday.

Mustang in the Making Legacy Program

We have a strong desire to collaborate with alumni and friends of the college to help celebrate their children or grandchildren’s milestone birthdays until they graduate high school. This is a great way to introduce them to CBC and show them a little extra attention as they grow up. To learn more or to sign up, visit cbc.edu/mustangsinthemaking or contact Jessica Faulkner at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8800.

Prospective Students

In addition to your crucial financial support, we also need your students. CBC was founded 70 years ago to serve primarily the BMA of Arkansas. We strive to offer academic excellence blended with Christian faith to both traditional and nontraditional students in your churches. However, we can’t recruit them if we don’t know who they are. Please consider sending us prospective college student lists or

providing a point of contact that will help our admissions team develop relationships with your students. You can also encourage your students to visit cbc.edu/visit to schedule a personal campus visit experience.

Be a Mustang Ambassador

You can also be a volunteer recruiter as a Mustang Ambassador. Mustang Ambassadors are helping the college create a network of alumni and friends to help tell CBC’s story. Sign up at cbc.edu/ambassador or contact Mary Catherine Harvison at mharvison@cbc.edu or call (501) 205-8889. In addition to the Mustang Ambassador Program, you can request that CBC Admissions Department representative visit your church or youth event by emailing admissions@cbc.edu or call (501) 329-6873. You can also refer a student to our admissions team online at cbc.edu/referral and we will contact the referred student.

Our Greatest Need Right Now

We are asking you all to fervently pray for CBC. In late January 2022, CBC was hit by a cyber-attack. Even though security protocols were in place, our computer network was hacked by an unknown entity. The Cyber Security Team at the Little Rock FBI Field Office was contacted immediately, and the CBC Information Technology (IT) personnel remained in contact with them. Within a matter of hours, CBC contracted with an information technology solutions company to form an Incident Response Team (IRT) to preserve and protect data that had not been accessed, to determine what data may have been stolen and to restore data that may have been encrypted.

CBC administration was in contact with the insurance company to review coverage for such an incident. The attorney for the insurance company was consulted on a regular basis with the IRT and the CBC administration, plus an attorney assumed oversight of all messaging to students and employees, meeting via phone call daily with the CBC President and Vice President for Finance. At the advice of the attorney, CBC also contracted with an experienced and proven cyber negotiation company to deal directly with the hackers. Their job was to negotiate with the hackers to determine what data they had in their possession, gather proof of such data, and delay any further data leaks/attacks while the IRT and CBC Team worked around the clock to recover and restore all data.

Over the next five weeks, our entire network would remain inaccessible to faculty, staff and students while the IRT helped CBC strengthen and fortify the network to prevent any such future incidents. During this time, all instruction (teaching of classes) was done online

Youth Department

By Dan Carson, Director

During the 2021-2022 associational year, we have continued to fulfill the work of the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department and invest in those that seek to impact the next generation for Jesus Christ. Our mission remains the same — to provide connections, continuing education and coaching for student ministry pastors and leaders.

Our Podcast

Since its beginning in February 2020, our reach has continued to grow through the **Student Ministry Matters** podcast. As of this writing, we have released 135 episodes

via Zoom technology and continued without significant interruption.

No ransom was paid to the hackers, thanks to the swift response by CBC’s administration and IT department and the work of the FBI, IRT and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. It took five weeks, but all data was recovered, and the network restored in subsequent weeks with critical systems brought online first.

The cyber incident brought all activities to a halt for five weeks. Valuable time was lost in recruiting of new students, both in the PACE, online and traditional programs, resulting in a significant loss of revenue for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The loss of revenue, initially estimated at \$450,000, may reach \$1 million now that final enrollment numbers are in.

CBC is calling on the churches of the BMA of Arkansas, the owners of CBC, to assist them in this most challenging time. We are confident that, with all of the precautions and upgrades to the system, this devastation will not occur again. God’s Word edifies us in II Cor. 9:15, “*thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift.*” We must rest in knowing that the Heavenly Father’s grace, mercy and provisions are indescribable and beyond description.

However, we need you now more than ever. I am boldly calling on the churches of the BMAA, alumni and friends of CBC to give generously, and in some cases sacrificially. We have a critical and emergent financial need brought on by these evil players. If ever there is a personification of John 10:10, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy,*” this is it. They operate with a single goal and that is to extort money and bring harm to institutions like CBC. If you will agree to help with this need, mark your special offering “cyber.” Thank you for praying and providing for CBC in this most needed time!

Thank you again for your prayers and financial support for Central Baptist College. We love our churches of the BMA of Ark. We cannot carry out our mission without you.

and 7 ministry updates. Those episodes have reached all 50 states and 93 other countries. Total downloads have reached 17,149 — up from 6,120 last year. I thank Chris Vines for serving with me as co-host. You can find the podcast at studentministrymatters.podbean.com or through most major podcasting platforms.



Our Community

The BMA of Arkansas Youth Department is also continuing to bring student ministry leaders together through digital means. This year, the Student Ministry Matters Community (BMA of Arkansas Youth Department) Facebook group grew from 266 members to 290 members. Our page is now followed by 516, compared to 435 in 2021. Our Twitter and Instagram accounts also saw growth. Twitter went from 106 to 138 followers and Instagram went from 245 to 330. We still have a small footprint on social media, but we continue to look for ways to see that grow and impact others. Our YouTube channel continues to provide an avenue to share the podcast, announcements from Student Ministry Matters and teaching videos. With growing from only 27 to 34 subscribers, it remains in the beginning stages of its usefulness.

Our Conference

This year’s Student Ministry Workers Retreat was another great time of connecting and continuing education. We had 65 in attendance, and enjoyed Dr. Samuel Bierig and Dr. Jared Bumpers of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary sharing in our main sessions. Maverick Hendricks and Nathan Dodson did a great job leading our worship. Dr. Bumpers, Sidney Vines, Temple Carson, Rodney Fry, Jake McCandless and Jonathan Cofer led out in our breakout sessions.

I thank Central Baptist College for allowing us to meet on their campus and the many others that helped make our event happen. Next year’s event is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2023.

Our Continuing Impact

We see three great needs as we move forward:

- **There seems to be a growing number of student ministry vacancies in our churches.** Helping churches find student ministry workers is a necessary part of the work we do. We want to be helpful in that process and are seeking

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BMA of Arkansas Departmental Reports

Baptist Trumpet

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Where We Have Been

Since 1939, the mission of the *Baptist Trumpet* has been to keep the people in our churches informed about what is happening in the BMA and also to inspire them to live as followers of Jesus. The foundation for this ministry was laid by former editors W.J., E.T. and Wassell Burgess, A.R. and Gordon Reddin, J.E. Cobb, C.C. Bishop, David Tidwell, Bobby Bowman and Editor Emeritus Diane Spriggs.

The legacy of these great leaders is evident in the successful growth of this ministry from its early days as a church newspaper. If you look back in the archives, you will find that the early leaders were faithful to the mission and also called on others to be ambassadors to help connect others with the ministry of the paper.

On the front page of the Jan. 17, 1951 issue of the *Temple Trumpet*, Editor W.J. Burgess encouraged pastors to urge their members to subscribe with an “Every family a subscriber campaign” so that each family could be informed and “be an asset to the work.” On page 1 of the June 25, 1952 issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*, Editor E.T. Burgess shared, “We Need Subscribers, Hundreds of ‘Em” because of the “dark days of sin and confusion.” I would say, 70 years later, that we are living in “dark days of sin and confusion” even more than then.

Through those early years, with great leadership and the people who answered the call, the subscriber base grew to be over 13,000 when I began as a freshman at Central Baptist College in the fall of 1992. There were pastors, auxiliaries and people in the churches that were actively promoting and helping connect new subscribers to the *Baptist Trumpet*. In the Dec. 6, 2000, issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*, Editor David Tidwell noted that the average circulation (subscriber base) was around 13,000 and that “every BMA family should receive the *Baptist Trumpet* and every church should be on the Church Plan.”

Where We Are Now

As the years went on, there were many that helped set the stage for where we are now. When I joined the team at the *Trumpet* in 2019, one of the first tasks I was given by Editor Emeritus Diane Spriggs was to develop a way to make the *E-Trumpet* interactive. In the fall of 2019, we began including the Interactive *E-Trumpet* along with the regular pdf in each week's email. This allowed readers to click on each article, open them up and read it completely without the page turning and following the jumps. The photos

and graphics are also clickable and open up “full-size” for the reader.

The *E-Trumpet* and Interactive *E-Trumpet*

represent the development of the digital side of the *Trumpet*. There have been discussions with the Publications Committee over the years about the advance of digital publications and the challenges many print publications are facing. In recent years, there have been challenges due to the pandemic that have forced some print publications to close their doors completely. This highlights the importance of developing the infrastructure for what the future ministry of the *Trumpet* might look like.

In March of this year, with the help of Associate Editor Allan Eakin, we continued to build the digital side of the *Trumpet* with a new website design that now includes all the information and articles printed in the paper each week. All subscribers, whether individual or church plan members, can access this premium, subscriber-only content using their log-in credentials. If you have never created your credentials, you can find instructions by clicking on the blue log-in button at the top right of the home page at BaptistTrumpet.com.

The goal for the development of the digital side of the *Trumpet* is not to abandon print, but rather to enhance it and lay the groundwork for the future. As I have shared at each of the local associations and churches I have had a chance to visit, we have no plans to stop printing the *Trumpet*. My commitment to you is that as long as it is feasible to do so, we will continue to provide a printed paper to our subscribers.

It is important to note what may make it impossible to do so any longer. Previously, I believed the increasing cost of postage and printing would be what would make it no longer practical. I no longer believe that to be the case. While I am sure we will continue to have postage and printing cost increases in the future, what seems to really make it more difficult is the reduction in our subscriber base.

As I mentioned previously, the subscriber base of the *Baptist Trumpet* has been as high as 13,000. When I came on board in 2019, it was down to just over 8,000 subscribers each week. Our current subscriber base is just under 7,000 subscribers. We have lost approximately 750 subscribers in the last year alone! As the subscriber base goes down, the per-subscriber



cost of producing, printing and mailing the *Trumpet* goes up.

Our current calculations show our per-subscriber weekly cost to be \$1.05, up 15¢ from last year, primarily due to the reduction of our subscriber base. As I shared last year, our goal is to have our subscription rates, along with our regular support from churches and individuals, cover the production and post-production costs of the *Trumpet*. This will allow us to use the time of Special Emphasis for special projects that allow us to better fulfill our mission.

Where We Are Going

Lord willing, we plan to continue to produce a paper that will serve the BMA of Arkansas for many years to come. We are doing our best to construct the framework for a ministry that will be sustainable for the foreseeable future. Another BMA newspaper that was printing twice a month, recently reduced to only one issue per month and stated the primary reason was that they could no longer increase subscription rates enough to cover the cost of printing. We do not want that to be the case for the *Trumpet*.

I strongly believe a weekly paper is needed to be able to connect our readers with all that is happening in the BMA on the local, state, national and international levels. I rarely have trouble finding enough important information to fill the *Trumpet* each week, and most of the time it is just the opposite! This ministry of our association exists to help connect the people in our churches to the work of the BMA and it is vitally important. I believe more churches would be involved in our associational work if their people were staying connected to the different ministries by receiving the *Trumpet* each week.

One way we hope to strengthen our associational work is with a new bi-monthly insert that will feature the departments of the BMA of Arkansas. While you see reports and information from Central Baptist College, State Missions and Student Ministry Matters (State Youth Department) each week in the *Trumpet*, we are developing this new insert that will give each department space to share personal stories of how lives are being changed by their ministries. The goal of the insert is to encourage greater support of our associational work on all levels — local, state and national — by connecting to stories about real people.

Allan and I are doing our best to prepare for not only for the current ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*, but also for the future ministry. As we seek to do this, we need your help. If you or your church are not currently subscribing to the *Baptist Trumpet*, will you do one of two things for me by sending me an email at editor@baptisttrumpet.com?

State Missions

By Paul White, Executive Director

I am grateful that, with prayer and determination, we, as an association, have survived the pandemic. I don't mean to say we have not suffered its effects. With outreach being the greatest tool of a missionary and that being limited to a certain degree, it was, and is still, difficult to be completely effective. Because of people, churches and associations, we have not only hung on but have increased in several levels.

We were blessed last fall to have two mission points organize. Cain Baptist Church (Jim Tollison, pastor) and Connection Point Baptist Church (Chad White, pastor) became co-laborers beside the rest of our churches.

Through your generosity and systematic giving, the office has been able to search out men and expand the footprint of your State Missions' work, seemingly in the worst of times. Because this association has a love for lost souls and a desire to fulfill the Great Commission, the banner of Christ in Arkansas is being held high. This spring and summer, we added three new missionaries — Bryan Clay, Roberto Marcelletti and Jake McCandless — to fill the need across the state of godly men sharing a godly message to a lost and ungodly world.

Sadly, after years of effort, the work in Fort Smith closed. They, like so many, were the victims of a mix of COVID and a heavy anti-God spirit that seems to preside in that town. But it's like God to turn defeat into a victory! God honored your faith and blessed us by allowing the property to sell for as much as we had invested in that work, thanks to Darrin Smith and his wife's ability to remodel and decorate. Those funds, in their entirety, went back into your State Missions. Praise the Lord!

As in any war, even with all the effort we can muster, sometimes battles are lost. While all our investment was recuperated and while the result may not have been what we had hoped for, over 100 souls were saved and countless others ministered to through its presence. Friends, Satan himself can never change that!

With all the ups and downs over the past couple of years, we are in the process of developing another up in the department. We want to email a newsletter from the office to better inform those who pray and support this ministry. With the newsletter, it is our plan to highlight the happenings at our mission projects in pictures and words. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list, please contact Donna at bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com or (501) 565-4601.

Our weekly reports will continue to be published in the *Baptist Trumpet* as those are our lifeline to the people of the BMA, and for that we are grateful.

Lastly, God has given me a heart for this work and a love for these men. Thank you for allowing me to serve our people as executive director of State Missions, and may God bless His work with His presence and His power.



• **Try it out** — Send me your name, mailing address and church and simply let me know you would like to sign up for a free two-month trial — as an individual or as a church plan. I'll set it up and would love to hear your thoughts after you begin receiving it.

• **Tell me why not** — This is an open invitation to simply share your reasons for not subscribing to the *Trumpet*. If there is something we can do better, we want to improve. If it is for some other reason, I would still love to hear from you.

If you are a subscriber, will you commit to being an ambassador for the *Trumpet*? If you know of someone who is not a subscriber, will you help set them up for a free trial by sending me an email (editor@baptisttrumpet.com) with their contact information?

We have so many churches and individuals that faithfully support this ministry, and I just want to say, “Thank you!” We could not continue without our regular support.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.
Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Dec. 13; Cathedral, Jonesboro.



First, Bald Knob added two by baptism, one by letter, and two by statement; Matthew Grantham, pastor.

Letona, Letona rejoices over one profession of faith and six by letter; Jackie Manasco, pastor.

Park View, NLR welcomed two by baptism; Dr. Brian Sheppard, pastor.

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve you — the churches and people of the BMA of Arkansas. I look forward to seeing how God will bless our efforts as we commit to remain faithful in service to Him.

Missionaries



Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984
 Clinton Morris, The Table, Springdale; (870) 316-1519
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.; (936) 202-7988
 Jake McCandless, Epic Life, Pea Ridge; (501) 472-9079
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PAUL WHITE
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Dwelling Together in Unity

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psa. 133:1).

It is always a joyful time to assemble as an association and enjoy the wonderful fellowship of those attending. I especially thank all the missionary committee men who were present. Such a crowd was an encouragement to your missionaries and me. Thank you to President Michael Battenfield and the rest of those involved. Also, thank you to President Terry Kimbrow and CBC for hosting the meeting and attending to our needs. It is my prayer that 2022-2023 will be a banner year for our association of churches.

Thank You

On behalf of your eight missionaries and me I want to thank you for the 3% cost of living raise we were given. Also, thank you for allowing me to serve you as director for another year. I promise to do my very best. We pray that your investments in State Missions returns to you in souls saved, lives changed and churches planted!

Congratulations!

Russell Threet was the winner of a new iPad. Thank you to each person who signed our list to receive our free bi-monthly newsletter. I encourage everyone to send us their email address and we will see that you receive one too. These will be much more personal as they will be shared in story form and deal with the lives of real people in real places. Please email us at bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com and simply write "newsletter." Thank you.



From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Wednesday night, we took a field trip to Caldwell's First Baptist Church to observe the development of a typical AWANA meeting. We are interested in starting AWANA in our congregation and wanted to learn more about the program.

"Saturday was service project day. We went to Yolanda's house to prepare the house for painting, but we found several pieces of wood that needed to be replaced. So we bought the materials, replaced the pieces of wood, installed two doors and will wait for the roof to be repaired before we paint the house. In the afternoon, we went to Mrs. Irma's house, where we repaired two areas of the ceiling, installed an electrical outlet and repaired the deck door that was broken. It was 12 hours of continuous work that God allowed us to do for the houses of these two women who struggle alone to get ahead.

"Sunday, German Galindo visited us to present the project God had placed on his heart to plant a church in Mexico City. The opportunity to get involved in missions in Mexico is great, so we would love to support him in this initiative. Let us pray that he can raise all his support and start

the work in Mexico City."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "I am so joyful in the Lord for your answer to prayer. I have been asking you week after week for God to introduce me to people who are thirsty for Him. Last week, I met Eduar in a café to talk and get to know each other. Eduar and his family (wife and three children) came from Venezuela fleeing the communist socialism there. They left everything behind in order to survive as a family. They have been in Arkansas for three weeks, and I am trying to orient them to this new culture.

"This past Sunday, they attended Ebenezer for the first time, and it was a joy to see them. We met his wife, their 13-year-old son and their two girls. In the afternoon, they participated in a picnic our mother church had at Maumelle Park and brought their nephew, along with his wife and their one-year-old baby girl. Once again, I ask you to pray for Eduar and his family, that they will come to repentance by hearing the gospel. I would like to one day see them baptized.

"Keep praying that God will introduce me to people with a thirst for God. Pray for Ricardo, the young agnostic, that God will remove every blindfold from his eyes. May God be glorified!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny

Shew writes, "What a great week at Faith Chapel! I got to attend the BMA State meeting and had a wonderful time. I saw many old friends, made some new ones and came home refreshed and encouraged. Thank you for voting to support our work for another year!"

"Sunday worship was very special, and two different couples I have known for over 40 years came. One was for the first time, and one was for the second week in a row, and that means so much to me. Then, to top it off, a couple that has been coming faithfully for several weeks now joined us, and that brings our membership to 42. Praise God!"

"Thank you for your prayers for us, Faith Chapel, the lost in our community, that we will reach them and for God to continue to send laborers to the harvest. Please continue, He is hearing and answering."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes "Faith Journey was able to get the pleasure of being part of the annual Baptist Missionary Association meeting Thursday and Friday of last week in Conway. It is such a blessing to be supported by all the churches in the association. To have so many churches praying and lifting us up as we follow God's plan to start this mission gives each of our missionaries such encouragement.

"We had a few out sick and some out of town this week, but we still enjoyed getting in the Scripture and seeing how God's Word spoke to us. Even when life happens, and times are hard, we know we can always turn to the Great Provider to carry us through it all."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "The week started with a lot of work since on Monday and Tuesday we were able to go out to share the gospel in Springdale and were able to connect with 16 people. Two women accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Also on Monday, we had a wonderful time in our Springdale Mission Zone, a name we give to our small groups. There they are taught that the DNA of our life is to live for the mission that every believer has because he is a follower of Jesus Christ. The goal of his life now is to live to fulfill the plan that God has and this glorifies God. Living for God's mission, which is to share the gospel and show it with our lives, is the fuel that makes us live delighting in the Lord.

"Thursday and Friday we were

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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, Texas.

at the annual meeting of the BMA of Arkansas, and it was an excellent time where we could hear the great things God is doing in the state, the challenges and the next goals we have as an association. I was able to give a brief report of our work in these almost seven months that we have been in Northwest Arkansas, and I thank the churches of the association, the brothers who are part of the missions of the state and our mother church for their support.

"Friday, we had to suspend our meeting of our Rogers Mission Zone which is attended by 11 people every Friday. There are only two weeks left until the official inauguration as a church, and we are very excited and during these two weeks we will be praying every day for our beginning that God opens the doors. May the program of service be led by Him and may the guests have a heart that is fertile ground for the gospel to be sown."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "This week, I had the chance to share, along with all the other missionaries, at the annual meeting. It was my first time to share as a state missionary. I shared how thankful I was to be a state missionary and how we are doing this together. It's not just the McCandless family and leadership of Epic Life in Pea Ridge, it's all of us across the state who have built Sate Missions to be able to send my family out where God was already at work. I'm so thankful for you.

"I also shared that the vision of Epic Life which is to start a Discovery Bible Study in every neighborhood in Pea Ridge by helping leaders begin them in their neighborhoods. In doing so, the hope is to help all members live out their faith in everyday life. As you can imagine, this is a daunting task. So please pray for my family as we try to do so in our neighborhood, and help others do the same. Pray for our leaders who are working in their own neighborhoods."

**Check Out The
Trumpet Archives At
baptisttrumpet.com**

HOMECOMINGS

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

Revivals

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

YOUTH

(Continued From Page 9)

ways to help encourage the choice of student ministry.

- **There is a need to encourage young men to consider the call of ministry in their lives.** While we have no desire to be the Holy Spirit, we need to help encourage that possibility that in lives of young men.

- **There is a need for a greater focus on evangelism in our student ministries.**

As a department, our challenge is to help in these and other areas. There is still much work to be done.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to work and invest in student ministry workers in Arkansas and beyond.

You can help us fulfill our mission by doing the following:

- **Pray for us.**
- **Give monthly to the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department.**

We want to continue to expand our reach and ministry, and we can't do that alone. I am so appreciative of the churches that give on a regular basis to our ministry. They allow us to do all that we do. Consider joining our team. You can do that by mailing a check to BMA of Ark. Youth Department c/o Calvary Baptist Church, 1410 North Porter Road, Fayetteville, Ark. 72703.

- **Give a one-time gift.** If your church is unable to give monthly, consider sharing a one-time gift with the youth department. It was a one-time gift that gave us the courage to start our annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat.

- **Consider financially sponsoring our annual retreat.** It takes close to \$7,000 to cover all of our expenses. Between gifts through the year and sponsorships, we have managed to make it happen and keep the event at a low price. We want to continue to keep the cost low for attendees in order to make it possible for volunteer, part-time and bi-vocational student ministry workers, as well as ministry students, to continue to attend.

- **Share about our ministry with your student ministry workers.** They may not know about our podcast, social media accounts or annual conference. We want to help them. It doesn't matter if they are paid or volunteer. Our heart beats to help them.

2022 BMA of Arkansas Highlights



SERMON (Continued From Page 1)

is the only Son of God and God sent His Son into the world to pay for our sins. The most wonderful thing is said in verse 10 about us saved people — that we can glorify the Lord God. We can glorify Him by receiving eternal life. A commentary said, “Both God’s glory and Jesus glory are found in the completion of the great work of salvation!”

They lived for Jesus and their lives brought Jesus glory. They were obedient to His Word, worked for Him spreading the gospel and were loyal to Jesus doing as He had said. The work of spreading the gospel was all up to them, and now is up to His church!

(John 17:11) What a statement from Jesus saying He wants us to be one as He is with His Father. To be that close in heart felt thinking and working for the Lord is important. As a church, our minds should always be that of the Lord’s will in all our actions and work. The more a church realizes this, the closer a relationship with the Father is experienced. Isn’t it wonderful to think of Jesus saying that He desires a oneness with His church?

When I worked in a cotton gin, I quickly realized how important it was for me to do my job and for all

of us there, to be as one working for the same end. If I or anyone else failed in what we were doing, the gin would shut down. I think each person in God’s church needs to think of how much their work for the Lord is worth. Each church is full of people that can carry the work of the Lord to the next level. If but a few would really be sold out for the work in each church, we would see real revival and a oneness in our churches that would glorify the Lord God in a big way.

Jesus tells in the next few verses how He has kept the disciples and now Jesus wants His disciples to realize the joy He has. Then he warns that the world hates His own because they are not of this world!

(John 17:16-18) We are to live a separated life apart from this world. Jesus explained that He was not of the world, and we are not of the world. Those that are His are to live a life that shows it.

Set apart for a holy use, cleanse us Lord through thy Word that is pure and true!

The church that stays in the Word of God will never allow the world to influence its purpose. The strength we get from God’s Word will never return void and it will help Church growth and stability. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth

not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

The Lord Jesus sent the Church to carry out His mission of seeking the lost. The more people a church wins to Jesus, the more it experiences strength and growth. There is little time to dwell on matters that will disrupt the church when people are getting saved. I have noticed the atmosphere is different when souls are being won for Christ. The desire for the Word of God increases and the awareness of the Holy Spirit’s presence grows. Thinking as one with the Lord is important.

That is the reason I think a church should have a continuing soul winning class. We cannot put desire into the hearts of our people, but I believe if we show them that they can be a part of sharing the gospel and seeing themselves as a useful vessel unto service, they will turn into a servant following the Lord’s will!

A strange thing happens to people who start winning souls. They notice the shape of their lives and do a lot of house cleaning! They want to live a life that is holy as much as they can. They also maintain their identity with Christ. They don’t want anything they do to affect someone listening to them!

Editor’s Note: Part two of the sermon will appear in next week’s issue.

BMA of Arkansas

www.bmaofarkansas.com

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— 2022-2023 —

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Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton
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