

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## CBC Graduate Elected Republican Party Chairman

On Dec. 3, Cody Hiland, former United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas. This marked the annual winter State Committee Meeting of the Re-

publican Party of Arkansas.

A native of Bee Branch, Cody attended Central Baptist College from 1990 through 1992, before receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Arkansas and his Juris Doctorate from the William H. Bowen School of Law in Little Rock.

"It is a great privilege to be elected as the next Republican Party Chairman, and I am honored to lead our party into the future," Hiland said. "Arkansas is primed for success under Governor-elect Sarah Huckabee Sanders' leadership, and I look forward to working with her and our legislative members to elect more conservatives up and down the ballot. Together, we will continue to fight for conservative values in this state."

Chairman Hiland was sworn in at the conclusion of the meeting with his wife, Jana, by Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Barbara Womack Webb. Members of the Republican Party of Arkansas also elected First Vice Chair John Parke of Pulaski County, Second Vice Chair June Wood of Washington County, State Secretary Julie Harris of the Washington County and State Treasurer Nelda Speaks of Baxter County.

Cody served as United States



## What's Really at Stake With the (Dis)Respect For Marriage Act?

By Jennifer Bauwens

In all the hullabaloo over the U.S. Senate vote on the (Dis)Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404), there is one argument that may have gone overlooked that gets at the heart of God's design for framing marriage to be between a man and a woman.

When God created humanity, He fashioned us out of His immeasurable love and goodness. Despite our current cultural definition, love isn't just anything. As I John tells us, "God is love." The family was meant to be an earthly reflection of God's love and goodness. Within a healthy relational context, both male and female were entrusted with unique aspects of God's nature to steward and to serve, love and lay down their lives for the other.

As Scripture says, He made them male and female, and He made them in His own image. That means each family member has a unique role that cannot be co-opted by the other in how the character of the Divine is represented. The differences between the sexes are not meant to be for competition but rather an expression of God Himself. These differences should be honored and not treated with contempt. By demeaning one of the sexes, we essentially dishonor an aspect of the nature of God. Simply put, this is the essence of

See MARRIAGE, Page 8

Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas from October 10, 2017 until December 31, 2020. He was appointed to that position by President Donald J. Trump and was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. Prior to his appointment, he was the first Republican elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and was twice elected Prosecuting Attorney by the people of Faulkner, Van Buren and Searcy counties. In addition to private practice, Cody also served as an aide to former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

## BMAA Missionary Releases New Book

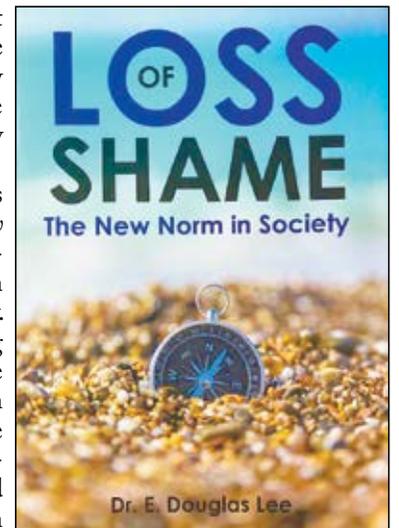
By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

I recently became aware that BMAA Missionary Doug Lee (Philippines) has released a new book. Below is a portion of the release from the publisher with a summary and purpose for the new book:

"Author Dr. E. Douglas Lee's new book, *Loss of Shame: The New Norm in Society*, is a stunning exposé of the ongoing degradation of society due to a lack of morality. The book is a thought-provoking faith-based read that examines the ongoing consequences of modern society as it loses a sense of shame and guilt when it pertains to immoral ideologies. It is a startling and eye-opening look at how modern culture has shifted away from morality in order to cater to radical ideologies. By highlighting these dangers, Dr. Lee lays out the path which America must follow to regain a sense of morality."

"The cultural atmosphere is changing so rapidly, it is becoming difficult to maintain perspective and understanding with so many variations," wrote Dr. Lee. "Riots are called peaceful, and only certain groups such as Black Lives Matter and Antifa matter; they demonstrate to defund the police and law enforcement who protect them. Babies are killed in the womb, and it is justified as women's rights. Illegal drugs, which are destructive to the mind and the body, are now legal and accessible. God's plan for marriage between a man and a woman is blatantly disregarded to accommodate same-sex marriage, transgenderism and the LGBT movement agenda. It is now permissible for transgender males to compete in female sports. Our young people are a confused generation who have no ethical or moral compass. This thinking comes from organizations that have no concept of morality or compassion and deny that there is a God. If anything makes them feel ashamed of their motives or sinfulness, they 'cancel' it with the

See BOOK, Page 8



## MRS Announces Financial Wellness Class

By Dr. Steve Crawley, Executive Director • Ministers Resource Services

Join us for the first, quarterly, BMAA Financial Education class hosted by Michael Spencer from Ronald Blue Trust, the new financial advising partner for Minister Resource Services. Part of the partnership is to provide financial education to our clients. The class will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.

Over the last 40-plus years, Ronald Blue Trust advisors have applied biblical wisdom and technical expertise to help clients make wise financial decisions to experience clarity and confidence and leave a lasting legacy.

In this class, we will cover topics like "Thinking right about your money" and "What you need to know about investing." Don't miss this first class because it is foundational!

To connect to the Zoom Meeting, go to zoom.us/join, enter the Meeting ID: 979 2179 3075 and when prompted, enter the Passcode: 804014.

If you have any questions about the class, call the office at (844) 262-8637.



Michael Spencer

### In This Issue

- Antisemitism, Satan's Platform (pg. 6)
- Bradford Celebrates 80-Year Member (pg. 7)
- Spotlight on Missions (pg. 5)
- Train Others Also (pg. 3)
- When Sadness Turns to Gladness (pg. 3)



Terry Kimbrow  
President



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By Erik Holth

### Women's Basketball

• **Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 28** — Playing on the road for the fifth time in six games this season, CBC took on the Warriors of Bacone at the Muskogee Convention Center. CBC (3-2) used a strong offensive third quarter to pull away from Bacone (1-7), winning 58-35 to sweep the season from the Warriors.

• **Conway, Dec. 1** — Hosting an American Midwest Conference (AMC) opponent for the first time this season, CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist University inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-3, 0-3 AMC) led at halftime but struggled shooting in the second half, dropping a 68-54 decision to MBU (5-2, 3-0 AMC).

• **Conway, Dec. 3** — Looking to bounce back from a tough loss on Thursday night, CBC hosted the Cougars of Columbia College (CC) in an AMC tilt inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-4, 0-4 AMC) trailed by 14 at halftime and never got closer, falling to CC (9-3, 3-1 AMC) 79-47.

### Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Dec. 1** — Playing host to an AMC opponent at home for the first time this season, CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist University (MBU) inside Reddin Fieldhouse for the first time since the AMC semifinals last season. In a back-and-forth game that saw 10 ties and 20 lead changes, CBC (5-4, 1-1 AMC) held a close lead until MBU (6-6, 3-0 AMC) hit a jump shot with 1.1 seconds left to earn a win 60-59.

• **Conway, Dec. 3** — After dropping their AMC home opener Thursday night, CBC looked to rebound when they welcomed the Cougars of Columbia College (CC) into A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (6-4, 2-1 AMC) trailed by a point at halftime and used a strong defensive second half to power past CC (8-4, 2-2 AMC), winning 75-72.

• **Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 5** — Stepping out of AMC game for a rare Monday night matinee, CBC was at the Muskogee Convention Center taking on the Warriors of Bacone College. CBC (7-4) led for 36 minutes and 32 seconds, cruising to a 92-70 win over BC (0-11).

the account of the ransomware attack, they felt compelled to give. I'm praying many more will accept the challenge. Will you walk with us through this challenging time?

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72034 or give online at [cbc.edu/give](http://cbc.edu/give). Mark your check or online donation "cyber." You may want to give appreciated securities

**See CBC, Page 8**



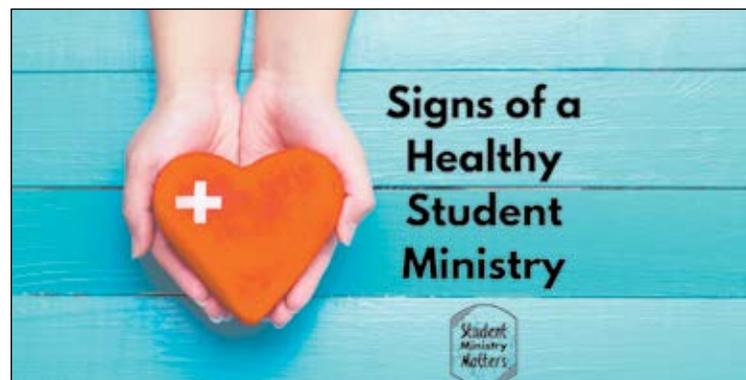
Dan Carson  
Director

## Student Ministry Matters

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**BMA of Arkansas Youth Department**  
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## Signs of a Healthy Student Ministry: Bible-Centric

As we continue thinking about characteristics of a healthy student ministry, we want to look at our second sign, being Bible-centric. As Baptists, we are people that love the Word deeply. Bart Barber, current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, indicated on a recent Preachers and Preaching podcast that "Southern Baptists are people of the Book." I would say that we, as BMA Baptists, can agree wholeheartedly with that statement. We are people who hold the Bible in high esteem. However, there is a tendency in our student ministries to look to other sources for our lessons. By and large, our lessons are biblical, but sometimes not Bible-centric. We lean on topical studies rather than working our way through books of the Bible.

If we truly want healthy student ministries, we need to be Bible-centric. The Word needs to be held in high regard. How do we do that? Here are some places to start:

• **Talk with your lead pastor about your desire to make the Bible your main student textbook.** If your ministry has been largely focused on teaching topically, you are going to need support from your leadership in making a change. Change is never easy. We often think it is only the senior citizens in our churches who don't like change, but students also find comfort in "the same." Be ready for some growing pains.

• **Embrace the power of God's Word to work in your students' lives.** The Word of God is powerful. II Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) tells us that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." We can trust that a deep study of God's Word will prepare your students for their life now and ahead.

• **Make sure you are studying God's Word personally.** As student ministry workers, we can fall into the trap of only studying to prepare for the next lesson. Our goal should always be to teach and preach out of the overflow. This can be a greater challenge for the bivocational student ministry worker. There are only so many hours in the day and week, but it is worth the extra work. Lean into resources like Logos Bible Software. Find ways to make it happen for you and your students.

It seems strange for us to talk about the need for us to make God's Word a priority, but as I have mentioned before, there is a tendency for us to be more interested in behavioral modification than gospel transformation. As people of the Word, it should always be about the transforming power of God and His Word.



**The Tarkingtons Concert**, Dec. 10; 5:00 p.m.; love offering to be receive; Oak Grove, Jonesboro; Wyndell King, pastor.

**Master's Voice Christmas Concert**, Dec. 16; 7 p.m.; Landmark, England; David Inzer, pastor.

**Homecoming**, February 17-18, 2023; Central Baptist College, Conway

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

**National Galilean Camp**, June



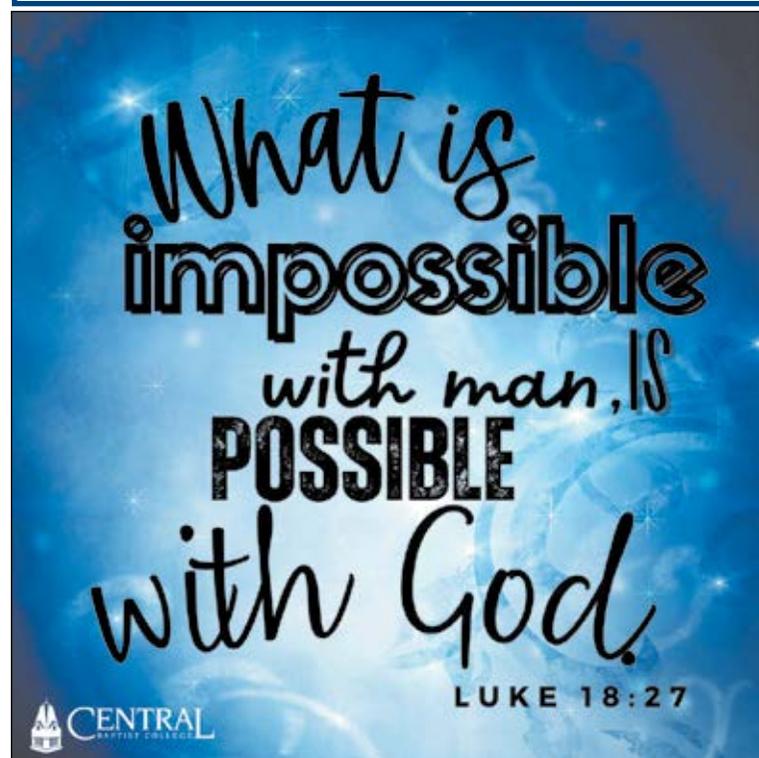
**Jonesboro District Brotherhood**, Dec. 13; Cathedral, Jonesboro.

**Mt. Vernon Youth in Harvest**, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.; County Line, Marvell.

**Central Ark. WMA**, Jan. 14; 10 a.m.; North View, NLR.

23-26, 2023; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

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



## Ransomware Update

I recently shared a detailed account of the cyber incident that crippled CBC for five weeks early this year. You can read the complete story in our newsletter at [cbc.edu/newsletter](http://cbc.edu/newsletter). Executive Editor of the *Baptist Trumpet* Jeff Herring was kind enough to reprint the story in the Oct. 12 issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

The ransomware attack occurred in the prime student recruiting period for 2022-2023 students. Without access to our systems, recruiters could not effectively do their jobs. That was even more pronounced in the PACE/Online program where most of the application process is completed virtually.

We were extremely blessed to get everything back up and running and at the same time, upgrade and strengthen our systems. However, we suffered a sharp decline in fall enrollment that will likely continue through the spring 2023 semester. At the time the article was released, we calculated the loss of tuition income, resulting from not being able to recruit new students for an extended period, to be near \$500,000. Now that fall enrollment figures have been finalized, and considering projections for spring, that number could easily reach the \$1 million mark.

In church visits, state and local associational meetings, local civic clubs and every other place I've been afforded the opportunity, I have shared this burden and unashamedly

challenged churches, businesses, alumni and anyone who has been touched by the ministry of CBC to step up and give generously and sacrificially to help get us through this very difficult time. I've often characterized it as a critical and emergent financial need brought on by evil players whose single goal was to extort money and bring harm to Central Baptist College.

One million dollars, on top of our already aggressive budgeted revenue from tuition, fees and fundraising is a daunting task. Some would say, "it's impossible," but I reflect daily on the words of Jesus recorded in Luke 18:27: "What is impossible with man, is possible with God."

In our annual pre-college meeting, I challenged all employees of CBC (administration, faculty and staff) to set aside time for fasting and prayer for this urgent financial need. I don't know who accepted the challenge; it is not for me to know. I do know that God is providing, and we are nearly halfway to our overall goal.

Will you let God use you to help us during this very difficult time? I'm pleased to report that churches that have never given to CBC are responding. Some very faithful, long-time supporting churches have taken special offerings, and others have told me they plan to do something very soon. I've received hand-written notes, e-mails and letters from individuals telling me that after reading



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## Opportunities For Service

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

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

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

## Reports from the Churches

**Bethlehem, Greenbrier** gained two by letter; Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor.

**Faustina, Harrell** added one by letter; Gene Boyette, pastor.

**Garner, Garner** received one by baptism; Glen Shults, pastor.

**Immanuel, Greenbrier** rejoices over one by letter.

**Prospect, Jonesboro** reports one by baptism; Mike Book, pastor.

**Spring Lake, Texarkana** witness one by baptism; Randy Shepherd, pastor.

pathway at Cornerstone is Small Circle, which you can find at www.smallcircle.com. They even have a free app where you can look over all of the materials. They refer to their process as a one-on-one relational discipleship program, but it can be used in groups of three or four. Lifeword has initiated a new digital platform called "FOLLOW" that utilizes Good Soil materials. It connects those interested with a local church for the relational aspect that is needed for true discipleship to occur. Contact Eliezer Semedo at eli@bmaam.com to get more information about Good Soil.

Here is the reality — the best discipleship pathway is the one that is biblical, has buy-in by your people, is easy to follow and is being utilized by your people. The worst discipleship pathway is the one that is talked about, but no one is being disciplined. After Saul's (Paul's) conversion, he had people from the beginning of his spiritual journey who were discipling and mentoring him — there was Ananias, Barnabas and the church at Antioch. Then we see Paul pouring into John Mark, Silas, Timothy and others. Paul said to teach these things and insist that everyone learn them. So, who is your Paul and where is your Timothy?



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 Any active BMA military personnel is eligible to receive the Trumpet free. Please send their name, address or email address to P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Ark. 72219; or editor@baptisttrumpet.com.

# Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell  
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## When Sadness Turns to Gladness

I was just thinking about how, to many, the Christmas holidays are by no means festive. The effects of the holidays on a large number of people are loneliness, reclusiveness and sadness. Memories from years gone by, heartaches due to the loss of loved ones and being at a distance from family, all contribute to the sadness experienced by people of all ages and from all walks of life.

### My Personal Experience

Growing up, being with family at Christmas was always a part of my life. The family would usually gather at my uncle and aunt's home. Of course, there was the exchange of gifts, but the reading of Jesus' birth from Luke 2 by different ones year after year was memorable.

Karen and I married Dec. 7, 1968. I was in the Army at the time. Two years later, I was in South Korea and Karen was in Arkansas. Thanksgiving 1970 was different, but it was not sad.

However, as the memories of our first two Christmases came to mind, a feeling of sadness overtook me. It was a feeling I had never experienced before. I was in the midst of an Army post filled with soldiers — yet I was extremely lonely.

Karen and I wrote each other every day for 13 months. Her letters were a lifeline for which I will always be grateful. But after reading them each day in December, the loneliness and sadness would creep in.

**Faith Makes the Difference** — What does one do when the holidays bring loneliness and sadness? I recommend the approach I took — I claimed the promises of God's Word.

I was a chaplain administrator in the army. In Korea, I taught a Bible study with 20-25 soldiers attending. In the quest to encourage them with Scriptures, I found myself also being encouraged.

Jesus knew our needs and provided help for us. *"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"* (John 14:26-27).

As I read that to the other men, I immediately realized that the promise was for all of us — including me. My faith had faltered, but it was strengthened and a peace came over me.

**Sadness Turns to Gladness** — Just as I was concluding the lesson the week before Christmas, one of the soldiers began to sing "Joy to the World." One by one the others joined in. There we were 7,000-8,500 miles from those we loved, and we were singing about joy. Our sadness was turned to gladness! I still missed Karen and the others still missed their families, but the peace that passes understanding had overtaken the sadness.

**Encourage Others** — Many of us will likely encounter people we know and love that are affected during the holidays by loneliness and sadness. Please do your utmost to encourage them, uplift their spirits and remind them of the true meaning of Christmas.

Jesus came to be Emmanuel. He is "God with us." He has given us the helper who comes along beside us — the Holy Spirit, whom He promised always to be present. We are never alone!

This scripture has been my life verse for 58 years. I hope it encourages you today. *"So do not fear, I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"* (Isa. 41:10).

You will read this from me frequently — God is not just a promise maker; He is a promise keeper. Every day, not just at Christmas, God always keeps His promises.

## Train Others Also

Paul emphasizes training and spiritual disciplines in I Tim. 4:7:

*"Train yourself in godliness."* Then in verse 11, he gives us the principle of discipling others in spiritual disciplines by exhorting (commanding) us to teach them and insisting that everyone learn them. In *Deep Discipleship* by J. T. English, he states, "Let's be clear: the church is called to make disciples, and it is time for us to stop delegating our responsibility." He continues, "I believe, with every fiber of my being that the local church is God's primary means of making holistic disciples of Christ." It is hard to argue with those statements and, quite honestly, why would you want to?

Every church is called to make disciples who make disciples. Every disciple-making church must have a pathway (system) in place that requires an understanding of the next steps while remaining flexible in the process. Have you trained your people how to build relationships with people who are far from God and shown them how to lead someone to the cross? Once there do they know how to show them to step over the line in faith and begin serving Christ? Do they know how to continue the journey toward becoming fully devoted followers of Christ? There is a basic sequence to growing, maturing and multiplying disciples.

In *Real Life Discipleship*, Jim Putman has developed the discipleship wheel that begins with those who are dead in their trespasses and sins. They are characterized by unbelief and must be born again. Once saved they are described as infants and are characterized by ignorance because they just do not know what they need to know. The discipler **shares** (key word) his life, truth and spiritual habits with this infant. They then grow into childhood, where they are characterized by self-centeredness. The key word here is **connect** as the discipler connects them to God, a small group (life on life) and to their purpose.

Now they know how to do things for themselves. One of the greatest goals of a discipleship pathway is for the new disciple to learn how to feed themselves and walk daily with Christ. This process moves them from infants to children, and now to becoming young adults. The key phrase here is **train to minister** as you equip them to serve, provide

them ministry opportunities and release them to do it. They are no longer characterized by self-centeredness; instead, they are God-centered, others-centered and focused on serving. They now become spiritual parents, reproducing themselves in new disciples.

The discipleship wheel purposely stays away from the word "mature" because it implies that the disciple has "arrived." The process repeats itself, and you cannot settle for a kind of discipleship that allows people to sit down, become bored and go through the motions. Biblical discipleship will keep people enraptured and motivated by the beauty of Christ and His transforming power in one another's lives. **Parents** are characterized by intentionality and strategy in raising up more disciples to make more disciples. They can explain the discipleship process and understand fully what needs to be done next. Simply put, they multiply.

Do you have a pathway like Jim Putman's or maybe one like Hal Seed's at New Song Community Church in Oceanside, Calif.? He uses a more agricultural model entitled *Growing Up*. They state, "The vision of New Song is to help unchurched people become fully devoted followers of Christ." First is producing "Fruit" by sharing the gospel. Then the next step is "Branch," which focuses on discovering your ministry. The "Trunk" is where you discover spiritual habits, and the "Roots" are where you discover who New Song is and how you can contribute. The last is "Dirt" by growing a strong faith. The focus is always growing.

At Cornerstone, we focus on "Helping People Find and Follow Jesus." How do we do that? By being "Centered" on God in private worship (teaching the disciplines of SOAP and PRAY) and public worship. We also strive to get people "Connected" to one another. We repeatedly stress that the best way to get connected at Cornerstone is by joining a Connection Group (this is where they sit in a group and grow together) but we also encourage them to serve on a ministry team because that is where they serve the Lord side-by-side. The third C is "Compassion" for our community because we always want to remain outwardly focused.

The discipleship tool that is the foundation for our discipleship

entrust the truth to faithful men who will teach others.



By Executive Editor  
Jeff Herring



Roger and Debbie Pearce speak to the crowd at their reception.

## Celebrating Faithfulness

I was honored to be able to attend the retirement reception for Roger and Debbie Pearce this past Sunday afternoon. He pastored Grace Baptist Church in Russellville for the last 27 years and has been faithfully serving in the gospel ministry for over 51 years. Bro. Roger has repeatedly made it clear that he is not retiring from ministry (that's a lifetime calling), but simply from the full-time pastoral ministry.

I have known Bro. Roger for many years, but primarily through our work together serving with the BMA Youth Camp. For as long as I can remember, he has faithfully served as the recreation director for the camp and on the camp board, most recently as the camp board chairman. I am so thankful for the faithful example he has been, not just at camp, but also as a leader in our associational work.

It reminds me of something I remind myself of frequently — God does not call us to success or failure, He calls us to be faithful and leave the rest up to Him. Bro. Roger has been faithful, and God has blessed his faithfulness. Roger and Debbie have moved to Conway and plan to join Calvary Baptist Church in Conway where their son-in-law, Danny Paul, is pastor. If you need someone to fill the pulpit, reach out to Bro. Roger at (479) 264-5423.



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

### Ten Commandments Monument Lawsuit Remains in Limbo

The lawsuit over Arkansas' monument of the Ten Commandments is still languishing in federal court. The Arkansas Legislature passed a measure in 2015 authorizing the privately-funded monument on the State Capitol Building grounds.

Shortly after it was unveiled in 2018, atheist groups and the Satanic Temple joined a lawsuit to have the monument removed. The case originally was set to go to trial in July of 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is unclear when the federal court in Little Rock intends to resolve the case. In September 2022, the plaintiffs and defendants in the lawsuit both asked U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker to establish a schedule that would allow the lawsuit to go to trial by June 5, 2023. As of Dec. 1, the court does not seem to have granted or denied that request.

As we have written before, Arkansas' Ten Commandments monument is identical to one the U.S. Supreme Court ruled constitutional in Texas in 2005. There just shouldn't be anything

controversial about a monument honoring the significance of the Ten Commandments.

Historians have long recognized the Ten Commandments as one of the earliest examples of the rule of law in human history, and they have helped shape the laws in countries around the world. Arkansas' monument simply honors that legacy. (familycouncil.org)

### Marijuana Legalization Tied To Increased Alcohol Consumption

A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Jama Health Forum* found that marijuana legalization may contribute to increased alcohol use.

Research conducted from 2010-2019 examined how recreational marijuana laws affected alcohol use by 4.2 million adults in the U.S. Overall, the study found "recreational cannabis laws were associated with a 0.9 percentage point increase in any alcohol use among the population." Increased alcohol use was most pronounced among adults ages 18-24, who were 3.7% more likely to report alcohol use.

These findings are significant

because many marijuana supporters claim that marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol. Even if that were true, this study indicates that legalizing marijuana may lead to increased alcohol use. In other words, legalization does not encourage people to use marijuana instead of alcohol. If states legalize marijuana, people may simply use more marijuana and more alcohol.

It's important to point out that increased marijuana use raises safety concerns of its own. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the CDC report that, after alcohol, marijuana is the substance most often associated with impaired driving. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes in Washington doubled after the state legalized marijuana.

A 2020 study published in *JAMA Network Open* found that more than 1 in 8 teen drivers reported recently driving after using marijuana, and teens were more than twice as likely to drive after using marijuana than they were to drink and drive.

In Colorado, traffic fatalities where the driver tested positive for marijuana have increased 138% since the state legalized marijuana in 2013.

All of this underscores what we have said for years: Marijuana may be many things, but "harmless" simply is not one of them. (familycouncil.org)

### Supreme Court Debates Website Designer's Freedom of Speech

The U.S. Supreme Court debated with lawyers at length on Dec. 5 whether a state has the right to compel speech in the latest case involving the intersection of religious freedom and same-sex marriage in the case 303 Creative v. Elenis.

The justices heard oral arguments for more than two hours in a designer's challenge of a Colorado policy that requires her to create custom websites for same-sex weddings in violation of her religious beliefs. After two lower courts ruled in favor of the state, the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the government can use a public-accommodation law — in this case, the Colorado Anti-discrimination Act (CADA) — to compel an artist to speak or remain silent without violating the First Amendment's protection of free speech.

The high court is expected to issue an opinion before it adjourns next summer in what is, so far, the most significant case of its term involving the rights of religious adherents.

Lorie Smith, owner of 303 Creative in the Denver area, designs websites for a variety of causes and clients, including people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). She will not create websites for same-sex weddings, however, because of her belief as a Christian that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

Smith's refusal to design a web-

site for a same-sex ceremony is based on the message it would send, not on the people involved, Kristen Waggoner told the Supreme Court during Monday's oral arguments. Smith "serves all people, deciding what to create based on the message, not who requests it," said Waggoner, president and general counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

Colorado forces her "to create speech, not simply sell it," Waggoner told the high court. The state "says it can compel speech on the same topic, but Miss Smith believes opposite-sex marriage honors Scripture and same-sex marriage contradicts it. If the government can label this speech equivalent, it can do so for any speech, whether religious or political," she said.

While Waggoner contended Smith's refusal to design websites for same-sex ceremonies is based on the message she would be communicating about marriage by doing so, lawyers for Colorado and the United States argued it is based on the "status" of the couple seeking the service.

Colorado Solicitor General Eric Olson told the justices her business' policy is "status-based discrimination," since the CADA includes sexual orientation as a protected class. Brian Fletcher, the U.S. deputy solicitor general, agreed with Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor that Smith is asking for "a status-based exception" to the CADA. Sotomayor went on to say Smith is not seeking "a speech-based exception."

"If she is discriminating based on status, and that includes if she is defining the message or product based on the status, defining the what by the who, that is not OK," Fletcher said.

The Supreme Court's precedent

in a 1995 opinion should govern this case, Waggoner told the justices. In a 7-2 decision, the high court ruled the organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade did not violate a public accommodation law by refusing to permit a lesbian, gay and bisexual organization to participate.

The First Amendment "is broad enough to cover the lesbian website designer and the Catholic calligrapher," Waggoner said. "The line is that no one on any side of any debate has to be compelled to express a message that violates their core convictions..."

The justices offered numerous hypothetical situations in their questioning. Sotomayor asked whether the speech of artists would be protected if they declined to provide services for the wedding of an interracial or disabled couple based on their beliefs. Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson asked about a photography business that refused to include black children in scenes with Santa Claus.

The message in Jackson's hypothetical is not in the photo, Waggoner said. In response to a follow-up question, she explained the Supreme Court did not say in its 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage that religious objections to gay marriage are the equivalent of objections to people of color.

Sotomayor, Jackson and Associate Justice Elena Kagan, in particular, seemed to be skeptical of Waggoner's arguments, while conservative justices such as Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch appeared to be more receptive to her points.

In a 7-2 opinion in 2018, the justices ruled in favor of Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips in a similar

See NOTES, Page 8

## Baptist Trumpet

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# Spotlight On Missions

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



A bunch of thankful Americans celebrating Thanksgiving in the Philippines: (L/R) Stan & Donna Scroggins, Doug & Nonoy Kiper, Doug & Diane Lee and Louela, Caden, Gracie & John Page. There was no traditional food fare, but certainly plenty of turkeys.



We enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal with our friends here in our home.

## Bryan & Pam Risner • Romania

**Family Update** — The craziness has just continued for our family! We have traveled back and forth to Oradea and to Bucharest, the capital, several times. Our family continues to serve our ministry and community here.

Toodles, our family's dog, has been severely sick for the last couple of weeks. First, she was bitten by a tick that gave her a parasite that attacked her red blood cells and killed most of them. Then she was diagnosed with Evan's Auto-immune Disease and is currently being treated for kidney failure.

The kids have recently enjoyed doing some of the traditional things American seniors do, like a senior photoshoot. They loved (or at least the girls did) getting all dressed up and taking photos.

The new Oradea church plant met for the first time. Several families committed to joining our church plant; some have committed to praying about it. They also discussed names for the church and jobs to be filled. They will continue to plan at next month's meeting.

Return Church and students from our local college met to talk and discuss plans with working with a local school. We are so thankful that our church here has the opportunity to work with a local literacy college to help tutor students in

reading and writing. Our goal is to reach these college students with the gospel as we serve.

We are all enjoying the fullness of our homes as our ministry team continues to meet each Sunday. Our love for worshipping together as brothers and sisters in Christ grows weekly as we continue to get to know each of these families.

We enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal with our friends here in our home. Each year we host a Thanksgiving dinner with friends who are both believers and non-believers. There is always lots of laughter and storytelling. This year there were several young Romanian ladies and one young Ukrainian lady.

**Santandrei (Roma/Gypsy)** — The ministry in Santandrei is led by Lavi and Marius, but unfortunately, this ministry is "two steps forward and five steps back." Marius goes from house to house visiting adults in each home, reading Scripture, praying over them and understanding their needs. Adults are the hardest to reach. Lavi works with the children weekly, performing Bible stories, skits and songs, which are the most popular with kids! She is, slowly but surely, influencing the children. Pray for the Roma children who are starting to feel more comfortable asking real questions. We pray this will build more of a relationship with Lavi and

reach them on a deeper level. Pray that they will not lose their passion and continue to see progress in their ministry.

**Brasov (Return Church)** — This ministry is outgrowing our homes, which is exciting for us and our ministry. We love helping surrounding ministries with the church plant. We meet for Sunday services and biweekly for the ladies and men's growth groups as we get to know these families on a deeper level.

**Oradea (New Church Plant)** — We continue to return monthly to Oradea for meetings with our new church plant. We enjoy inviting friends to join us and continue discussing possible names for the church and roles for the people committed. Our next vision meeting is on Dec. 22.

We praise the Lord for a new home in the Oradea area, "Return" church plant in Ghimbav is outgrowing in-home meetings, fellowship time with Return Church family, Carina (Roma ministry) is meeting weekly with Lavi, our language comprehension is growing, our prayer and financial partners, the opportunity to serve in Romania, the kids have been accepted into CBC and a wonderful meeting with the new church plant in Oradea.

We ask that you join us in prayer for the Santandrei Roma Ministry (1:1 Bible studies, vandalism issues, fence for property, children's behavior and Carina's walk with Christ), Brasov Ministry (college ministry with Roma community, weekly discipleship meetings, Sunday meeting location and evangelism opportunities), our transition (in January) to Oradea, our new ministry opportunity in Oradea, next meeting in Oradea on Dec. 22, kids' scholarships for college and our language skills to increase. ([risnersinromania@gmail.com](mailto:risnersinromania@gmail.com) / [risnersinromania.com](http://risnersinromania.com))



## Mickeal & Sharon Quillman • Zambia

Sharon and I recently moved into our rental home here in Livingstone, Zambia. Rent is collected a bit differently here, as we were required to pay three months in advance as well as an additional month's security deposit, four months' rent in total. Even though some things are more inexpensive here in Zambia than in the US (like food), other items, like

furniture and appliances, come at a premium as they are considered luxury items. For Sharon and me, this meant that many things we might have "needed" in the US are put off for us to purchase sometime in the future. I don't mention this for sympathy at all, because we now have a stove, a refrigerator and a bed, which is more than many Zambians

have. I just wanted to give some form of reference.

Andy Neal, the pastor from our sending church, Temple Baptist Church in Jonesboro, recently led a Wednesday night study on the television/movie series "The Chosen." If you have not watched this amazing new series, it is a depiction of stories from the life of Jesus. We decided to start watching an episode on my laptop from this series every Sunday evening. As we were enjoying one episode, we noticed that there was a water bowl by the door; and before the people entered the home they would stop and remove their shoes, dip a cloth in the water and wash their feet. Now, if I had viewed this while living in the US, it might not have caught my attention because it was not highlighted in the show, but only seen from a distance.

Living here in Zambia, my mind

was blown away. I had to pause the show and rewind it as Sharon and I discussed the brilliance of this small detail. You see, Zambia is a very hot, dry and sandy place, and the wind seems to always be blowing dirt everywhere. We are always amazed at how dirty our feet get, even wearing socks and boots. We are vigilant to take our shoes and socks off outside, but we still leave dirty footprints as we walk across the floor. Since this is our home, it's not that big of a deal. We just grab a mop and wash them away, but it has made us more conscientious of our feet as we enter other people's homes.

A few weeks ago, we had a water line break in our bathroom, and it flooded our house (four inches of standing water). When the men came to help us repair it, they took off their shoes outside, but as they walked across the wet floor, their

dirty footprints followed them. They were so apologetic, and we could tell they were embarrassed for leaving dirty footprints. No matter how much we told them it wasn't a problem and we completely understood, they still felt awful. Now I am sure these same men have the same issue in their own homes, and it isn't embarrassing. It's just a part of their life, as it is for us.

Another side effect of a hot, dry, sandy environment is that your feet become very dry and can crack open, which is painful. Part of our morning routine, after taking our morning shower, is to apply lotion to our feet. Sometimes we must wash our feet again after walking across the floor from the shower to the bed because the sand that blew in through the windows has made our feet dirty again.

**See SPOTLIGHT, Page 6**



## Antisemitism, Satan's Platform

In the previous article, I addressed how antisemitism is rapidly increasing in the United States, which has been brought to light through the Kanye West rants. Europe has already been experiencing a rise in antisemitism and it has risen to heights higher than during the time of Nazi Germany. I wrote how this will happen in the last days, but not just in the last days, because it's a major agenda in Satan's "political" platform.

It blows my mind that Christians debate whether there is a "Christian" political platform. Of course, since there is one absolute truth — God's Word — God's agenda should be clear. Though no political party is perfect, God's Word is clear on many of the issues debated between the parties. I believe the argument about a "Christian" political platform can be circumvented because Satan may have an even clearer platform. For 6,000 years, Satan has attacked the same things over and over.

Of course, he attacks the truth. He causes questioning of God. We see those, but there's more.

He's continually been after the Jewish people. He is also constantly after the death of children and promoting sexual perversion. These are just a few, but I want to focus on his hatred of Israel, because antisemitism is prejudice or hatred toward Jews.

Satan's hatred and attacks towards Israel throughout history are uncanny. There's no group of people that has been singled out to the degree Jews have been in all of history. Repeatedly throughout history, individuals and groups have come to power and are disproportionately hellbent on eradicating Israel. There have been many moments, but here are a few:

- In Egypt, along with enslaving Israel, Pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew children to be killed. Eventually, he would have eliminated the Jewish race if he had been successful.

- Years later, the Assyrians invaded Israel and took away 10 of the 12 tribes. Then Assyria marched on Judah, destroying all the cities except for Jerusalem. They were mere days away from wiping Israel out when God answered Hezekiah's prayer and sent the Angel of the Lord to kill the Assyrians who surrounded the walls of Jerusalem.

- Less than 200 years later, the Babylonians invaded Judah. They ransacked Jerusalem and carried the Jews away to captivity in Babylon.

- Even after the Medes and Persians took Babylon and Cyrus the Great allowed Jews to return home, the Persian official, Haman, sought to wipe out the Jews again. This time God rescued them through Esther.

- In 70 A.D., Jerusalem was surrounded and besieged by the Romans like the Babylonians had one. They destroyed the city and Temple and the Jews were then displaced around the world.

- There was the Spanish Inquisition in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

- Then there was the horrific Holocaust in the mid-1900s where Hitler led the murder of six million Jews. Less than 80 years ago, the world was made aware of the horrors of the Holocaust, yet today antisemitism is rising higher than at that point.

This persecution and hatred of Jews has resurfaced time and time again. When you stop and think about it, this hatred of Israel is so bizarre. It only makes sense when we realize that the enemy of God and His people is working behind the scenes to fuel this hatred — and that is exactly what Scripture says.

In the first prophecy of the Bible, Gen. 3:15, it is promised that there would enmity between the seed of the woman (which ultimately is Jesus) and the seed of Satan, but that the seed of the woman would defeat Satan. This promise in the Garden of Eden gave Satan a target. Later, as it

## SPOTLIGHT

(Continued From Page 5)

This brings me to the story in Luke 7:36 when Jesus is brought into the Pharisee's home. A woman, or as the Pharisee is quick to point out, a sinful woman, came in and not only washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair but also applied an ointment to them. The host of the home should have been the one to offer Jesus a bowl of water to wash His own feet at the very least, but they were either too preoccupied with feeding themselves at the table or felt it was beneath their position. Matthew 20:28 gives us the charge of our calling — to serve others.

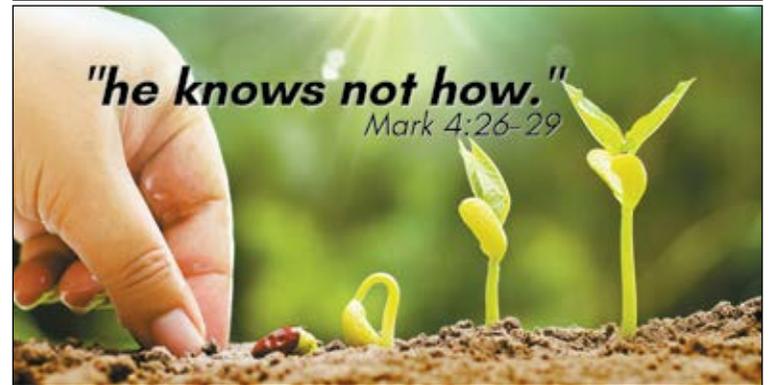
We even saw Jesus living out His words among His disciples as He washed their feet. God has called us all to "wash" the feet of those around us and apply "the ointment" to the dry and cracked feet — or put plainly, to serve. Our prayer here in Zambia is for God to allow us to see the "sinful" through the same eyes Jesus did, with compassion and love, and serve. Luke 22:27 gives us a glimpse into the love of Jesus: "For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves." Please continue to pray for us as we love the people of Zambia, walk alongside them and as we lead them to Christ, no matter where we find them.

Please join us in praying for the following requests: the Bible study groups in Livingstone and Chibinga village, our language acquisition classes and finances to replace the gearbox on our 4x4 vehicle. ([pastorquill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorquill@gmail.com))

became clear that God would bring that ultimate seed of promise through Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Judah and later David, Satan had another target.

The strange account in Revelation 12 tells more about the unfolding of that prophecy in Genesis 3:15:

"... The dragon (Satan)... pursued the woman (Israel/Jews) who had given birth to the male child (Jesus). The woman (Israel/Jews) was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she (Israel/Jews) might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she (Israel/Jews) would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach (Satan). Then from his mouth the serpent (Satan) spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman (Israel/Jews) and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman (Israel/Jews) by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon (Satan) was enraged at the woman (Israel/Jews) and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring (Christians) — those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus" (Rev. 12:13-17 NIV with authors



## I Know Not How

One of my favorite things that Jesus ever said is found in Mark 4:26-29 (ESV): "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

This passage is situated in a group of passages in which Jesus is describing some of the mechanisms of the kingdom of God. I have grown especially fond of these verses over the past two years because Jesus depicts the reality of ministry perfectly in what He said. Leading a ministry is a lot like farming: I throw out seed, then sleep and rise and sleep and rise. Then, miraculously, plants come up from the ground! To me, the best part of that passage is the phrase "he knows not how."

That's not my favorite phrase simply because it's true. I don't always quite understand how the things I do in obedience to God take root and flourish to life in the ministry. No, the reason this is my favorite phrase of these verses is this: I've learned God's grace is most evident in the increases that only He can give. Let me give you an example.

This past semester at The Hedge we've been working on using the proceeds we earn from parking vehicles at Razorback football and basketball games to help students in need. So far, we have been able to help 15 students, with whom we had no previous contact, with direct financial support as a demonstration of the love of Christ this fall semester. This is an act of obedience, and when we first started being obedient in this way, I thought that as we helped students they would begin to plug in at the ministry. That's not been the case.

I am somewhat of a meticulous recordkeeper, and I have kept track of every student who attended our Tuesday night gatherings this semester. I went back and looked at how many of those attendees were new visitors to the ministry and the number I came up with was 25. As I previously said, not one of those students was any of the 15 new students we helped out with our parking proceeds.

Here's where my favorite phrase comes into the story because (you guessed it) I know not how.

My human mind could only imagine those 15 new students we helped coming to the ministry, but the reality is that we had more than 15 new students join us at The Hedge this semester. When we add the two numbers, our interactions with students we had not previously connected with on this campus were double the amount my human mind could conceive. How kind of my Lord to give the increase in a way that only He could!

Like I said, God's grace is most evident in the increases only He can give. That's what I see when I look back on the last month at The Hedge.

interpretation in parentheses).

Antisemitism is absolutely bizarre when you stop and think about it. The most unifying opinion in the world is a unified disdain for the Jewish people. How strange is that? Well, when we realize the Bible tells us that is the M.O. of Satan, it all makes complete sense.

Jake is the newest state missionary and would love to share about the work in Northwest Arkansas and encourage your church to stand firm. ([standfirmministries.com](http://standfirmministries.com))



**Cecile Annette Camp**, 85 of El Dorado, passed away Dec. 4. She was a member of Brister Baptist Church in Emerson.

**June Loraine Snyder**, 72 of Marvel, passed away Nov. 30. She was a member at Trenton Baptist Church.

**Gus William Pool**, 88 of Damascus, passed away Nov. 18. He was a member of Sand Springs Baptist Church.



## Missionaries

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## The True Meaning Of Christmas

The poem written in 1822 that has been read countless times, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," helped popularize the tradition of exchanging gifts and seasonal Christmas shopping began to assume economic importance. Sure, the giving of gifts gives us joy, but this should only be a small part of the meaning we find in Christmas.

The true meaning of Christmas is **love**. John 3:16-17 (NIV) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.

The real Christmas story is the story of God becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (I John 4:8). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of **gratitude** for what God did for us. We remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him and being especially conscious of those less fortunate.

"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift — the birth of Jesus, the Christ child.

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "We celebrated the birthday of Jesus on Saturday and 75 people attended the party — 50 children and 25 adults. The children had a Bible class with Mrs. Sayra and five of them received Christ as their Lord and Savior.

"The adults were with me, but none of them made a decision for Christ. Children and parents had fun looking for words in an alphabet soup, painting and filling in crossword puzzles, all related to the birth of Jesus Christ. Two of the children who received Christ returned to Sunday School. Let's pray that everyone will continue growing in faith and they, as well as their families, will join us.

"Fernando Rivera preached for the first time on Sunday and he did very well. He is one of the four men who are studying at the Bible Institute. I thank God for Fernando. Let's pray for him and his family as they have a lot of potential and are committed to the Lord. I have a strong case of the flu. Please pray that I recover soon."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "We began a series of sermons at Ebenezer that have to do with the birth of Christ. Last Sunday we touched on the theme of the pre-existence

of Christ with the biblical basis of John 1:1,14. This is a good season to remember that the reason for our celebration is the incarnation of a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

"We have a family that recently arrived from Venezuela. I was remembering yesterday that they have only been attending Ebenezer for one month. We have been helping them to adapt to this new culture and orient them to new jobs. Eduar told me on Sunday that he was out of work. It is a difficult time to migrate to the United States because of the weather, and the employment opportunities are diminishing. Pray for this family. I believe it will be a good opportunity for Ebenezer to adopt this family by buying new winter clothes and shoes for the children and buying a gift for Christmas. Help me pray for sponsors. Eduar has a son, age 13, and two girls, ages 9 and 4. It will be a blessing this season to be able to bless this family. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a wonderful service Sunday morning! We had a good number, and several that had been out sick or traveling were back, but several more were out for the same reasons. Between the flu, RSV, COVID and all of the other colds, viruses, infections and bugs going around, it is difficult to get everyone together at the same time. But we still had a wonderful service,

and we had a couple that has been coming faithfully for several months now join us. Praise God! That brings our membership to 45, and we are so happy to count them in our number.

"We were able to visit with Cornerstone at Lowell this week and tell them about our mission. That was a blessed trip and we love that sweet, sweet church and all of its members, and we know they love us, too.

"We are still working on our plans for the new building, and are trying to cover all the details and costs. We hope to begin with the power, water and septic system soon, followed by the pad and foundation. This is an exciting time for us, and it seems to be generating interest from the community.

"We thank you for your prayers and support for us, Faith Chapel and for Flippin. Please continue because God is answering them!"

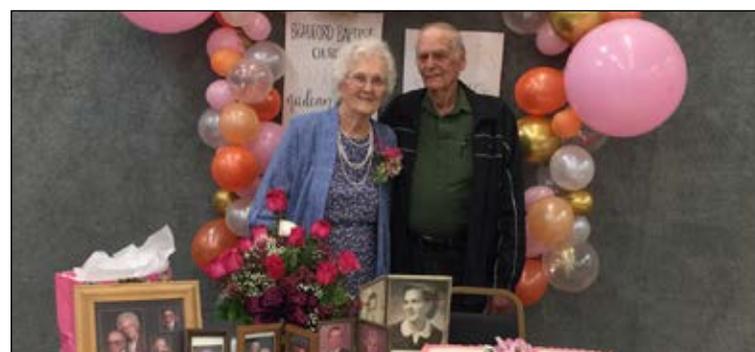
**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "Many have been ill this week, including me. I am still on the mend from sinus and ear infections.

"I am so thankful for my Silas Partner and the future pastor of the church. He ran an excellent communion service last night. I am very happy with his growth in leadership, and the clarity the people have that he is their pastor.

"We have been scaling our outreach, and we're happy to see that many of the conversations are blossoming."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes "As we look forward to the Christmas season, we began lessons from the Luke. Luke 1 shows us the power of prayer and faithfulness in your prayer life. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes and faithful in their prayers. They maintained a daily relationship with Him. Even so, their prayers for a baby went unanswered for many years until they felt they were well past their childbearing years. Nonetheless, they continued to pray, and God sent an angel to tell them their prayers were to be answered. In that moment, when he should have been overjoyed, he doubted what the angel had told to him, leaving Zechariah unable to speak until the baby, which he was instructed to name John, was born.

"We can learn many lessons through this Scripture on prayer and faithfulness. When we pray, we should pray believing we will receive. That does not mean all prayers will be answered the way we hope they



Nadean and Wayne Stuart

## Bradford Baptist Church Celebrates 80-Year Member

In July, Bradford Baptist Church celebrated 80 years of membership for Wilma "Nadean" Goad Stuart. Nadean joined Bradford Baptist Church on July 19, 1942. She gave her life to Christ at the age of seven. Her parents, Buck and Carlene Goad, sent her to church even though they did not attend because it was important to them that their children went. She and her siblings, Ella Jean and Buck, would walk a mile to church. Ella Jean and Buck also became lifelong members of Bradford Baptist Church.

Nadean married Wayne Stuart on March 12, 1951, just four days before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. They have been married for 71 years working side-by-side their entire adult life. They have grown and cared for cotton and soybeans, chopped and hauled wood, raised cattle and raised a large garden. Work has always been a team effort with them.

Nadean has worked in the church nursery her whole married life and many kids have been blessed by her love. She has also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. In addition to the nursery, she is well known for her work in the church kitchen, where she has worked many hours. She is always gracious and shares her cooking during potlucks and feeding families when they have lost a loved one. She has always been one of the first to arrive and the last to leave.

The Stuarts have two daughters, Melissa and Phyllis. Wayne, Melissa and Phyllis were all baptized at Bradford Baptist Church on Jan. 1, 1967. Wayne later became a deacon of the church. Melissa and Phyllis are also active members of the church, teaching children in Sunday School and Children's Church.

Nadean feels she has been very blessed in life. She has 5 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

are just because it is our desire that they should be. Our sincere prayers to our Father will be answered by Him and for His will and for the advancement of His kingdom. We should continue to be faithful in our daily walk with our prayer life and study of the the Scriptures. My hope for everyone during the busy holiday season is that we remember how blessed we are to have such a loving Father who still answers prayers.

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We had a very special time during our Sunday service. Despite the fact that several families were affected with respiratory problems and others with COVID, we had good attendance.

"We see how wonderfully the Lord is ministering and transforming the people who are coming. The key I consider my emphasis on the gospel sung, preached and lived is fundamental to be a community where the love of God is appreciated and brings to the people that the Lord brings during the sermon — "Jesus the Cornerstone." The Holy Spirit touched the hearts of many in the place and I could appreciate tears of comfort and others of thanksgiving as they hear the hope that the believer has in Christ.

"At the end of the service, we all went to the new house of a

sister who graciously invited us and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship. How they ministered to each other telling each other, their testimonies of the things God has done in their lives since they joined Sovereign Grace.

"I encourage all churches not to waste the wonderful achievement of gathering in our homes and sharing with our brethren. My question for reflection is 'Can we live biblical examples and commands in a meaningful way only in the context of Sunday service?'"

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "Don't give up and God is going to come through. I'm learning that should be the mantra of church planters. We have been praying for our neighborhood and trying to reach others in it for over a year. Just yesterday, we were talking about how we didn't know if it would ever happen the way it looked. Then this morning an unexpected problem led me to the hardware store where I met a neighbor. While we were visiting, he brought up wanting to come to our Bible study. I had invited him back in March. They had been thinking about it and finally made up their minds they wanted to try it! Pray they will make it.

"Also pray as we have our first worship gathering in the city library community room on Sunday night Dec. 18!"

## CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

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I've had several people assure me, "God's got this." While I know and understand the intent of that statement, I also know from experience that God provides through His children. Even God's most faithful will usually not give if they are not asked and challenged to do so. I also believe those who are charitable in heart

## MARRIAGE

(Continued From Page 1)

God's idea for creating two different sexes and bringing them together in the union of marriage.

When this union produces children, the differences between male and female are also intended to be instructive to a child's development. Parents have an incredible responsibility to impart God's nature to the upcoming generation. In other words, without both sexes represented in a family, there's an aspect of God's nature that goes without representation to a child. That said, God is the Redeemer and the Healer. He is very adept at making up for anything that wasn't learned through the family structure because of divorce, death, abuse, etc. His redemptive capabilities, however, do not undermine His original plan for the family.

For example, when we think about someone who nurtures and comforts, individual differences and life experiences aside, we generally think about the role a mother plays in a child's life. This attribute is readily seen in the Holy Spirit who is the Comforter. When we generally think about the role of a father, we may think of someone who protects, which is an aspect

want to know the needs and are always looking for an opportunity to give. Finally, I'm convinced that, because the Bible tells us so, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7).

## NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

case under the CADA. Phillips had declined to design and decorate a cake for the wedding of two men.

The high court's decision was not an expansive victory for re-

ligious freedom, however. The justices found the Colorado Civil Rights Commission demonstrated "religious hostility" toward Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, but said similar facts in different contexts may produce different rulings. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

of the Father we see throughout Scripture as He fights against those who would lead His children down a path of destruction. What's happening now through this current legislation is an attempt to remove our earthly examples so that we have no representation of how our heavenly Father relates to us and to the other members of the Trinity. While no family is perfect, the real impact on our society is that fewer children will be given an opportunity to live in homes where there is a full expression of the diverse aspects of the Divine nature embedded into the family structure.

What's our response? Pray that God will raise up marriages that are formed by His Spirit and are centered around reflecting His nature to a broken and orphaned world. Pray protection over currently married people. There are spiritual forces that want to mar the image of God through the marriage union. Be prepared to stand, knowing that you are standing for a greater cause than even our religious freedom but for the image of God Himself!

— Dr. Jennifer Bauwens is the Director of the Center for Family Studies at Family Research Council.

ligious freedom, however. The justices found the Colorado Civil Rights Commission demonstrated "religious hostility" toward Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, but said similar facts in different contexts may produce different rulings. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

## BOOK

(Continued From Page 1)

goal of changing culture." Published by Covenant Books of Murrells Inlet, S.C., Dr. Lee's new book "explores the disastrous effects of what culture without shame has caused to happen within modern society, and how readers can get America on track to be-

coming a Christian nation that lives by God's Commandments."

*Loss of Shame: The New Norm in Society* can be purchased at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

—Dr. Lee holds an MBA, a Ph.D. in Philosophy with an emphasis in Communications and a Ph.D. in Philosophy with an emphasis in Christian Counseling. Covenant books is an international Christian-owned and operated publishing house based in Murrells Inlet, S.C. Covenant Books specializes in all genres of work that appeal to the Christian market. For additional information, contact Covenant Books at (843) 507-8373.



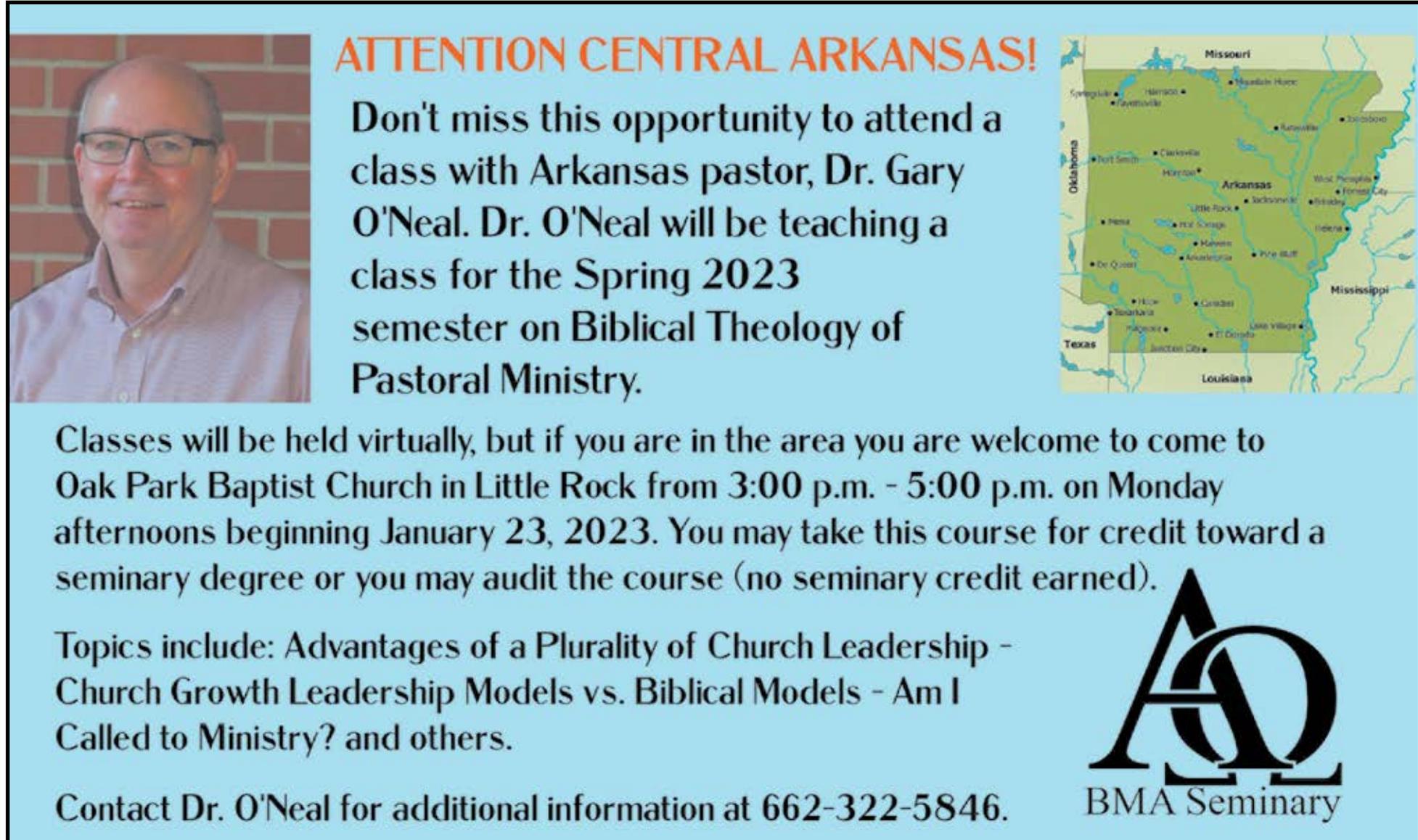
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