

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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Directors' Prayers and Goals for 2023

Executive Editor's Note: As in previous years, each departmental director in the BMA of Arkansas and the BMA of America was given an opportunity to share their "2023 Prayers and Goals." Please join me in praying for each of these ministries this year. (Due to length, the articles will be continued in upcoming issues. They are being printed in the order they were received, except that the *Trumpet* always goes last.)

Lifeword

By Donny Parrish,
Executive Director

2023 holds much promise for the ministry of Lifeword. This ministry is poised to make more global impact through the proclamation of God's Word and the making of disciples than at any time in her history. Every year, we set ministry goals for Lifeword. These are not academic. They are a track to run on. We are ambitious for God. Our goal is not that Lifeword, or even that the BMA of America, can be made famous, but that the name of Jesus might be made known to the world. With those thoughts in mind, we offer the following ministry targets for 2023:

- **Broadcasting** — In 2023, See **LIFEWORD, Page 3**



Baptist Publishing House

By Jordan Tew,
Executive Director

I always say that our ministry is "more than Sunday School," and that is true! The plans are in motion to further expand the ministry of Baptist Publishing House (BPH). I have high hopes and will continue to work my hardest to see that BPH not only survives but grows in the coming years. Our primary goal is giving local churches tools that can be used to help them fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

In 2023, I am focusing on two main things:

- Our new curriculum for children will be released in early spring 2023. DiscipleKidz is an all-in-one resource for children in grades 1-6. It is designed with the small church in mind but can be used in any size church. The focus of this curriculum is to proclaim the gospel to children, to teach them that the Bible is true and to see them grow in their knowledge of God's Word.

• We are going to begin work on developing and printing an evangelistic resource pack to equip churches to spread the gospel in their communities. My goal is to have this resource available in English by the end of the year. Watch for updates about this in the coming months!

BPH is designed and exists to put tools in the hands of the local church. I look forward to being able to put more tools in your hands this year!

Please pray that many would come to know Jesus as their Savior through the materials we produce, that believers would grow in their knowledge and love for God's Word and for God to bless us with the resources needed to do this ministry.

Visit our website (baptistpublishinghouse.com) to learn more.



State Missions

By Paul White,
Executive Director

Greetings from your State Missions department. This year has been an exciting one, having seen the addition of three new works—two in the northwest and one in the central part of the state. This gives us eight men currently serving.

One work is scheduled to organize in June 2023, with another not far behind. I am excited to see churches stepping up to extend an arm to those called to plant; after all, churches plant churches, we only come alongside to assist. It has always been my hope to see us have at least 10 missionaries on staff. Perhaps 2023 will be that year.

Much like last year, our goals are:

- To see that each mission outreach becomes a soul-saving

See **AR MISSIONS, Page 3**



Ministers Resource Services & BMA Foundation

By Dr. Steve Crawley,
Executive Director

At Ministers Resource Services (MRS) and BMA Foundation, it is our pleasure to provide retirement, benefits, risk insurance needs, payroll support and financial endowment services for the churches and entities affiliated with the BMA of America. This year, we will focus on the following objectives as we seek to accomplish our mission:

- Complete our feasibility study of synergistic opportunities with the Boards of Directors for Ministers Resource Services and BMA Foundation and present a recommendation to the association.

- Expand the services of MRS/BMA Foundation to include more comprehensive financial and estate planning for our participants through our partnership with Ronald Blue Trust.

- Expand the use of payroll services offered to churches through Ministry Works.

- Conduct quarterly financial

See **MRS, Page 2**



2023 National Meeting To Feature Missions Dinner

The 2023 BMA National Meeting (April 25-27 at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway) will offer several exciting schedule changes for those who attend. One of those "firsts" is the chance to visit and share a meal with our American missionary personnel from around the world.

On Wednesday night, April 26, the meeting location will shift from Antioch to the Conway Expo Center, which is located on Highway 64, east of Conway. This "Dinner on the Grounds" missions celebration will include a catfish/chicken dinner, night of worship and inspiring message by BMA Missionary Buddy Johnson. What an opportunity to meet, celebrate and find out more about your missionaries!

This Wednesday evening event will be a special time for the association to come together and celebrate our missionary God and encourage our missionaries. At the conclusion of the national meeting our missionary

See **DINNER, Page 3**



2022: A Year in Review

By Diane Spriggs, Editor Emeritus

In addition to regular monthly Mission World four-page inserts from BMAA Missions, the size of the *Baptist Trumpet* was increased from 8 pages to 12 several times this year in order to accommodate all the information Executive Editor Jeff Herring and Associate Editor Allan Eakin needed to include. The cost and extra work involved in producing these special, expanded issues was absorbed by the *Trumpet* and was done to provide the best reporting possible for our readers. These two men are to be commended for their dedication to this ministry.

Although it is impossible to tell you everything that was reported in the issues produced by the *Trumpet* in 2022 in one article, these are a few of the highlights:

See **REVIEW, Page 4**

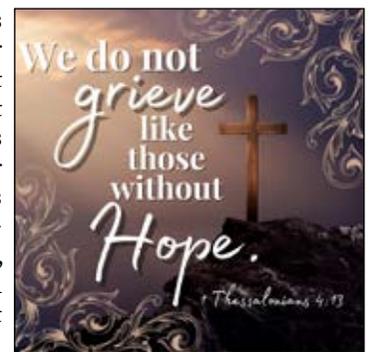
Our Loss, Heaven's Gain

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

As we begin 2023, I believe it is good to look back at the previous year and remember all of those we have lost and make a point to pray for those that have lost loved ones. While space does not allow us to run full obituaries for everyone that was lost—full obituaries are reserved for BMA ministers (especially those that served in Arkansas), their immediate family and other BMA leaders—we mourn with each one that has lost a loved one this past year.

As I reviewed the year to prepare this article, I noticed the number of full obituaries we ran in 2022 was down significantly from what we ran

See **LOSS, Page 4**



In This Issue

BMAA Global Ministry Insert (pgs. 5-8)
End Times Views Not Pizza Buffet (pg. 10)
Legacy Missionaries: Cutting Room (pg. 9)
Start with the Why (pg. 3)
Trusting the Process (pg. 12)

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

This is only a news column, and the publishing of a person's availability should not be considered a recommendation by the *Trumpet*. To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at www.BaptistTrumpet.com.

TJ Connell is available for pulpit supply, revival meetings or a pastorate

position within 30 miles of Hope. He is a member of Unity Baptist Church. Contact him at (870) 777-5056 or tj42617@gmail.com.

Beacon Baptist Church in Taylor is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. Interested applicants need to mail a resume to Attn: Youth Search Committee, P.O. Box 94, Taylor, Ark. 71861. Call Pastor Karry Easley for more information at (870) 299-2751. Please leave a message if there is no answer.



Terry Kimbrow
President



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Central Baptist College Announces New Trustees

The BMA of Arkansas, in their November 2022 annual meeting, elected four new members to serve five-year terms on the Central Baptist College Board of Trustees beginning in 2023 — Winston P. “Sonny” Foster of Marvell, Adam Thomas of El Dorado, Judy Wallace of Bald Knob and Dustin Wisely of Magnolia.

• **Winston “Sonny” Foster** is the retired owner of Foster Farms of Marvell, where he farmed for 38 years. He received a BSBA from the University of Arkansas. Foster is a member of Park Place Baptist Church of Bryant and is married to Mary Ned. They have two children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. This will be Foster’s third board term, having served 2011-2015 and 2017-2021.

• **Adam Thomas** is the lead pastor at Wyatt Baptist Church in El Dorado, where he has served for 23 years. He received a BA degree in Bible from CBC and a Master of Divinity degree from BMATS. He is also currently serving on the BMAA Missionary Advisory Committee, where he has served since 2017. He and his wife, Kristel have four children.

• **Judy Wallace** taught science for 10 years, served as gifted and talented coordinator for Wilbur Mills Education Coop for a year, was the Bald Knob Middle School principal for 5 years and served on the Arkansas Middle School Association Board before she retired. She received an AA from CBC, a BSE from UCA and a MSE from Harding University. She and her husband, Tommy are active members of Worden Baptist Church in Bald Knob. They have two children and seven grandchildren. This will be Mrs. Wallace’s second board term, having served 1993-1997.

• **Dustin Wisely** is the lead pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia, where he has been serving for 15 years. He received a BA in Religious Education from CBC and a Masters in Pastoral Studies from BMATS. Bro. Wisely currently serves as a member of the BMAA Missionary Advisory Committee. He and his wife, Angela have four children.

I have been extremely blessed with strong leadership on the Board of Trustees, and I’m looking forward to adding these men and women to the 20-member board and drawing on their expertise.

CBC Board officers for 2023 include: Chair Jim Fink of Little Rock, Vice Chair Kirk Shelton of Fayetteville, Secretary Kellie Harper of Sarepta, La. and Assistant Secretary Lisa Speer of Conway.



Men’s Basketball

• **Pineville, La., Dec. 31** — Playing for the final time in the 2022 calendar year, CBC was at H.O. West Fieldhouse for a New Year’s Eve tilt with the Wildcats of Louisiana Christian University (LCU). CBC (11-4) led 48-38 at halftime and held on, sealing an 86-79 win over LCU (5-7) in comeback fashion in the second half.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 2** — For the first time this season, a CBC Mustang men’s basketball player has earned American Midwest Conference (AMC) player of the week. **Senior Braylon Steen** was

selected by a vote of the AMC’s Sports Information Directors. Steen had a huge game in Saturday’s 86-79 road win against Louisiana Christian. He had 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, both career highs, to lead the Mustangs to their sixth win in a row. The 27 and 15 gave Steen his second career double-double and the 15 free throws he made were the second most ever in program history.

• **Batesville, Jan. 5** — Stepping on the court for the first time in 2023, CBC was inside Becknell Gymnasium for an AMC contest against Lyon College (LC). The Mustangs (11-5, 4-2 AMC) trailed by nine at the half and took a second-half lead, but couldn’t hold on, falling 70-69 to Lyon (4-7, 1-4 AMC).

• **Conway, Jan. 7** — Looking to bounce back from a loss on

MRS

(Continued From Page 1)

wellness classes for our BMA membership to aid in stewardship development and optimize the use of current platforms made available to our membership.

• Proactively pursue expanding the footprint of services of MRS and BMA Foundation utilized by churches and departments within the association.

Please pray that God will grant us wisdom in stewarding the assets entrusted to us for the benefit of our pastors, missionaries and BMA employees/churches.

Thursday night, CBC hosted the Eagles of Williams Baptist in an AMC rivalry game at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse for the first time in the 2023 calendar year. CBC (12-5, 5-2 AMC) held the lead for over 25 minutes and pulled away in the second half, beating WBU (7-6, 3-3 AMC) 74-61.

• **Point Lookout, Mo., Jan. 9** — Stepping out of AMC play for the penultimate time this season, CBC was on the floor at the Keeter Center for the return game with College of the Ozarks. The Mustangs (13-5) led by 14 at halftime and cruised to an 81-60 win over the Bobcats (5-13) to earn a season sweep.

Women’s Basketball

• **Batesville, Jan. 5** — Returning to the court for the first time since Dec. 17, CBC was on the floor at Becknell Gymnasium for an AMC tilt against the Scots of Lyon College (LC). CBC (7-5, 2-5 AMC) led by 9 after a quarter, but struggled in the second half, falling 77-60 to LC (5-6, 4-3 AMC).

• **Conway, Jan. 7** — Returning to A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse for the first time in 2023, CBC hosted the Eagles of Williams Baptist University in an AMC rivalry contest. CBC (7-6, 2-6 AMC) led in the first quarter, but trailed at halftime and fell to WBU (8-7, 4-3 AMC) 78-62.

Wrestling

• **Wichita, Kan., Jan. 7** — Returning to the mat for the first time in 2023, CBC was at the Friends Invitational. Four wrestlers, **David Corretjer, Isaiah Hendrix, Alejandro Mas** and **Darron Harvey**, all competed. Corretjer finished third at 125 pounds, He won his first two matches by fall before losing via injury default in the third match and having to medically forfeit the final match. Mas finished third at 149 pounds and Harvey finished third at heavyweight.

Track

• **Wichita, Kan., Jan. 7** — Competing for the first time in 2023, **Ally Swaim** was on track for the 60-meter hurdles at the Friends First Chance Qualifier. Swaim barely missed the NAIA B standard time, but did manage to finish second overall.



Dan Carson
Director

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Now is the Time

Over the past several years, we have all navigated some difficult times. Our student ministries, as well as churches, have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. During this time, we have done our best to operate on a shoestring budget. I haven’t wanted to ask for much because I know that it has been difficult for everyone. However, now is the time for me to put the ball in your court.



Out of the 331 churches in the BMA of Arkansas, we only have 10-12 churches that financially support the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department. This ranges from \$10 to several hundred dollars per month, totaling an average of \$600-\$800. These monthly gifts really aren’t enough for us to do the basic ministry we hope to do. What is that ministry? We exist to support those that are impacting the next generation for Jesus. We do that through a weekly podcast and an annual retreat.

The Student Ministry Matters Podcast has over 140 episodes and over 19,000 downloads since we began releasing episodes in 2020. Considering we target small to mid-sized churches with full-time, part-time and volunteer student ministry workers, I am thrilled by those numbers. We now have listeners in all 50 states and in 90 countries.

The Student Ministry Workers Retreat is heading into its sixth year. We have come a long way since our first retreat in Little Rock at South City Church. Our attendance has risen to 65-80. We have main sessions, with worship and breakout groups. It is a great time as our student ministry workers come together to connect and learn.

There are other things we hope to do and accomplish, but we just don’t have the finances to see that happen. Ultimately, my goal for us is to receive \$2,000 per month from our churches. While that isn’t much if divided up over the 320 other churches, it would make a significant impact on how we could support and encourage student ministry workers.

How do we get there? What do we do to reach our goals? Partnership!

The BMA of Arkansas Youth Department exists for the churches of the BMA of Arkansas and beyond. We can only do what we are empowered to do through the gifting of the churches. Will you consider becoming one of our financial partners? You might think, “We don’t have any youth. We don’t need to support this.” But your gifts support those that do. It may be another BMA church in your community, or it may be one across the state. However you look at it, our goal is to help those that are seeking to reach the next generation, and that is a worthy endeavor with which to partner.

In addition to seeking new monthly supporters, we would like for you to consider taking a special offering on Jan. 15 for the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department. January 16 is “National Good Teen Day,” established in 1995 under President Bill Clinton’s administration to encourage better connection with teens. It is a perfect opportunity to remember students and student ministry workers by giving toward our department. The goal of \$7,500 is enough to cover the variety of expenses we encounter as a part of our annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat.

If you have questions, call me at (479) 790-7808 (my cell) or email me at bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com. While this is a part-time role for me, it is one I believe in, and I would be more than happy to come and share on a Sunday evening about the ministry or talk to your groups throughout the week.

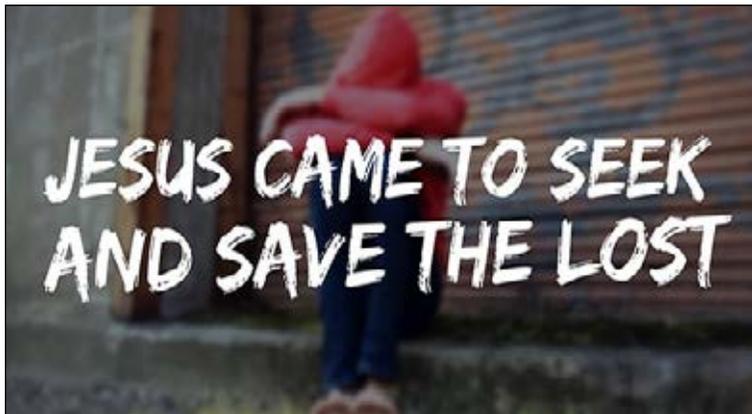


HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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Start with the Why

2023 is here, and another year of opportunity is before us. A new year brings evaluation of what we need to change, what we need to do differently and what we can do better. We seem to be enamored with the “how” of ministry far more than the “why.” We spend many hours trying to answer “how” to get people to attend our church or “how” to keep them once they are here. “How” do we make the music better, “how” do we make the transition from traditional to contemporary or “how” to move from attractional to missional. “How” do we get the programs, and “how” do we navigate those transitions.

More importantly than the “how” is the “why.” Why does your church exist? Why has God placed your church in the context He has placed it? Why has He placed you there to lead and be a part of that church at this point in time? Jesus said very clearly in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and save the lost.” Then, in John 20:21, He told His disciples, “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.” Every church exists to go out in love, to seek and to save the lost by presenting the gospel clearly to everyone and making disciples of those who do not presently believe. We exist to help people find and follow Jesus.

What has happened to our evangelistic passion for those who are far from God without Christ? What has happened to our burden to seek and to save the lost? It seems we are overly focused on helping people follow Jesus more than pursuing the lost sheep who need to find Jesus. It is easy to incorrectly think that the size of a congregation guarantees that it is healthy and is growing in a healthy way. A survey of mega-churches (attendance of 2,000 on Sunday or more) revealed that the percentage of people who come to their church who were unchurched, or non-Christians, is only 5%, at best.

This is consistent with statistics that state only 2-3% of churches in

the States are experiencing any real conversion growth. Approximately 10 million less people are going to church today than 30 years ago. “The number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third of adults under 30—are religiously unaffiliated today,” the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling—13 million are self-described atheists and agnostics with another 14% of the population claiming no particular religious affiliation.

The fields are white unto harvest. Is there anything worse than being lost, far from God and an eternity separated from God? Yes! Being lost and having no one who is looking for you or who even cares that you are lost. Everything Jesus did as God incarnate can fit into one of two categories—seeking and saving. Seeking can be seen in His deliberately connecting with people who were lost, such as Zacchaeus and the woman at the well. Saving was His helping followers to grow in grace and truth, such as the 12 disciples and Mary and Martha. Our church members say they are burdened for the lost, but less than 5% have ever shared the gospel.

The reality is that gospel information apart from a relationship with a real live breathing Christian will have limited results. It is real people who have been radically saved caring enough to reach out and calling real people to also be radically saved. This is accomplished by loving them and building relationships with them. You must make people, in your circle of influence, aware of you in a positive way by loving them. You need to then connect with them by learning their name so you can begin praying for them. The relationship builds when you know their story, listen to their story and love them whatever their story is.

Once relationships have been built, then you begin having

AR MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 1)

station for the lost.

- To invite more churches to join the team through prayers and support.

- To develop our ways of communicating and informing our churches and her members.

As for dreams, they would be:

- To see a revival in our state and country and a hunger for God’s Word.

- To see more churches sending out missionaries.

- For God to raise up men to fill the need and call them to be missionaries.

- To develop training events to better equip our men in ministry.

- To see the Emphasis put back in our Special Emphasis this year.

In closing, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve you and these men.

spiritual conversations with them. We are not saying there are never opportunities to present the gospel sooner because the debate of whether it is more confrontational or is it more conversational will not be answered anytime soon. Realize that it normally takes time and multiple conversations when the person is far from God. The process of planting and watering is how God uses people, conversations and experiences to move people toward the defining moment of placing their faith and trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior.

In a training I attended over 10 years ago, Ed Stetzer said, “It takes time and it often takes conversations... With few exceptions, people come to Christ after they have journeyed with other Christians—examining them and considering their claims.” We do what we do so that we might help others find Jesus and follow Him. We must get back to the main thing by praying to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers (Matt. 9:37-38). Then we must refocus our attention on those who are far from God. What if you tithed 5-10 hours a week to engaging your community with the gospel? What would that look like?

Prayerfully consider making it your goal, with the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to have more spiritual conversations with people in the next 60 days than you did in 2022. Train yourself and your people how to have good gospel conversations with non-Christians by answering their questions and concerns and equipping them to be able to explain key truths necessary for salvation. Then do not be okay with a 3-5% conversion growth rate, but have a vision to grow a healthy thriving church that is at least increasing by a 50% conversion rate. Lastly, realize what an honor it is to be an answer to Jesus’ prayer in Matthew 9!

LIFEWORD

(Continued From Page 1)

Lifeword will endeavor to increase our broadcast language count to 160 languages. Lifeword presently offers a gospel presentation in 145 languages around the world. In the past, we have measured our success by counting the number of countries impacted by our programming. With the advent of internet broadcasting, that matrix is no longer useful. Modern travel and worldwide immigration have allowed countries around the world to become much more diverse in languages spoken by their population. We will increase the number of languages in which we share the gospel. We will broaden our outreach through digital technology and also traditional radio where needed. Our goal will be to speak in the heart language of people around the world through whatever broadcast medium best suits that culture. The addition of 15 new languages will increase the number of people who can hear the gospel exponentially.

- **Programming**—Creating new programming that taps into the interest and draws those that do not know God or are far away from God will be one of Lifeword’s top goals for 2023. We will use our expanded television production studios to produce more internet shows that also speak the heart language of the viewer. We will use our new podcasting studios to produce new and exciting podcast formats. The goal for every Lifeword production is to take the viewer/listener to the cross of Christ. Using media to cast a wide net through interesting and life-experiential programming will allow us to speak into different cultures and share with them the good news of Jesus.

- **Discipleship**—Lifeword will use 2023 to refine and test our new discipleship portal we are calling “Follow.” We will beta-test our internet effort by inviting those consuming Lifeword programming to become fully devoted followers of Christ, then endeavor to connect them with a local church. We will also refine our digital discipleship process so BMA church members can use Follow as a personal discipleship tool.

- **Print**—Lifeword will continue to expand our efforts to introduce and challenge readers through blog content. We will seek out gifted writers that are faithful to God’s Word and compelling in their writing style. Our goal will continue to be to use digital media to ask pertinent life questions, then to give answers to those questions through the truth of God’s Word.

- **Financial**—The best estimates of missiologists are that nearly three billion people on planet earth have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. That leaves Lifeword with a daunting



Beacon, Taylor added two by baptism; Karry Easley, pastor.

Broadway Ave., Bay welcomed one by statement and four by letter; Rick Jensen, pastor.

Center Point, Nashville rejoices over two by letter; Jaron Tipton, pastor.

Cornerstone, Arkadelphia gained one by baptism; Larry Newson, pastor.

Dickinson, Harrell received two by baptism; Phillip Reddin, pastor.

Fairview, Jonesboro reports one by letter; Gary Henderson, pastor.

Immanuel, Nashville witnessed one by baptism; Glen Green, interim pastor.

Landmark, Hermitage added one by baptism and eight by letter; James Smith, pastor.

New Liberty, Emmet welcomed two by letter; Billy Langston, pastor.

North View, NLR rejoices over four by letter since last report; Mike Cantrell, pastor.

Park Place, Bryant gained two by letter; Gary Lambright, pastor.

Victory, Gentry received two by baptism.

Worden, Bald Knob reports two by letter; Tony Crocker, pastor.



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.



Dickinson, Harrell, Jan. 28-29; 6:30 p.m.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-Sun., Todd West, evangelist; Phillip Reddin, pastor.

DINNER

(Continued From Page 1)

families will depart for a conference sponsored by Missionary Care.

The cost for the dinner is \$25 per person for food and event setup. Registration and payment are required for the “Dinner on the Grounds” at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. Make plans now to be a part of this exciting evening of worship and fellowship!

task. We will need to increase our financial base to meet this global challenge. Lifeword sits in a strategic location at this pivotal point in world history to tell the world the story of Jesus. God will fund His ministry.

LOSS

(Continued From Page 1)

in 2021 (19 in 2022 compared to 49 in 2021. The 19 is more in line with the 27 we ran in 2020). This is a significant decrease over the year plagued by the pandemic and resulting deaths. Even with the fewer number, we know each of these families still feels the loss. The following is a review of the full obituaries we ran in 2022. You can find the complete listing by visiting BaptistTrumpet.com and access the "Obituaries" under the "Resource" link at the top of the page.

Henry Franklin Williams, 89 of Fordyce, passed away Jan. 16. He had served as pastor of Pine Crest Baptist Church since 2002 and was a US Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

Rebekah A. "Becky" Way, 70 of Cave City, passed away Jan. 19. She served with her husband in music and youth ministries throughout their marriage, serving alongside him in churches, youth camps, revivals, organizing children's choirs and other associated work in BMA and ABA. They most recently served at Beech Street in Crossett. Her love, besides her family, was teaching the Bible and telling others about Jesus. She was active in the WMA and Sunbeam ministries, serving in many offices, including WMA of Arkansas president (2004-2006). She was a member of her home church, Rings Chapel Baptist Church (an ABA congregation) near Cave City (which was founded, in part, by her great-grandfather over 100 years ago), where she played piano and organ and sang. She also taught youth and women's classes. Becky retired as an insurance agent for Farmers Insurance.

Grace Williamson Branham, 92 of Springdale, passed away on Feb. 4. She was the widow of former BMA of America Missions Director Craig Branham. Bro. Branham pastored churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas, including Bethlehem at Greenbrier, Grace at Russellville and Calvary at Heber Springs. He served in many positions in the BMA, including assistant director of Missions for 13 years, director of Missions for 13 years and director of BMA Pastor's Retirement Fund for over four years. Grace attended Jacksonville Baptist College, in Jacksonville, Texas; Central Baptist College, in Conway and graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College (UCA) in Conway with a degree in education. During her career, she taught at Guy-Perkins Public School, Greenbrier Public School and Pulaski County Special School District.

Merle F. Stuckey, 96 of Nashville, died Feb. 2. She was the widow of A.D. Stuckey, who pastored churches in Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas, including Mountain View at Umpire, Calvary at Fayetteville, Immanuel in Nashville and Grace at El Dorado. She was

REVIEW

(Continued From Page 1)

January

• **Honored for 50 Years** — Dr. Thom South and his wife, the former Judy Brown were honored by Eastside Baptist Church, where he serves as pastor, at a surprise "after church party" to mark his 50 years in the ministry. He surrendered to the ministry Jan. 5, 1972 and is a graduate of Central Baptist College (where he previously served as director of Online Services and currently serves as an adjunct professor), Mid-America Baptist Seminary and BMA Seminary (where he previously served as the director of the Arkansas Extension Campus and currently serves as an adjunct professor).

• **CBC Homecoming** activities were kicked off with a chili cook-off on Jan. 26. On Friday night, Jan. 28, a "1952 Bash" was held where everyone was treated to a night of 1950s fun. Homecoming activities concluded with both basketball teams winning and

a member of Immanuel Baptist Church at the time of her death.

Billy Burl Dulaney, 87 of Hope, passed away Feb. 12. He surrendered to preach in 1977 and began pastoring that same year. He pastored a number of churches in Arkansas, including: Patmos in Patmos, County Line in Nashville, New Liberty in Emmet, Western in Emerson and New Hope in Fouke. Bro. Dulaney's final pastorate was Knighton's Chapel Baptist Church in Lewisville, where he retired after serving for 21 years.

Larry Clifton Linam, 72 of Texarkana, died March 24. He attended East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas and graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia with a Bachelor of Arts. He did post-graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. At age 17, he was ordained at First in DeKalb, Texas, on July 21, 1969. He preached in churches in both Texas and Arkansas, and his last pastorate was at Shiloh in Waldo (Lamartine) from which he retired on Dec. 31, 2021. Larry was a bi-vocational pastor with a heart for small churches and often had a second occupation while pastoring. In 2010 Larry published a book, *The Day the Angels Cried*, about the church shooting in Daingerfield, Texas on June 20, 1980, in which his seven-year-old daughter was killed.

Billy Mack Russell, 78 of Bodcaw, passed away May 11. Known by many people as "Bro. Billy" or "Bro. Billy Mack," he was a faithful member of Corinth Baptist Church, where he pastored for 37 years. Prior to that, he pastored at Laneburg Baptist Church for two years. He retired from Firestone after 37 years of service, and was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and woodworking.

(To be continued in next week's issue)

Senior Communications Major Mallory Guyton being crowned homecoming queen. Eight individuals were inducted into the CBC Half Century Club: Thom South, Judy Brown South, Gaylon King, Judy Bates Wallace, Roger Pearce, Nancy Waller La Ferney, Theresa Thurman Parker and Lynette Burch Stanley. (Other inductees were not present for the ceremony.)

February

• **Two New State Missionaries** — On Thursday, Feb. 10, in a called meeting of the State Missions Advisory Committee, Roberto Marcelletti and his wife, Patty, along with Bryan Clay, and his wife, Kelley, were approved as new missionaries. Bro. Roberto is planting Mision Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace Mission) in Northwest Arkansas and Bro. Clay is planting Faith Journey in Benton. You can follow along with their weekly reports, as well as the other missionaries' reports, in the State Missions report which appears on page 7 of each issue.

March

• **New Baptist Trumpet Website Launched** — In the March 2 issue, in conjunction with the beginning of the annual time of Special Emphasis for the *Baptist Trumpet*, we launched a redesigned website that now features all the content that appears in the paper each week. The premium content is restricted to subscribers only.

• **New BMA of Arkansas Website Launched** — In coordination with State Missions, CBC and Student Ministry Matters, we also launched a new website for the BMA of Arkansas — www.BMAofArkansas.com. This site was formerly the home of State Missions but has been transitioned to be a landing page to help you find links to each department and other information pertaining to the BMA of Arkansas. *Note: The new home for State Missions on the web is www.bmaARmissions.com.*

• **Ukrainian Relief** — Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 and, as the war escalated, the need for relief support increased. To support fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, BMA Global Missions announced in the March 2 issue that they had set up the Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund to receive donations. Readers were encouraged to "continue praying for churches and pastors as they minister in their communities during this horrific crisis." Governor Asa Hutchinson also designated March 1-3 as "Special Days of Prayer for Ukraine in Arkansas." In the March 16 issue, it was announced that special t-shirts to "show your love for Ukraine" had been designed by Toya Aultman, wife of pastor Jason Aultman (Antioch, Conway). Proceeds from the sale of the "Yellow Blue Bus" (which "sounds like 'I love you' to Ukrainian ears") will go to the

BMA Ukrainian Relief fund.

• **Coordinating Council Report and Recommendations** — The March 9 issue was expanded to 12 pages to run the recommendations for the national meeting. Chairman Jeff Swart released the recommendations after six months of working with the departments, agencies and committees of the BMA of America. The recommendations included updates to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation to correspond with changes that had been made in different departments over the years, along with some name changes to better fit new organizational structures. (An article explaining the restructuring of the Missions Office in greater detail appeared in the March 23 issue, and the recommendations from each department were listed in the March 30 issue.)

April

• **CBC Scholarship Gala** — Central Baptist College hosted its third annual Scholarship Gala on April 2. The black-tie optional event featured keynote speaker, Alex Kendrick, and was held at the Conway Expo Center. The proceeds of the event benefit student scholarships, and President Terry Kimbrow announced that \$510,100 had been raised through event sponsorships and private donations.

• **BMAA Meeting** — The 73rd annual meeting of the BMA of America was held in Springfield, Mo., April 18-20. The theme of the meeting was "Preach the Word," and the opening session featured a message by BMA President Dr. Clif Johnson. As usual, a highlight of the meeting was the final night's Missionary Commissioning Service. This year, four "Legacy Missionary" couples were especially

honored — Dr. John & Shirley Ladd, Marvin & Helen Loyd, Dale & Barbara Thornton and Don & Linda Newsom.

May

• **Daniel Springs Schedule** — The schedule was announced in the May 11 issue, with these highlights noted: the first camp of the summer will not take place on the Daniel Springs campus — instead, the team will go to West Texas to staff the Stand Firm Camp; a student camp and a college-age camp were added to the schedule; and Pre-Teen Camp 1 and GMA National Camp will meet on the same date, but on different sides of the campus.

• **Philippine Academy Dedicated** — May 19 marked "the culmination of six years of meetings, dreaming and planning, and over two years of construction and continuous prayer" as the Darlene Carey Christian Academy was dedicated. The facility was named in honor of the late BMAA Missionary Darlene Carey, who "was the epitome of self-sacrifice for the people God had called her to serve."

June

• **Van Donated** — In the June 8 issue, BMA of Arkansas Executive Director Paul White announced that the family of the late Lamar Lee had donated their family van to the State Missions Department. Plans were for the van to be sold and the proceeds will go to the Revolving Loan Fund to help missionaries.

• **Lifeword Groundbreaking** — It was announced in the June 15 issue that "after years of praying and planning, Lifeword recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities."

See REVIEW, Page 12

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CO:MISSIONED: IN AND THROUGH THE CHURCH

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

The mission of Christ is the focal point of the New Testament. It is interesting to watch as a group of unknown tax collectors and fishermen “turn the world upside down” in obedience to the mission of Christ. The book of Acts covers thirty-three years, and in that timeframe the gospel advanced from Jerusalem to Rome, Paul and his missionary teams started over twenty churches, and those churches started other churches. Almost every New Testament epistle is a letter back to a brand new church or to someone who was leading a brand new church. Hence, the opening line of this paragraph would be better stated as follows: The mission of Christ, in and through the church, is the focal point of the New Testament.

Mission: To fulfill God’s mission by sending and partnering to share God’s story, make disciple makers, and start churches that multiply among the nations.

The word commission has a few synonyms such as assignment, duty, responsibility, mandate, etc. Before we analyze the meaning of being CO:MISSIONED, perhaps the first step is to come to grips with the fact that, as followers of Christ, we have been “missioned.” A God of mission could only produce and expect a people of mission. We have a God-given mission!

Looking in the familiar passage that we refer to as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we gain more insight to the importance of being CO:MISSIONED with emphasis on the fact that this commission is not of our origins, desires, or abilities. It is indeed a CO:MISSION with the colon communicating that this is from another and not our own invention.

Vision: To see every partner church around the world engaged in the process of starting a church.

In verse 18, Christ affirms that “all authority” has been given to him in heaven and on earth. The eternal God/resurrected Savior has inherent (it belongs to him by nature) authority because he is God. In verse 19, he then commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, and our authority is inherited from Christ—it is not our own. What a great encouragement! We are CO:MISSIONED and our authority is from the God who has ALL authority.

Another aspect of our CO:MISSION is that we have been commanded to make disciples of all peoples by Christ himself. Christ came in fulfillment of a mission; we go in fulfillment of a mission.

The last truth about our CO:MISSION is that we go with Christ. He is always with us, and we do not advance in our own power, but in his.

CO:MISSIONED is indeed to be “missioned” but not by ourselves. We are on a continuing journey with Christ to fulfill his mission. We do that with his authority (from), according to his mandate (by), and through his power (with).

The BMA worldwide family now includes close to 2,000 churches. BMA Global Missions has planted almost 800 churches and is currently planting 450 more! We are church planters! We do believe that “the mission of Christ, in and through the church, is the focal point of the New Testament.”

We are excited about 2023 to see more of the synergistic effect continue in worldwide church planting. Many faithful servants have sown and cultivated over many years in dozens of countries and now God is giving the increase through the multiplication of disciples and churches.

BMA Global Missions mobilizes churches and people to the mission field (send), helps plant churches that plant churches (start), and provides care and support for healthy leaders and churches (support). We are so grateful for the opportunity to partner with your church. Please continue to be faithful as you renew and refresh your church’s commitment to the basics of our CO:MISSION: pray, give, send, and go.

Please pray as BMA Global Missions reaches for new goals in 2023 and beyond. Some of these goals include a significant increase in the number of missionaries we send from our churches over the next ten years, specifically targeting urban areas of the United States for multiple church plants, increasing the number of language groups with church plants from seven to fifteen inside the United States, and assisting churches around the world to achieve maturity and multiplication.

Thank you all again for being faithful in our God-given CO:MISSION that is fulfilled from, by, and with the Lord Jesus Christ.



CO:MISSIONED IN LATIN AMERICA — CONTINUING THE LEGACY

BY: David Dickson
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The churches and missions of Central America and the Caribbean face unique challenges as they labor to be effective in their evangelistic efforts, church planting, and discipleship of new believers. The region is known for its extreme weather, repressive governments, and poverty level. The BMAA has had a missions presence in this area for an entire generation, but in almost every country American missionaries have handed off leadership responsibilities to national pastors and leaders. As a result, each country has developed its own personalized method to conduct missions efforts in partnership with our association of churches in the United States.

In Nicaragua, churches and missions are prospering in cities and towns scattered around the country, but there is also a renewed effort to reach the more isolated areas of the Atlantic side of the country. Traveling on horseback or in boats down the jungle rivers, people are sharing the gospel and planting new works. Leadership training and Bible instruction is regularly conducted even in the most isolated areas of the country. A recent hurricane dealt a serious blow to the economy, especially on the Atlantic side of the country where crops and homes were devastated. But these strong folks are recovering and forging ahead with efforts to share the Word even in difficult circumstances.

The tiny country of El Salvador is considered one of the most violent countries in Latin America with street gangs holding enormous sway over everyday life and even local government. In spite of that, with strong local leadership, new missions are being planted and established churches are growing. BMAA medical missions has been a positive influence here, as has the shoebox ministry.

The churches and missions among the Garifuna populations in Honduras continue to reach out to other communities of their ethnic group, and a Garifuna language mission was recently established in the Bronx, New York.

In Guatemala, our churches that are concentrated in the capital area are expanding their facilities to accommodate growing congregations.

Costa Rica continues with a well-developed plan to train and send out new missionaries around the country.

In the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is still recovering from yet another hurricane but recently ordained a missionary/pastor and continues to plant new missions on the island.

In each of these countries, the absence of an American missionary has not slowed efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. While it is true that American missionaries have had a significant impact on those efforts—in many cases by pioneering the first works in the country—national

leaders have successfully stepped into leadership roles and assumed responsibilities previously held by American missionaries. And since the primary goal of cross-cultural missionaries is to “work yourself out of a job,” it all adds up to a missions success story!

The role of BMAA Missions has rapidly evolved over the last several years in this region. In the absence of American missionaries, national leaders have accepted the challenge to take ownership of their own missionary vision for their countries. As that vision is clarified, the BMAA has stepped in to encourage and facilitate the realization of each country’s particular vision. We have participated in joint efforts to fund missionaries from their countries that are sent out both locally and internationally. Medical teams have made visits to several areas to address health needs of the least fortunate and raise the profile of our local churches. Periodically, training sessions and Bible classes are conducted throughout the region. Through Lifeword the gospel is being preached in difficult-to-reach areas.

American missionaries are no longer “in charge” in Central America and the Caribbean, but as an association of churches we are providing resources to the men who are “leading the charge” in their respective countries. Many serve in areas where they walk a virtual tightrope to avoid being targeted by the government or violent gangs. All work with extremely limited budgets. They all have asked for our prayers. We should honor that request.



CO:MISSIONED in Europe – Harvesting The White but Difficult Fields

BY: Larry Barker
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

What develops culturally, even spiritually, in Europe eventually makes its way to North America. In the United States nearly half of adults (48%) describe themselves as both religious and spiritual. That number has grown at an alarming rate from 19% to 27% of those who now say they are spiritual but not religious. Comparing that to Western Europe, 53% of adults say they are neither religious nor spiritual, and that philosophy is growing and spreading at an unprecedented speed.

Yes, the opportunities are plentiful, but the soil is very hard and requires a lot of cultivating because of the post-Christian culture that permeates. One country is the poster child for this sad lack of spirituality: Czech Republic, where missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood work alongside our ChangeMaker Milan Bulak. Almost 90% of Czechs aged 16-29 say they have no religion. Over 70% of the same age group say they never pray and only attend services on very special occasions.

Pray for Czech Republic.

Missions in France (Sean and Kendall Pasley) is very similar, and the reality of living in a secular culture is evident everywhere they look. Because the church has existed on European soil for 2,000 years, we might assume all is well, but the exact opposite is true. The terms that fit France and much of Western Europe are post-Christian culture, post-Christian society, post-Christian ethics, and post-Christian values. This is why our missionaries and ChangeMakers are so important to spread the gospel.

Pray for France.

Portugal's percentages are not as bad as France's or Czech Republic's, but in talking with ChangeMaker Marco Gaspar and other pastors, it is a difficult field where most men feel that going to church is not manly and is for women and children only. The churches there are small but determined to remain faithful to sound doctrine and to their calling no matter how difficult it might become. We recently held a leaders' retreat in Portugal focused on encouragement, and God moved mightily.

Pray for Portugal.

God is moving in both Western and Eastern European countries through the efforts of Larry and Tammy Wood and our ChangeMakers. Please pray for the people there. We hear reports that even though there are severe hardships, they remain resolved and encouraged that the Lord will be with them no matter what happens. We talk about persecution here, but in our much easier lives we really do not understand nor can we relate to the hardships of those living in a war zone.

Pray for Ukraine.

Portugal, France, Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Romania comprise my region. Romania has a very dear place in my heart, after having lived there in 2000 and 2001. With the exception of the COVID year, we have been

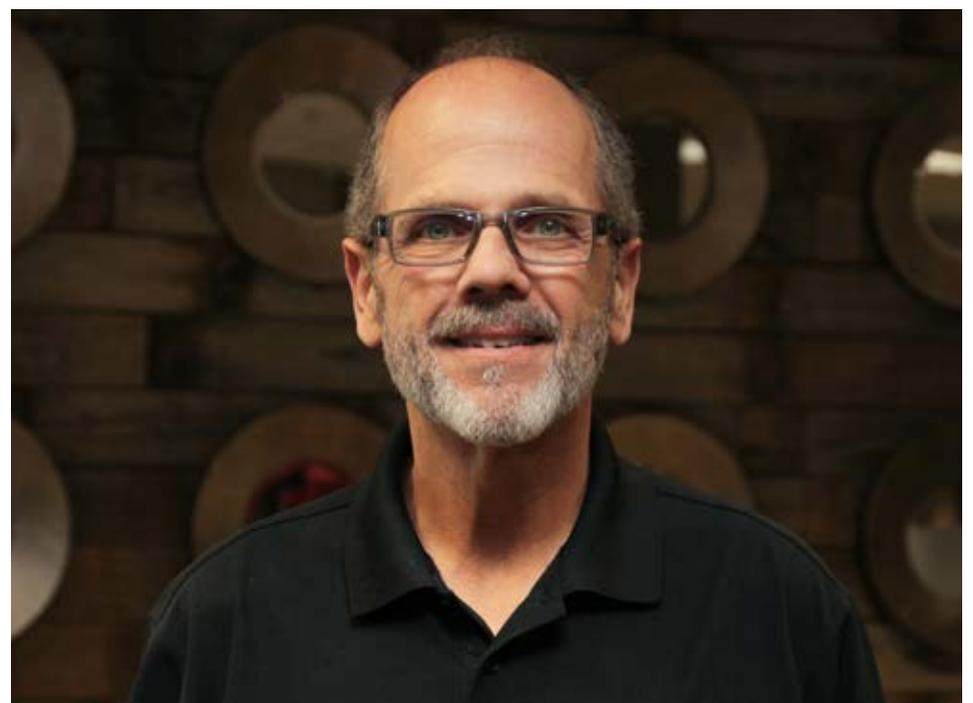
making trips there since 1997. Our ChangeMakers are Dani Bagosi and Bogdan Bilav. We have American missionaries, Bryan and Pam Risner and Cristian and Vanessa Martinez (He grew up in Mexico and she is Romanian). We also have two single ladies working in-country: Candra Barnett with the Risners and Sara Filimon (Vanessa Martinez's sister) working with the Martinezes.

Romania's population is decreasing. A country of 22 million not too long ago, it has decreased to 18 million. In a 98% Orthodox nation the Romanian Baptist Union recently reported that in the last ten years the number of Baptists has decreased from 120,000 members to 90,000. Obviously, Baptists are losing ground in their ability to effectively reach Romania with the gospel. Western Europe is challenged with secularism while Eastern Europeans (Ukraine and Romania) believe they do not need the gospel because they are "Christian" nations. However, their religion is works-based, very ritualistic, and ceremonial.

Pray for Romania.

Yes, the fields are white unto harvest, but they are difficult because people believe, from different perspectives, that they are okay and do not need to change. Pray for our workers there that God will raise up laborers (Luke 10:2), provide their needs (Phil. 4:19), open doors of opportunity (Col. 4:3), and produce fruit that will remain (John 15). Please commit to praying for them and their families that they will remain encouraged and focused on the task God has called them to and placed before them.

Pray for Europe!





A Digital Impact: Proclaiming God's Word and Making Disciples

BY: Donny Parrish

Lifeword

lifeword.org

2023 holds much promise for the ministry Lifeword. Poised to make more global impact through the proclamation of God's Word and the making of disciples than in any time in Lifeword's history, we are setting ambitious ministry goals for the coming year.

These are not academic goals; they are a track on which to run. Our goal is not that Lifeword or the BMA of America can be made famous, but that the name of Jesus might be made known to the world. With those thoughts in mind we offer the following ministry targets for 2023.

Broadcasting

In 2023 Lifeword will seek to increase the number of languages in which we broadcast to 160. Currently, Lifeword offers a gospel presentation in 145 languages around the world. In the past we have measured our success by counting the number of countries impacted by our programming. However, with the advent of internet broadcasting, that matrix is no longer useful. Modern travel and world-wide immigration have allowed countries around the world to become much more diverse in languages spoken by their population. We will broaden our outreach through digital technology and through traditional radio where needed. Our goal will be to speak in the heart language of people around the world through whatever broadcast medium best suits that culture. The addition of 15 new languages will not only increase the number of languages in which we share the gospel, but it will exponentially increase the number of people who can hear and spread the gospel.

Programming

Creating new programming that taps into the interest and draws those who do not know God or are far away from God will be one of Lifeword's top goals for 2023. We will use our expanded television production studios to produce more internet shows to speak the heart language of the viewer. We will use our new podcasting studios to produce new and exciting podcast formats. The goal for every Lifeword production is to take the viewer or listener to the cross of Christ. Using media to cast a wide net through interesting and experiential programming will allow us to speak into different cultures and share with them the Good News of Jesus.

Discipleship

Lifeword will use 2023 to refine and test our new discipleship portal called "Follow." This exciting project invites and equips those who engage with Lifeword programming to become fully-devoted followers of Christ and to connect with a local church. We will also refine our digital discipleship process so BMA church members can use "Follow" as a personal discipleship tool.

Print

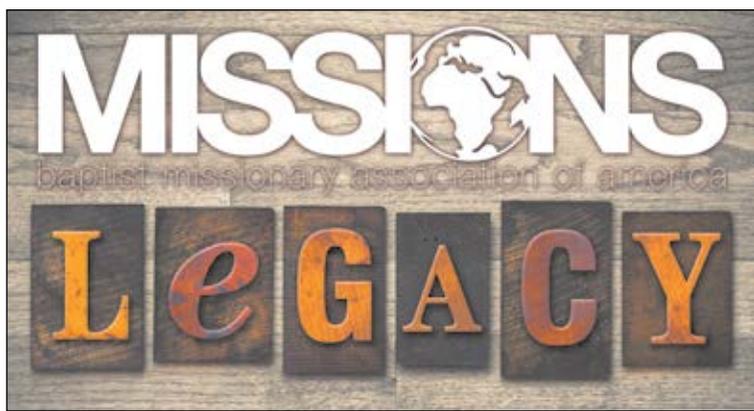
Lifeword will continue to expand our efforts to introduce and challenge readers through blog content. We will seek out gifted writers who are faithful to God's Word and compelling in their writing style. Our goal will continue to be to use digital media to ask pertinent life questions and offer answers through the truth of God's Word.

Financial

The best estimates from missiologists are that nearly 3 billion people on earth have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. This gives you and us and the ministry of Lifeword a daunting, but exciting task. We will need to increase our financial base to meet this global challenge, but may we never forget: God will fund His ministry.

Lifeword sits in a strategic location at this pivotal point in history to tell the world the story of Jesus. What a joy to take part in this work! Thank you for joining us.





2023 Legacy Missionaries: On The Cutting Room Floor (Part 2)

By Holly Meriweather

Editor's Note: The following is a story that will not make it into the Legacy Missionary video that is played during the ceremony at the National Meeting in April. These are stories that have been left "on the cutting room floor." Visit BaptistTrumpet.com or see the Dec. 21, 2022 issue for Part 1 of this series.

It was a beautiful love story that very nearly didn't happen except for God's providence. Two young people so far apart in culture, language, geography and religion met in a way that could only be arranged by God.

Born in 1928 to a Chinese mother and American father, Jack Bateman lived in North China with his parents and two siblings until the Japanese invaded in 1937. His father died three years after Jack was born, but Mrs. Bateman got by until the Japanese refused to allow her American children food rations. So, an American missionary, John Blaylock, intervened and the children were sent to live with him in another part of China.

When the war worsened, Blaylock and Mrs. Bateman decided it would be best for her to stay in China and him to accompany the children to the Philippines and then on to California where they would live with family.

But Blaylock and the children never made it past Manila Bay. In January of 1942, their ship was captured by the Japanese, and they were sent to a Japanese POW camp, where they lived in constant fear of disease, starvation and horrific mistreatment. However, they managed to survive when others starved to death. What followed is just one of the incredible ways God provided.

Fourteen-year-old Jack and other detainees were assigned kitchen duty, which included preparing and cleaning huge pots of tasteless, meager food for the entire camp. That assignment kept him, his siblings and Blaylock alive. Jack saved the few scrapings left over from each "meal" and shared them with his loved ones. There were just enough peelings, crumbs and scraps of food to keep them alive for three years and one month until they were liberated. This liberation by American soldiers happened just two days before the Japanese carried out orders to kill all prisoners.

The group finally made it to California, where Jack, Jimmy and Sally lived with the Blaylocks. Jack was saved in 1945 and met high school student Latrell Johnson two years later at a Bible conference. Both had already surrendered their lives to serving the Lord in ministry.

The couple continued to have difficult times, even before they arrived in Taiwan, but Jack and Latrell's optimistic and burdened spirits, their love for the lost and constant prayer would carry them through.



Central Ark. Brotherhood Meets

The Central Arkansas District Brotherhood met at Pleasant Grove in Carlisle on Jan. 9. Director of Moral Action Agency Dr. John Adams spoke about his two yearly trips to Washington D.C. He challenged us to pray for our men and women in Congress. Dr. Adams also used an illustration entitled "The Wordless Book," and spoke on Psalm 23. Our next meeting will be on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Landmark, England. (Bill Thornton, Reporter)



BMA Pastor Dies

Billy G. Smith, 86 of El Dorado, passed away Dec. 27. He was saved and baptized at an early age and answered God's call to preach the gospel. He preached the Word faithfully for 62 years and had been the pastor of Murrell Heights Baptist Church for the past 41 years. He also pastored Hopewell Baptist Church and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Bro. Smith loved people, touched many lives and led hundreds of people to accept Christ as their Savior. He was a "jack of all trades" and was known for helping people with their problems. He also spent countless hours building church buildings.

Survivors include: three sons, Billy Joe, Jim (Angela) and Terry (Pam); a sister, Barbara (Richard) Strahan; a brother, Ricky (Elaine) Smith; 16 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Jan. 6 at Murrell Heights Baptist Church, and interment was at Beech Grove Cemetery under the direction of Perry's Funeral Chapel (perrysfuneralchapels.com). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Murrell Baptist Church building fund (203 Beacon Hill Dr., El Dorado, Ark. 71730).

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BMA Pastor Dies

Donald Rae Hoffmann, 89 of Neelyville, Mo., passed away Dec. 28. He pastored churches in Michigan and Texas, and was the brother of James Hoffman, retired editor of the *Missouri Baptist*. Bro. Hoffman also pastored churches in Michigan and Texas.

Bro. Hoffman was a Veteran of the United States Air Force and a member of the Lower Doe Run Baptist Church. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, listening to Southern Gospel music, spreading God's Word to everyone he met and long walks through the woods.

Survivors include: his wife, Thelma Hoffmann of Lewis Center, Ohio; one son, Dan (Kathy) Hoffmann of Ellington, Mo.; three daughters, Debbie (Larry) Lewis of Union, Mo., Jeanette Davis (Jeff Lee) of Dittmer, Mo., and Joyce (Perry) Lewis of Ellington, Mo.; one brother, James (Mary) Hoffmann of Wentzville, Mo.; two sisters, Minnie Gilliam of Dallas, Texas, and Mary (Lewis) Shultz of Pea Ridge; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 30 at McSpadden Funeral Home in Ellington, Mo. with Melvin Meade officiating, assisted by Jim Hoffmann. Interment followed at Ellington Memorial Cemetery, under the direction of McSpadden Funeral Home (mcspaddenfuneralhomes.com).



BMA Pastor's Wife Dies

Bennie Louis Frye Henry, 87 of Sulphur Springs, Texas passed away Dec. 25. She was the wife of retired BMA pastor Dr. James "Jimmy" Henry for 68 years. Bro. Henry pastored many churches in Texas and Arkansas, including: First at Magnolia; Central at Texarkana; and Hillcrest at Texarkana. He also served as the Director of the Ministers Benefit Department.

Mrs. Bennie was a church secretary for many years, and was a clerk for the Ministers Benefit Department. But, most of all, she was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

Other survivors include: a son, Dr. John Mark (Cindy) Henry; two daughters, Debra Anne Shelton and Sherry Sue (Richard) Hatcher; two brothers, Jerry Lloyd (Melissa) Frye and Charles Ray (Judy) Frye; a sister, Faye Elizabeth Maness; seven grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28 at West Oaks Funeral Home, with James Schoenrock and Dr. John Mark Henry officiating. Interment followed at Springhill Cemetery in Springhill, La., under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home (westoaksfuneralhome.com).



Joe Ralph Halbrook, 87 of Hattiesville, passed away Jan. 2. He was a member of Hattiesville Baptist Church.

Hazel Marie Orr, 89 of Bono, passed away Dec. 30. She was a member of Unity Baptist Church.

Bobby J. Bradford, 91 of Warren, passed away Dec. 26. He was a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church.

James C. "Jim" Fields, 81 of Manila, passed away Dec. 10. He was a member of Milligan Ridge Baptist Church.

Laverne Carver, 86 of Bryant, passed away Dec. 9. She was a charter member of Oak Park Baptist Church.



End Time Views Aren't a Pizza Buffet

It's a new year, and it's fascinating to look at the world through the lens of the whole story of Scripture and wonder what could happen this year. I was tempted to say, "through the lens of Bible prophecy," but we can't take Bible prophecy out of the narrative of Scripture. As much as I have argued that Bible prophecy is ignored or marginalized in most modern churches, in that same vein, it shouldn't be singled out and overemphasized either. It's curious, though, what might break prophetically.

Along with thinking about prophecy that might be fulfilled this year, I also realized that these articles have really come mid-conversation. I picked up talking about details of prophecy and application from prophetic Scriptures but skipped over the basic events in Bible prophecy. So, how about we start the conversation over? Let's make sure we have a biblical foundation. We can't begin to look at current events and not have that solid biblical footing.

I'm nervous to move in this direction, because to talk about Biblical positions and views of the end times is dangerous ground. We all have differing views. We all have trusted teachers who have differing views. We all can likely point to Scripture to back up our views. I'm wading into dangerous territory, but before you blow up Jeff's email would you make a deal with me? Would you put preconceived views and ideas aside and look at Scripture and let it speak to you plainly? I really believe the reason we have such a debate of views is that we have run with what we've read in books or just what someone says rather than going to the Bible first. I know that's the case for me. I did that.

My first taste of end times prophecy was watching the movie *A Thief in the Night* one night in youth group. At that time, I didn't realize there were different end time views, but it didn't take

long when I began at CBC to be exposed to them. One of my first research projects was, "Where are the Dead?" This led me to understand there are tons of different views.

One of my first theology classes presented the main views of the end times, and right there, as a freshman at CBC, I selected the end time view I would have. I'm not sure what I even based it on. I really believe I went with whichever one sounded the best to me. We can say that's no big deal, because I had to pick something, right? But, even during that freshman year, I was filling pulpits and speaking at youth events. At the end of that year, I took my official position as a youth pastor. Though I may not have been preaching through the book of Revelation, the end time view I had shaped everything I preached, and especially my invitations.

I hadn't selected my end time view after reading much of Bible prophecy for myself at all. I just picked something, then read Scripture with that view in mind. It's as if I went to a gas station sunglass rack and picked out a pair of Bible prophecy glasses that I wore every time I read a prophecy passage, therefore I only read what I had already decided on beforehand.

You can see the danger in this, but that is what happens most of the time with Bible prophecy. I really doubt I'm the only one that has done this. Our view isn't a private matter either, for our understanding of the entirety of Scripture and the age to come is at stake.

Even as I began to learn there were different views of Bible prophecy as I continued at CBC and later in seminary, I continued to just go with whatever view sounded the best. I treated the selection of an end time view as if I was selecting a slice of pizza off a pizza buffet. I'd just pick whatever view I wanted, seriously! At times, these may have been

semi-educated pizza slice selections because they were usually based off the book I was reading at that time or the professor teaching the class I was currently attending, but notice I wasn't making the selection based off my own reading of Scripture.

I have counted seven distinct views I accepted along my journey. The whole time I kept basing my view off what sounded the best, what my current professor was teaching or the book I was reading at the moment. Again, I hadn't dove in to read it for myself.

Then something happened. I began to no longer view an end time view as a freewill selection on the End Times View Pizza Buffet. My last semester of seminary I needed any type of credit and the only class available was *Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. I'm still not even sure how to define that interpretative view today, but, throughout that class, my eyes were opened to letting Scripture interpret Scripture. It sounds silly to me now to say that was ground-breaking, but it was.

That moment was just the beginning of a journey that is still going. I am constantly finding views I hold simply because I preferred them. There are some views I feel Scripture has validated for me and others that are a work in process.

Interpreting Scripture with Scripture first and growing in a devotion to biblical authority caused me to not select any interpretative view that wasn't driven from the biblical text first. This understanding led to me wiping the slate clean of how I viewed Bible prophecy. I simply read it.

One of the issues I have found is that we don't even know there are different views, so over the next few articles I want to not share my view, but to just lay out the different views and hopefully challenge you to dive into reading the Word itself.

I hope you can see from my journey that it is important to evaluate your own view and its formation. It's also okay to realize you have been wrong. I have had to apologize to congregations I have pastored. I may still have to again. We should all be on a journey of rightly dividing through the Word, and to do so we have to read it ourselves.

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)

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Arkansas Ranked Most Pro-Life State in America

On Jan. 5, Americans United for Life announced that Arkansas is the most pro-life state in America for the third year in a row. The pro-life organization ranks all 50 states based on state laws protecting the unborn, the elderly, the disabled and the terminally ill.

Family Council President Jerry Cox released a statement saying, "This is incredible news. Arkansas has the best laws in the nation when it comes to protecting innocent human life from conception until natural death. Arkansans should be proud of their state legislators for enacting such good laws. That's something to celebrate."

Cox said keeping Arkansas the most pro-life state in America has taken a lot of work by many different people. "By working together, Arkansans have helped Arkansas remain the most pro-life state in the country. Arkansas Right to Life has been fighting abortion for over 40 years, and Family Council has been at it for more than 30 years.

Arkansas' General Assembly has passed at least 47 good, pro-life laws since 2011. Ministers, churches, elected officials, pregnancy resource centers and everyday Arkansans have all worked tirelessly to make Arkansas the pro-life state it is today."

Cox pointed out that Arkansas law generally prohibits abortion, and most Arkansans do not support abortion on demand. "It's great to be the nation's most pro-life state, but it's even better that Arkansas has stopped aborting unborn children. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has reversed *Roe v. Wade*, abortion is prohibited in Arkansas except to save the life of the mother. Even before that law went into effect, abortion in Arkansas had plummeted to historic lows. Public opinion polling has shown for years that Arkansans do not support abortion on demand, and more than 40 pregnancy resource centers around the state help women and girls with unplanned pregnancies.

Arkansas is a pro-life state because Arkansans themselves are incredibly pro-life. Cox said even though Arkansas is the most pro-life state in the country, pro-life efforts are far from over. "Being pro-life is about much more than opposing abortion. It's about protecting innocent human life at all stages from conception until natural death. We look forward to continuing to defend the sanctity of human life in Arkansas."

— Family Council is a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock with a mission of promoting, protecting and strengthening traditional family values.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Mini Seminar, Jan. 18, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; BMA Global Missions Center, Conway.

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

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,

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

Greenbrier District WMA, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Greenbrier District Men's Fellowship, Jan. 21, 8 a.m.; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, Feb. 14; Nueva Esperanza, Jonesboro.

Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Mar. 6, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

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Making the Rounds

Last week, I had the privilege to visit with Johnny and Karen Shew in Flippin to discuss the construction of a building this spring. Having been in the construction business most of my life, I cannot wrap my mind around how expensive it is to build at the present time. For this reason, Johnny and I have decided that it would be wise to build his building in stages. His overall plan is designed for future expansion. At the present, they are out of room where they are meeting.

More Rounds

I hope to have lunch with Bryan this week, and make a run to the north-west to visit with Roberto, Jake and Clinton in the next week or two. I know the holidays have caused a lot of people to be out of their normal routines but, hopefully, everyone will get settled in the weeks and months ahead.

By February, I hope to gather with Juan Carlos, Ruben and Michael. These men, along with Roberto, have and are giving us a healthy presence in the realm of our Hispanic neighbors.

Special Thank You

God had allowed Berean Baptist to be a lighthouse in the North Little Rock area for many decades and, through the years, they have been faithful supporters of our BMA ministries. Sadly, they were forced to disband, but before doing so they contacted the State Missions office and we have made arrangements for Juan Carlos and his Growing in Christ Mission to stay in the building with the understanding that, once they have organized, the property will become theirs. Berean's past, present and future contribution to God's work has ensured Growing in Christ a future for years to come.

"Circuit-Riding" Preacher

I am scheduled to preach next Sunday at Charity Heights in Ward for Keith Lewis as he spends some time with his family. Wow, I remember when this church began as a State Missions work, and I was Keith's boss (so to speak). But now, low and behold, he is my boss! God has richly blessed their ministry and their pastor, Keith and his wife, Kelley. Guys, should you find a need for a fill-in, give me a shout.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, (12/25) "On Dec. 24, we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus. The group that prepared the Christmas cantata arrived dressed in red and other Christmas colors. Oliver (age 12) played the hymn 'Silent Night' on the piano, the congregation sang Christmas hymns and Fernanda sang the hymn 'Santa la Noche.' The message focused on Jesus' response to the Gadarene demoniac, 'Go home, to your loved ones, and tell them how great things the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' (Mark 5:19).

"The congregation was invited to go and tell their family and friends what God has done with them, taking advantage of the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus.

"We delivered the gifts but decided to only pray with the people who came to collect them. If they did not attend a church of sound doctrine, we invited them to meet with us. You can easily have false conversions in this type of situa-

tion because people tend to want to please the one who is giving them something. So we decided it was better to contribute to building a relationship that will allow us to share the gospel in the future.

"In the Sunday service, we finished studying II Peter. We thank God for the inspiration given to His apostle to bless us with that epistle. I use Pedro's words to say goodbye to this year, and welcome 2023. Beloved 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen'

(1/1) "On Dec. 30, Sayra's birthday, we had a surprise celebration after the prayer meeting. We had a good time, eating and expressing how much we value the ministry that God has allowed her to develop in the church. I thank God because He has allowed Sayra another year of life, serving Him and enjoying her work in church.

"On Saturday, Dec. 31, we met at 7 p.m. and, after the service, stayed to spend time playing and eating with the members of the church until midnight. After the New Year

hug, we prayed and said goodbye.

"At our Sunday meeting, we began a series of studies in the book of Hebrews, with the theme 'Jesus the perfect revelation of God,' based on Heb. 1:1-3.

"We thank God that some of the families that were in serious trouble are already getting out of it. Please pray with us as we continue to pray for those who still struggle in difficulties."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "It is a blessing to be able to connect with you once again. Happy New Year! It has been a strange three weeks for our community. On Sunday Dec. 25, no one attended the Celebration Service, but on Sunday, Jan. 1, almost everyone attended! Sunday, Jan. 8, was a normal service, and everyone returned.

"In most of the Hispanic communities, we connect Christmas Eve with Christmas. We start celebrating the night of Dec. 24, with typical food from our countries, at midnight we open gifts, and usually, our gathering lasts until 3 a.m. In some families, we wake up celebrating and go to sleep on the morning of Dec. 25. My family and I did it with my sister's family, and we arrived home around 3 a.m. What are the traditions of Christmas in your home?"

"This January, we are entering into a sermon series to set goals and purposes connected to the sovereignty of God. We are praying for God's guidance during this time. The brethren at Ebenezer are happy with the tools we are giving them to set goals, but are submitting all of this to God's design. Pray for God's guidance in the month of January in this sermon series. May God be glorified!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great time of worship Sunday morning. Most are back from their holiday travels and most that were sick are back, but a few are still out. It almost seems like families are taking turns being sick, there are so many things going around. But we are trusting in the Lord for healing and protection for our members and visitors.

"We are still working on plans for a building of our own though, due to the enormous costs that we are seeing from our bids and estimates coming in, we have decided to downsize from our original plan. We hope to build the main part of it and add on later as the Lord adds to our number. This will give us a

more manageable debt, while still meeting our immediate and short-term needs. We have the Master's Builders scheduled in the spring to help us frame it, and there is so much work to be done before then.

"We thank you for your prayers, for us, Faith Chapel and for Flippin. Please continue. We need them so, and the Lord is answering them."

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, (1/1) "We had such an amazing two weeks in ministry. The church Christmas party was great, and we had many of our church folks in attendance. A few guests stopped in at Drew and Kaley's House, we went Christmas caroling in the neighborhood and a potluck meal was shared. Christmas Ham is always great, along with a slew of side dishes made by our church folks. We did a white elephant gift exchange, where we all ended up with some crazy gifts.

"Our New Year's Day Service went great. We had Coaty Gunder as a guest speaker. He brought a message from Eph. 2:8-9 that was a great reminder of our position in Christ. Then we had another potluck where we grilled hotdogs and enjoyed each other's company. Not everyone was able to attend, but that is the nature of holiday services.

"Some plans have been put into place for more ministries to blossom, giving a few of our people the room to pursue the ministries God had placed on their hearts."

(1/8) "Another great week is in the books! I had several great meetings with the people of The Table. We had a brainstorming session for a future ministry we are getting off the ground in February. I am excited to see how the impact of this ministry will ripple into our community.

"We met another person of peace in our community. I am thrilled to meet more people that see the vision of this church plant and are able to come alongside and help open doors.

"Pray for all of our children's ministry leaders as they have all become sick with either COVID or flu. It has been a rough few weeks of sickness among our folks and the greater area.

"Kaley has started an inter-church newsletter and made a reading-guide bookmark for our services. We are now pushing our online giving, and we just had a message on the Christian's appropriate response to giving. Great discussions were had during the small group time. Kaley led our online small group, and it looked like the interaction there was positive.

"Several local families have indicated that they will be visiting the church soon. I am looking forward to all that God is doing here. Drew and I are discussing the future Gravette Campus/Bible Study that The Table will be starting with one of our families that moved there."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes (1/1) "Happy New Year from Faith Journey! Oh, what a year it has been! I want to take

this opportunity to reflect on all the amazing blessings God has done in our lives and in this mission. Starting out in the beginning of 2022, the only thing I was 100% sure of was God had called me to serve in the ministry. We were given the opportunity to serve as missionaries with the BMA of Arkansas, and we never looked back.

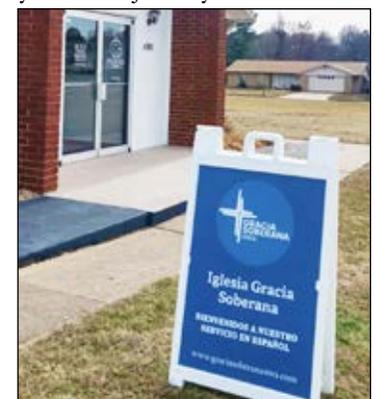
"God has brought amazing people into our lives and opened doors along our way. Faith Journey began holding services at the beginning of May. We have several families that are coming faithfully and are also blessed with guests. We have been given opportunities to be more active within our local community, such as at schools, adult day centers and nursing facilities.

"Our focus for 2023 is to continue to make connections within our surroundings community. We want to let people know we are here and available to meet their spiritual needs. We want to begin looking for land in the area for the future home site for Faith Journey. We look forward and are praying that God continues to lead us in the direction He has for Faith Journey."

(1/8) "Faith Journey kicked off the new year, and we are ready to see what God has in store for us! We visited three different facilities in our area this week, and it felt like we 'had church' with the residents and staff. God was worshiped, and there are lives being touched. Most of these folks haven't had someone speak to them about Christ since before COVID. They were eager to get back into the Word of God and share their stories with others.

"Matthew 7:7-11 speaks to us about how God wants us to ask Him for our needs, keep seeking Him and come into His presence daily because He desires to bless us with all that He has. We need to be in a daily walk with God through prayer and Scriptures to continue to grow our faith through our personal relationship with Christ.

"Our prayers for you this week would be to continue to grow in your 'faith journey' with Christ."



Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, (12/25) "We only have one month to start our Sunday services, so we decided to have service on Dec. 25 and 15 people arrived! We were able to have an extraordinary time of worship and prayer, and we

See MISSIONS, Page 12



CO:MISSIONED: A Shared Mission; A Shared Responsibility

By Sidney Vines, BMAA Relationship Manager

We are excited to announce 2023 World Missions Day on Feb. 26 — **CO:MISSIONED — Together Let's Reach the Nations!**

God's mission to make disciples in every nation, tribe and tongue has united BMA churches for over 70 years. We believe this mission was given to local churches and that those local churches are both the source and goal of God's mission.

Together we partner to send missionaries that make disciples and train leaders to plant churches among their own people. Your ongoing support of BMA Global missions allows us to partner with over 500 missionaries in 60 countries around the world.

Last year, you collectively gave \$500,000. The goal for 2023 is \$600,000! I encourage you to challenge your congregations to prayerfully give big and give sacrificially.

Register to participate in World Missions Day and find promotional resources at bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday. In addition to a link for ordering World Missions Day T-shirts, you'll find downloadable prayer cards and graphics.

If you'd like someone to speak at your church during World Missions Day season, contact me at sidney@bmaam.com.



Trusting the Process

By Taylor Shouse, Staff Writer • Ministers Resource Services

"Trusting the process" is a term we often hear. Any fan of athletics has likely heard continuous references to "the process" from Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban. You'll often hear him say, "You can only control the process" or "Do your job and trust the process." This mindset has helped him lead seven different teams to National Championship victories in college football.

Likewise, the Bible has multiple references that can be applicable to trusting the process in our own lives. For example, the book of Proverbs states, "Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit" (Prov. 27:18 ESV). Tending is a process that starts long before having the reward of the actual harvest. The farmer desiring the fruit begins with the end in mind, just as the team that eventually makes the championship game begins preparing to get there in training camp. The same principles apply to the spiritual, physical and financial facets of our everyday lives.

As believers, we aren't guaranteed to always enjoy a steady upward trajectory. There are times we must deal with setbacks. Yet, the Word instructs us to trust in God's process. The metaphorical fig tree in our lives may endure a drought or experience damage. Nonetheless, we must continue to tend to it, stay committed to the process and trust that the Creator will allow us to reap the appropriate reward.

At Ministers Resource Services, we offer a free financial assessment. To schedule yours, visit ministersresourceservices.com/contact or give us a call at (844) 262-8637.

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 11)

continue to learn about the reasons Jesus Christ became man and went to the cross as our mediator between God and men.

"It was the second opportunity that two new families attended, and we were invited to the home of one of the sisters. We shared a Christmas lunch and continued to strengthen those bonds that help us to be a family that teaches the gospel and that lives it in each of the areas of our lives.

(1/1) "We started 2023 thanking God for His grace in 2022, and what better place to thank Him and celebrate than in church?"

"We have a short history of just a month and a half of beginning our Sunday services, but so many things have happened and so many sweet people have come into our lives, with many desires to disciple and grow in the Lord.

"At the end of the service, we invited them to our apartment, where we ate, played to grew our friendships in the Lord. We thanked everyone for being part of our small steps as a church and invited them to commit to what God is going to do in the Northwest area through Sovereign Grace."

(1/8) "We had a very good attendance on Sunday with six guests, and are experiencing what the power of the gospel does in the lives of people who come with sincere hearts to seek God. We were able to talk about the importance of Christian service by studying John 13 and the example that the Master gave us of serving with love, humility and holiness. That left us the mandate to do it to each other and thus show love by helping us, supporting us as a community guided by the gospel.

"Then we went to the fellowship room for coffee and desserts with the aim of continuing to grow as a family of faith."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "Our group of leaders kicked off the new year together for a New Year's event. We had fun connecting over finger foods, board games and axe throwing. We had a mobile axe throwing trailer on site which was a lot of fun. One thing about our core group is we like being together and doing life together. Our events last over five hours.

"Meeting in homes is tough during the holidays, but our family was able to spend time with individual families within Epic Life, which was special.

"We're excited for this year. We start with challenges. We don't have a meeting place for our worship gathering. This month we will be in our home. Though our focus is on forming neighborhood Bible studies, we do want to have a public and neutral 'hub' so we're able to have an access point for those who are more comfortable coming to a public setting than coming into a home."



45th Annual March for Life

Abortion survivor and pro-life advocate Gianna Jessen will be the featured speaker for the 45th Annual March for Life, set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, in Little Rock at the State Capitol. The annual march is sponsored by Arkansas Right to Life.

Jessen's live birth was the product of a failed abortion in 1975. Two months premature and weighing just two and a half pounds, she spent her first couple of months in a hospital. Eventually, she entered the foster care system and was adopted.

"On what would have been the 50th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, we march for life!" said Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life. "We march to remember the lives lost and to rededicate ourselves in the ongoing work to protect innocent human life in our state and nation."

The march marks the 50th anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States, as well as the June 24, 2022, Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, returning the abortion issue to the state legislatures. In Arkansas, the ruling ended abortion immediately due to Act 180 of 2019.

The march attracts thousands of Arkansans from across the state, including churches and families, to participate in a peaceful, prayerful and powerful remembrance of the millions of unborn children who have lost their lives to legal abortion. The march will not be canceled due to weather conditions.

"We expect a good turnout of the Arkansas Constitutional officers, members of the Arkansas Congressional delegation and Arkansas General Assembly who are invited to attend," said Mimms.

"As we celebrate the fact that Arkansas is a pro-life state and unborn babies are safe from abortion today, we recognize that the demand for abortion is not over and our work to protect and defend all life is more important than ever to reverse the culture of death in our society," said Mimms. "We still face tremendous opposition as we work to protect the lives of the unborn."

Staging of marchers will be along Capitol Avenue, beginning at State Street. At 2 p.m., the march will proceed down Capitol Avenue — then join together on the steps at the front of the State Capitol for a short program.

Andy Mayberry, president of Arkansas Right to Life, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Other participants include: Paul Roberts, pastor of East Union Baptist Church, Hensley; Daniel Allen of North Little Rock will perform; and the Knights of Columbus will present the Honor Guard.

For more information, contact Mimms at (501) 663-4237 or email communications@artl.org.

— *Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information, visit artl.org.*

REVIEW

(Continued From Page 4)

After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it was originally intended — a video production area. This studio expansion will allow Lifeword four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

• **Goodwin Honored** — On June 19, Calvary Baptist Church in Warren celebrated Rocky Goodwin's 60th year in the ministry. The church presented him with a plaque recognizing him for his many years of faithful service. He has pastored multiple BMA churches, including three in Michigan, two in Arkansas and one in Alabama, and also planted two churches in Michigan, serv-

ing as the state missionary for the Great Lakes Baptist Association. He also served as BMAA missionary in Honduras and, in 1998, became the founder and director of Evangelistic International Ministries, where he currently serves as CEO.

• **Roe v. Wade Overturned** — "On Friday morning, June 24, the people of the United States woke up to a country that no longer held abortion as a federal, constitutional right; and the people of God rejoiced," said BMA of America President, Dr. Clif Johnson. On that same day, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge signed a certification that Act 180 of 2019 prohibiting abortion except to save the life of the mother is in full effect in Arkansas.

(To be continued in next week's issue)