

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. (The first of these were shared in the Jan. 11 issue and the final ones will be shared in the Jan. 25 issue. They are being printed in the order they were received, except that the *Trumpet* always goes last.)

Central Baptist College
By Terry Kimbrow,
President

I am praying for a miracle! That pretty much sums up my prayers, goals and dreams for 2023. It will soon be one year since we experienced the ransomware attack on our network that shut us down for five weeks. God protected us from the hands of evil players and has proven the truth of Scripture that what man meant for evil, God has used to bring about good. The cyberattack we experienced was designed to leave us with "no hope." We, however, know the Author of all hope, and we are leaning on and trusting in Him as we move into the new year.



What the cyberattack did leave

See CBC, Page 8

BMAA Global Missions
By Dr. John David Smith
President

In Exodus 19, Moses and the people of God are camped at the base of Mt. Sinai, a mere three months removed from their miraculous departure from Egyptian captivity. In this ominous setting, God offered one of the greatest missionary mandates in all the Bible. His sequence for informing and inspiring them about their role in His mission is as follows: past blessings, future purpose and present responsibilities. He stated in verse 4 (NKJV), "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." It was, indeed, a miraculous deliverance. The future purpose of Israel is spelled out in the missionary mandate that includes the language "all people" and "all the earth." In the electing of Israel, God had a particular people who would be instruments of His universal mission. Election is never to privilege; it is always to purpose, and more precisely, a missionary purpose! In the present, they were to be priestly and holy (v.6). In order to fulfill our missionary purpose, we have to be priestly in that we connect people to God, and we have to be holy...set apart for our God-given purpose.



The future purpose of Israel as given in Exodus 19 — to make God's name known to the nations — is now the never-ending mission of every Christ-centered church. With this in mind, we turn our attention to the goals and dreams for BMA Global Missions in 2023. BMA Global Missions has always been about church planting. We are church planters! Through the collective efforts of BMA churches through the years,

See MISSIONS, Page 3

Arkansas Youth Department
By Dan Carson,
Director

I have one dream for 2023 and the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department. It is my prayer that we will see at least 10 more of our churches join in supporting the Youth Department and our efforts to assist those seeking to impact the next generation for Jesus. Currently, we have 10-12 out of the 331 churches of the BMA of Arkansas that support our work. We could do many more things if we had the resources. Our energy is currently focused on providing a podcast (studentministrymatters.podbean.com), coaching when requested and an annual retreat for student ministry workers.



I dream of being able to provide new youth workers with great resources and training throughout the year. As our support increases, that dream and others can become reality. Until then, we will keep serving and making the most of generous churches giving to our work.

If you would like to join us in this effort, please reach out to me at info@StudentMinistryMatters.com or (479) 442-4634.

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.

First Baptist Church of Omen, Texas is seeking a pastor. Resumes may be sent to firstbaptistchurchomen@gmail.com or P.O. Box 508, Arp, Texas 75750. If available, please include video or audio clips of your recordings.

Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas is seeking a pastor of youth and missions. Resumes, including references, along with sermon samples, may be sent to dave@keltys.org. For more information and a complete job description, visit keltys.org/youthpastor.

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CO-MISSIONED
A SHARED MISSION - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

CO:MISSIONED in North America — Reaching Those Next Door

By Larry Barker, Regional Director for North America and Vice President of Church Strategy and Training • BMA Global Missions

God is a missionary God and has CO:MISSIONED us to carry out His mission. Everything we do must be motivated by the mission in which we are allowed to have a part. Our job is to mobilize believers, churches, missionaries and church planters to advance God's kingdom. For this mobilization to occur, the Great Commission must be placed and remain in the driver's seat of our hearts and the centerpiece of our churches.

Everything we do as believers, churches and associations must center on planting churches that make disciples. God ordained the church (Eph. 3:10) as His chosen way to accomplish His mission. CO:MISSIONED means we

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2022: A Year in Review

By Diane Spriggs, Editor Emeritus

Editor's Note: This is the second part of this article. The first part can be found in the Jan. 11 issue.

July

• **SOAR 2022** — The SOAR 2022 (July 3-5) theme was 'cALLed.' As you can see, 'ALL' was capitalized, meaning we are all called — called to repent and receive Jesus, called to serve and even called to ministry," said Conferences Manager Nick Jacobsen in the July 13 issue of the *Trumpet*. Bobby Tucker, who started SOAR 32 years ago, was also in attendance. President Terry Kimbrow announced the following winners of \$10,000 scholarships to Central Baptist College: Sady Long and Joshua Ford of Arkansas and Cayce Harper of Oklahoma. SOAR 2023 will be held at the Gaylord Texan on July 3-5.

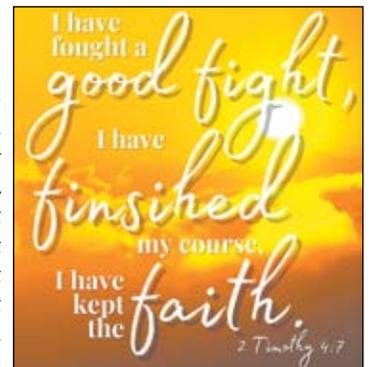
• **New State Missionary** — A new missionary was elected at the July See REVIEW, Page 4

Our Loss, Heaven's Gain

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Editor's Note: This is the second part of this article. The first part can be found in the Jan. 11 issue.

Lena "Marie" Priest, 89 of Batesville, passed away on July 19. She attended Arkansas State College in Jonesboro (now Arkansas State University) and State Teacher's College in Conway (now the University of Central Arkansas). She and Retired BMA Pastor Forrest Priest were married on June 17, 1953 at Little River Baptist Church. Bro. Priest served as a missionary for the Mount Calvary Association and planted and later served as pastor of the Oak Grove Liberty Baptist Church in Tuckerman. Other pastorates include: White Hall in McCrory, Lakeside in Newport, Westside in Osceola, Meadow Lake in Oil Trough and Sardis Road in Mabelvale. He also served for 11 years as an Arkansas state missionary to plant and later pastor Ramsey Heights in Batesville and served as pastor of Hillcrest in Cave City before retiring from



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Terry Kimbrow
President



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Wrestling

• **Bartlesville, Okla., Jan. 10** — CBC was on the mat at Oklahoma Wesleyan University for the Green County Showdown. CBC competed in four matches, losing to Oklahoma Wesleyan 34-12, Wayland Baptist 36-18, University of Saint Mary 52-3 and Bethany 35-6.

• **Conway, Jan. 15** — CBC hosted the 2023 CBC Invitational at AR Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC would see four wrestlers compete in the 11-hour tournament, with **Alejandro Mas** finishing in fourth place in his weight class.

Women's Basketball

• **Columbia, Mo., Jan. 12** — Returning to the road in American Midwest Conference (AMC) play, CBC took on the Stephens Stars inside Silverthorne Arena. The Lady Mustangs (7-7, 2-7 AMC) trailed at the half and lost to Stephens (11-4, 6-3 AMC), 59-36, snapping an eight-game winning streak over the Stars.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 15** — CBC was on the court at the Emerson Performance Center for an AMC game against the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU). CBC (7-8, 2-8 AMC) led by three at halftime but couldn't muster much in the second half and fell 50-48 to HSSU (3-12, 2-8 AMC).

Men's Basketball

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 15** — CBC was at the Emerson Performance Center to take on the HSSU. In a game that featured 7 ties and 13 lead changes, CBC (13-6, 5-3 AMC) led by a point at halftime, but missed an opportunity to complete a second-half comeback, falling 78-77 to HSSU (5-9, 4-4 AMC).

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 16** — For the second time in three weeks a CBC player has earned Athlete of the Week selection from the AMC. **Brevin Brimble** was selected, joining **Braylon Steen**, who earned selection two weeks ago. Brimble earned athlete of the week selection for the first time in his career after averaging 24.5 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game in two games this week, while shooting 58% from the field and 65% from three-point range. On Monday at College of the Ozarks, Brevin posted a season-high 28 points while shooting 53% from the floor and 55% from three-point range, also hitting a season-high with six threes. On Saturday at Harris-Stowe, Brevin scored 21 points on 67% shooting from the field and 83% from three-point range. He also handed out five assists and grabbed five rebounds on Monday and grabbed three rebounds with one assist on Saturday.



Dan Carson
Director

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It's Tour Time at CBC!

Now is a great time to schedule a "personalized" tour of the Central Baptist College campus. In addition to hosting groups from private schools and other organizations, which we love to do, the Office of Admissions is ready to give you a personalized campus tour that promises to be the best you have ever experienced. There are basically two kinds of tours offered through our Office of Admissions:



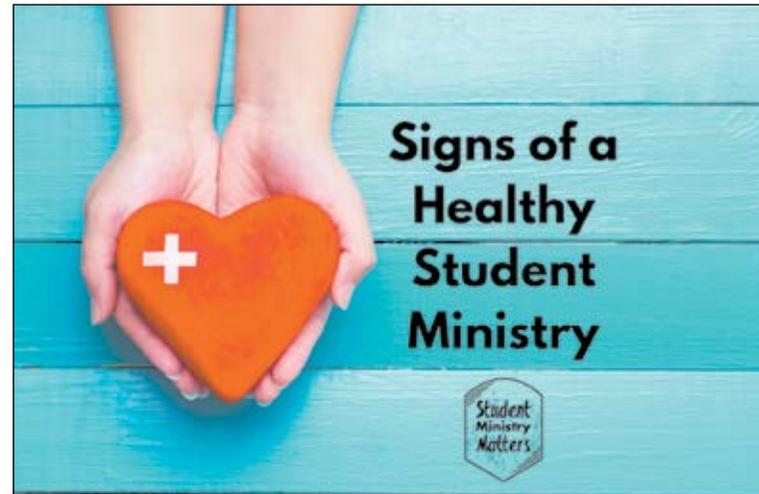
Personalized One-on-One Tour — Even though we call it a "one-on-one" tour, we invite you to bring your family and friends, and let us show you all that CBC has to offer. This is what you can expect on your personalized tour:

- Reserved parking spot with your name on it adjacent to the David T. Watkins Academic Building;
- Personalized agenda designed to answer all the questions you may have about CBC;
- Tour of the campus, including a visit to Mustang Outfitters to shop for your CBC gear;
- Tour of the Cooper Educational Complex, which includes the Judy Gabbard Science Center, several classrooms, departmental offices, Toland Worship Center and the beautiful Burgess Auditorium;
- A scheduled meeting with a faculty member if you have already decided on your major area of study;
- If music is your interest, a scheduled meeting with one of the co-chairs of the Department of Fine Arts or the director of bands;
- Tour our modern and spacious Story Library and Café 52, where you will enjoy a cup of coffee or soft drink of your choice on us;
- Tour of the Watkins Academic Building where many of your classes will be held, and a visit to the Financial Aid Office, Registrar's Office and Business Office;
- Personal visit to the President's Office where you will receive a special gift (I would love to visit with you if I am in the office!);
- Tour of Dickson Hall and the AR Reddin Fieldhouse; and
- A scheduled meeting with an athletic representative if you are looking at one of CBC's 16 NAIA intercollegiate athletic programs.

To register online for a personalized tour, go to cbc.edu/visit. Simply fill out the online form and hit "submit." You will be contacted to confirm your scheduled tour date and time. You will also receive detailed directions to the campus, along with lodging and dining links. Discounts are available for partner motels as listed on the site. For questions, additional information or to schedule a visit by phone, contact the CBC Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873.

Group Tour — It's our honor to host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private) or any other group you may have. We do our best to make any group feel welcome on our campus. Groups will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tour listed above. Prior to the start of the tour, admissions personnel will speak to you as a group to answer your initial questions about the college and provide you with an admissions packet and viewbook. To register for a group tour, contact the Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873. If all admissions personnel are out giving tours, leave a message and you will receive an immediate callback.

Other Tours — If you have a group traveling through to Branson or any other destination that brings you close to Conway, please plan to stop and visit the campus. With Lifeward and BMAA Missions located only blocks from our campus, it would be worth scheduling a trip with Conway as your destination. Contact Director of Public Relations Jessica Faulkner at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8800, and she will make sure we are ready for your visit.



Signs of a Healthy Student Ministry: Church-Integrated

As we finish our series on a healthy student ministry, we want to take a look at one of the most important things that tends to get overlooked. In an effort to reach students and provide an age-related focus, we can often create a student ministry that is separate from the church as a whole. This is often referred to as a "silo" mindset. This approach will lead to ministries fighting for budget dollars and disunity in the church.

Student ministry is ultimately an auxiliary of the church. While the groups are not as popular as in years past, there was an understanding among BMA Baptists that Galileans, GMAs, Sunbeams, Brotherhood and WMAs serve as auxiliaries of the church. They do not stand as separate entities. Our student ministries exist in the same way. They are to support the work of your church as a whole. Your students should not think that involvement in your youth group is enough. That is an incomplete church experience. Your students need to be integrated into the church as a whole.

In Heb. 10:24-25 (ESV), we find a reason to stress this point: *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* Our students need to be stirred up to good works by the body and not just the student ministry worker.

So, how do we help create this culture in our churches and youth groups? It isn't an easy process, especially if this is a major shift. Let's look at three things:

• **Get your people praying for your students.** We have talked about prayer more than once as we have worked our way through this series. Prayer should be our starting point in all we do for the Father, not the last resort. It is the beginning step. Enlist your church body to pray for your students by name. Speak with the prayer warriors in your congregation. Speak to the adult Sunday School classes and give them the names and grade levels of your students. Put their faces in front of your congregation and pray.

• **Get your people to be present in your students' lives.** It is easy to think, "I have done the school program thing. I don't want to go to any more of those, especially if this isn't my child." It means the world to students when people show up to their events. Just think of the impact it will have when a church member shows up just for them. They may not admit that they enjoyed it, but you will be making long-term investments in their lives. They just need to know you are there for them.

• **Get your students to participate in a Youth Sunday.** While it may seem like an old-fashioned idea, students can gain a lot from a day of service within the church. The adults will see and support them, and your students will see that ministry is possible at all sorts of ages. Joel Young at Summers Baptist Church of Summers makes this a regular part of his ministry. Reach out to him at joel.young@summersbaptistchurch.org if you have any questions.

Integration into the church as a whole is an important part of a healthy student ministry. The student ministry cannot simply exist as an outside organization that just happens to be housed at your church building. The mission and vision of the student ministry should align with that of the body. Make sure you are working with your pastor to improve that alignment all throughout the year.



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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40 Days of Unceasing Prayer

In *The Presence Centered Church*, our good friend Bill Elliff quotes his mentor Manley Beasley as saying, “The mark of a godly man and the mark of a godly church is that everything they do is God-initiated.” Bill states, “Everything flows from the presence of the Lord. Everything.” More importantly in John 5:30, Jesus said, “I can do nothing on my own initiative.” Paul instructs us in I Thess. 5:17 to “Pray without ceasing” and in Eph. 6:18 he exhorts us to offer “all prayer” at “all times” with “all perseverance” and to pray for “all the saints.” We know the priority placed on prayer, but is it our priority?

In Luke 6:12, Jesus went off to the mountain to pray... all night! To this Bill said, “I have often wondered about our arrogance about this. If the Son of God needed extended hours with the Father, how do we think we could otherwise and minister effectively?” Pardon me for a minute, while I repent. Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God* states, “It was prayer that set the agenda for Jesus’ ministry. Prayer preceded the miracles... Prayer brought Him encouragement... Prayer enabled Him to go to the cross... Prayer kept Him there... Follow the Savior’s example, and let your time alone with God, in prayer, set the agenda for your life.” And your church!

How is the prayer culture in your church? Most churches have multiple ministries such as worship, preaching, teaching, children and youth, men and women, missions, etc. What about a prayer ministry? And if you do have one, how is that going? Usually, it is off to the side and “peripheral” at best. It is usually quite small or even non-existent in far too many churches. Bill stated, “Prayer is not a side room... it is foundational.” Remember, there are 650 passages on prayer in the Scriptures, including Hannah, Nehemiah, Daniel, Paul, and, of course, Jesus praying for us in John 17.

How do you determine what you will and will not pursue as a church? Is it decided by how you have always

done what you do? Is it decided by what other churches are doing that seems to be “working?” Is it decided by the latest fad, conference or book? Please note that there are many wonderful conferences and books that can help us tremendously. One author and conference leader said, “I observed firsthand how the right tool, at the right time, can change the trajectory of a church leader’s calling.” Jesus said clearly that He only did and said what the Father told Him to do and speak.

The greatest determination of how your church should pursue its unique calling in its unique setting is the Word of God and making sure everything is God-initiated. In Psalm 27:4, there was one thing David desired — to dwell in the Lord’s presence. He was far from perfect, but we are told continually that he asked the Lord what he should do before he did it. Psalm 78:72 says this about David, “He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands.” David was a man who led with character and capabilities, seeking the Lord every step of the way. His objective was to make sure everything was God-initiated.

One tool you might want to consider is Bill’s *Prayer with No Intermission — 40 Days of Unceasing Prayer*. This is a 40-day campaign your church can utilize to return back to the foundation of prayer. This is a wonderful way for your church to recommit to prayer and to provide a way for everyone to get on the same page about hearing from God. The goal is for everyone to dramatically increase their intimacy with God. This intentional well-planned six-week journey includes a printable small group leader guide, along with six videos of Bill Elliff teaching the main truth every week.

There are many ingredients to help every participant get the most out of this experience:

- Read the daily SOAP Bible passage.
- Read the daily chapter in *40 Days with No Intermission*.

- Commit to the “Pray It In” action points at the end of each chapter.
- Join a Connection Group to make the journey together.
- Attend all the worship services that will reinforce the book and the small group time.
- Pray deeply about your prayer life and the prayer life of your church. When God speaks to you, put down the book and pray.
- Expect God to do great and mighty things in your midst as you seek Him and He responds to your prayers.

Make sure the whole church is going through this experience together. You can even have the children memorize the Lord’s prayer during this time as they learn the six crucial parts of prayer — Adoration, Alignment, Access, Assessment, Armor and Acknowledgement. See Bill’s book, *Simply Prayer* for more information on this.

Another thing we have done is created a prayer room, providing a schedule when it is open and times when there is a leader present to lead in intentional prayers for the spiritual and physical needs that are continually with us. There are prayer guides and a whiteboard for prayer requests to be listed.

Oswald Chambers put it this way: “Prayer is not a preparation for work, it **is** work. Prayer is not a preparation for the battle, it **is** the battle. Prayer is two-fold — definite asking and definite waiting to receive.” Bill said, “Unceasing prayer! We talk about prayer, know we should pray, and encourage others to pray, but don’t pray. We fail to understand that the Word of God and prayer are God’s primary means of communion with Him... Apparently, God thinks we need to pray with no intermission.” Consider how you might increase your prayer life and increase the prayer culture in your church and ministry.

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 1)

we have reached a number of just under 2,000 established churches worldwide. Our churches support almost 400 missionaries in 70 countries. Presently, we are actively partnering to help plant over 350 new churches around the world. (That does not include the 2,000 churches mentioned above.)

January and February of each year are filled with all things related to World Missions Day (WMD) on the last Sunday of February. (This year, it is Sunday, Feb. 26.) WMD is an opportunity for our churches to worship a missionary God, be reminded of our role in that mission and commit to intentional action at home and abroad. This year’s theme is CO:MISSIONED. We are CO:MISSIONED in two ways:

- First, we are simply embracing the mission of Jesus to give continuance in the mission He started.
- Second, we lock arms with



Lawmakers hear testimony in support of HCR 1005 declaring Jan. 16, 2023, as Religious Freedom Day in Arkansas.

Recapping the First Week Of the 2023 Legislature

By Jerry Cox, President • Family Council

The Arkansas Legislature wrapped up its first week of the 2023 session in Little Rock. Lawmakers have filed several measures as the session gets underway. Below is a quick look back at the week:

Good Bills Filed

- Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) filed SB 43 prohibiting adult performances — including drag performances — on public property or in view of children.
- Rep. Julie Mayberry (R/Hensley) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R/Mountain View) filed HB 1098 permitting Safe Haven Baby Boxes at volunteer fire stations in Arkansas.
- Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) filed HCR 1005 declaring Jan. 16, 2023, “Religious Freedom Day” in Arkansas.
- Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R/Knoxville) filed HB 1006 (Abortion) that would require an employer that covers abortions or travel expenses related to abortions to also provide 16 weeks of paid maternity leave to employees in Arkansas.
- Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) filed SB 4 (National Security) that restricts access to TikTok on computers, tablets, phones and other devices owned by the State of Arkansas.

Bad Bills Filed

- Rep. David Ray (R/Maumelle) and Sen. Matt McKee (R/Dist. 6) filed HB 1024 (Public Drinking) that would let cities and towns that do not collect advertising and promotion taxes on hotels and restaurants establish entertainment districts where public drinking is legal. This would let communities authorize public drinking in entertainment districts even if the community does not cater toward hospitality and tourism. That has the potential to expand public drinking in Arkansas.
- Act 812 of 2019 lets cities and towns create “entertainment districts” where alcohol can be carried and consumed publicly on streets and sidewalks. Under Act 812, cities and towns cannot establish a public drinking area unless the community collects advertising and promotion taxes on hotels, motels, restaurants and similar businesses. The tax provision helps make sure that communities establish “entertainment districts” in areas where the hospitality and tourism industry is present. HB 1024 eliminates the provision in Arkansas that restricts public drinking to communities that collect advertising and promotion taxes on hotels and restaurants. Under this bill, communities could authorize public drinking in entertainment districts even if the community does not cater toward hospitality and tourism.

Public drinking raises serious concerns about drunk driving and public safety. It hurts neighborhoods and families. Arkansans ought to stay away from anything that would expand public drinking in their communities. (familycouncil.org)

like-minded churches in order to obey and fulfill the mission.

In the overall BMA Global Missions picture, we are always praying that we will continue to see the maturation of the churches and fields around the world. In many of the mission efforts that were started years ago, we are now seeing exponential growth as they have transitioned from receiving missionaries to sending them, from merely participating in the multiplication process to driving it. This past year we have partnered with dozens of new church plants in countries like India, Colombia, Ecuador, Cape Verde, Jordan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Chile and many other places.

We have plans to either initiate ministry or shore up partnerships in 2023 in countries such as Southern Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Guinea Bissau and others.

I am thankful for all our BMA Global Missions team members in the office and around the world. Of course, it begins with all our missionaries and church planters. I am thankful for Larry Barker and John Meriweather in Missions leadership. I am thankful for our regional coordinators who help take care of missionaries, cast vision, train and encourage our missionary families in their respective regions of the world. Our office staff is committed and is an essential part of what we do globally. We are blessed with many great and dedicated leaders. Another goal for the coming year is to continue to develop our leadership structure so we may be as fruitful as possible.

Vice President for Church Strategy and Training Larry Barker offered some bullet points for his goals and dreams for 2023: **See MISSIONS, Page 8**

REVIEW

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14 called meeting of the Arkansas Missionary Committee. Jake & Amanda McCandless and their children, Addison and Andrea “will be starting on the field on Aug. 1, and will be working in the Pea Ridge Community,” said State Missions Executive Director Paul White. “For many years, Retired Missionary Larry Morrison and I have prayed for God to raise up someone with a burden for that area. Thank you, Lord, for answered prayer.”

August

• **CBC Student Discount Approved** — Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow announced in the Aug. 10 *Baptist Trumpet* that “a new student discount has been approved for the Fall 2022 semester of the PACE (Professional Adult College Education) program. CBC is currently celebrating a huge milestone. It’s been almost 70 years since the first day of class on Sept. 15, 1952. To celebrate this anniversary, CBC has announced a first-time, \$1,400 scholarship for new PACE students. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option.”

• **Former BMA Church Burns** — In 2021, Oak Grove Baptist Church in North Little Rock voted to disband after 55 years and donated their facilities to the non-profit arm of Graves Memorial Baptist Church. The new ministry was called “The Grove: A Center for Caring and Community.” In the early morning hours of Aug. 16, the facility burned to the ground, as reported in the Aug. 24 *Trumpet*. However, a new site was located for the ministry, and it will continue.

September

• **CBC Marks 70 Years** — On Sept. 15, 1952, Central Baptist College (CBC) opened its doors for the first time. On Sept. 15, 2022, CBC welcomed over 300 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends for a 70th Anniversary Celebration. The day’s festivities were part of a year-long celebration surrounding the college’s anniversary.

October

• **CBC Cyber Attack** — Although it happened Jan. 27, for security reasons, CBC President Terry Kimbrow was unable to announce a Ransomware Attack on the college until the Oct. 12 issue of the *Trumpet*. Although no ransom was paid, the attack resulted in an unprecedented loss of an estimated \$1 million in revenue since it caused “an abrupt halt for five weeks during the prime student recruiting period for all 2022-23 student recruiting, resulting in a sharp decline in enrollment.”

• **Arkansas Chaplain Promoted** — In the Oct. 19 issue, it was reported that BMA of America Chaplain Jeremy Miller

had been promoted to the rank of colonel within the Arkansas Army National Guard. His promotion makes him the highest-ranking Army chaplain within the Arkansas National Guard and elevates him to the Arkansas Joint Forces Headquarters Chaplain.

November

• **BMA of Arkansas Insert** — The Nov. 2 issue featured a four-page “BMA of Arkansas Insert,” that included “stories of transformation from the ministries of the BMA of Arkansas that go beyond the usual reports that appear in each issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.” BMA of Arkansas Missions, Central Baptist College and Student Ministry Matters (Youth Department) shared stories about transformed lives and the Lord’s blessings on the various ministries.

• **BMA of Arkansas Meets** — The 73rd annual BMA of Arkansas meeting was held Nov. 3-4 at Central Baptist College. The theme, chosen by President Michael Battenfield, was “Healthy Churches, Healthy Association, for the Glory of God” based on Eph. 3:14-21. The final Enrollment Committee report indicated there were 110 messengers enrolled, with 94 churches represented at the meeting (60 by messenger and 34 by letter only) with 15 visitors for a total of 125 registered in attendance. Cain Baptist Church of Mountainburg, a former BMA of Arkansas mission, petitioned for membership in the state association and was welcomed. (The Nov. 9 issue of the *Trumpet* was expanded to 12 pages to give full coverage to the meeting and reports of the various departments.)

• **Thompsons Mark 60 Years** — Jim & Carolyn Thompson were honored for 60 years of active ministry at a special service Nov. 12 at Big Creek Valley Baptist Church in Jonesboro, where they are members. He surrendered to the ministry July 8, 1962, and his pastorates include Pleasant Grove in Annieville, Center Grove in Cord and Center Hill in Jonesboro.

• **Total Access Trumpet** — In the Nov. 16 issue, *Baptist Trumpet* Executive Editor Jeff Herring explained that, although a rate increase was instituted at this year’s state meeting, the paper is “still a bargain” because “one price gives you access to... the printed weekly paper, the digital *e-Trumpet*, the content-filled website and the *Trumpet* archives.”

December

• **CBC Graduate Leads Republican Party of Ark.** — On Dec. 3, Cody Hiland, former United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas. He attended Central Baptist College from 1990 through 1992, before receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from

LOSS

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the pastorate in 1997.

• **Mary Sue (Boone) Johnson**, 69 of Greenbrier passed away on July 18. She was a member of Grace in Bee Branch, where her husband of 50 years, David, was pastor.

• **David G. Johnson**, 70 of Greenbrier, passed away July 29, 11 days after Sue, his wife of 50 years, passed away. David loved the Lord, his family, his church, the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing softball and cheering on the Arkansas Razorbacks. He retired from Arkansas Farm Bureau and was serving as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Bee Branch.

• **Redmond Keisler**, 68 of Sheridan, passed away July 28. His career in television and sound engineering led him to start his own video production company and aided in the spread of the gospel as he traveled to several foreign countries as the videographer for the Baptist Missionary Association. He also spent more than 40 years playing and singing bluegrass music with his brothers, Randy and Rick as The Keisler Brothers, and in recent years as The Redmond Keisler Band. He was passionate about raising funds and donating his time, talent and energy to the church and for the Kids in Bluegrass program to which he provided instruments for kids eager to learn and to help promote bluegrass to a younger generation. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Sheridan.

• **John Henry Allen**, 78 of Bentonville, passed away on Aug. 7. He placed his trust in the Lord at a revival at his church in 1954, at the age of 10. Bro. Allen served as clerk/treasurer for the BMA of the Ozarks for over 40 years, on the board of the BMA Theological Seminary for 10 years, Ministers Resource Services for 10 years and also served many years at his church, First Baptist Church of Cave Springs, in several positions, including deacon, teacher and worship leader. He attended Central Baptist College for two years before transferring to the University of Arkansas, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1966. He was a Certified Public Accountant at his private practice for over 40 years and received several public service awards from the University of Central Arkansas and his Juris Doctorate from the William H. Bowen School of Law in Little Rock.

• **MRS Financial Wellness Class** — The first, quarterly BMAA Financial Education class hosted by Michael Spencer from Ronald Blue Trust, the new financial advising partner for Minister Resource Services, was held Dec. 14 via Zoom Meeting. “Part of this partnership is to provide financial education to our clients,” said MRS Executive Director Dr. Steve Crawley.

Springdale Chamber of Commerce and the Arkansas Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He served as president of the Springdale Lion’s Club and was granted an honorary lifetime membership.

• **Jack Dempsey Bloxom**, 90 of Conway, passed away Aug. 14. After surrendering to the gospel ministry as a high school student, he attended Jacksonville Baptist College, where he met and later married the late Mary Jane (Janie) Strong in 1953. He served as a pastor of churches in both Arkansas and Texas for the majority of six decades, including Central at Conway and Pleasant Valley at Wooster. He also enjoyed years of service with Dale Carnegie, organizing and teaching classes. He later worked for Citizens Fidelity Insurance associated with Roller Funeral Homes, until he retired at the age of 83.

• **Carol Evelyn Porter Shine**, 75 of Jacksonville, Texas passed away on Aug. 14. She was a member of Enterprise Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas where her husband of 58 years, BMA pastor and former BMA Seminary Professor James (Jim) Shine is pastor. Her husband also pastored White Hall, McCrory, Ark. and other churches in Texas, including: Mixon, Troup; College Heights, Nacogdoches; and First, New Summerfield. In 2016, she retired after 30 years of service at the BMA Theological Seminary (BMATS), 15 of those as assistant to President Dr. Charley Holmes. She was also a Sunday School teacher, GMA counselor, Bible study teacher and friend in many churches and communities in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas.

• **Lucille “Ms. E.” Edwards**, 83 of Jacksonville, Texas passed away Aug. 12. She was the widow of the

late Mart Edwards, who pastored churches in Texas, including Travis Street Baptist Church at Jacksonville and his last pastorate, Frankston Baptist Church at Frankston. She was lovingly known as “Ms. E” during her 20+ years of teaching. She was a member of Friendship Baptist Church for many years.

• **Janet Carol Vail Race**, 63 of Fairfield, Texas, passed away on Aug. 18. For 43 years, she was married to Shelby Race, who has served as worship pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfield, Texas for 38 years. She served as an educator for over 33 years until her retirement in 2019.

• **John Larry Goswick**, 72 of Conway passed away Friday, Aug. 19. He was a member of Central Baptist Church in Conway. For 40 years he, along with his late wife, Barbara who served as pianist, served as a worship leader in various churches in Arkansas including: Central, Ashdown; North Hills, Sherwood; Central, Conway; Oak Park, Little Rock; and Springhill, Greenbrier. He also served at Mt. Calvary in Chickasaw, Ala. He was also instrumental in computerizing the mailing list for the *Baptist Trumpet* and donated many hours to assist this ministry with other computer-related projects. John retired as the director of instructional technology at the Pulaski County Special School District in 2009 and pursued a second master’s degree so he could continue to serve his community in the field of Emergency Management. He worked with both the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management and the Arkansas State Police.

• **James Speer**, 78 of Carthage, Texas, passed away Nov. 3. He was
See LOSS, Page 7

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Stan & Donna Scroggins • The Philippines

Filipinos love New Year's Eve. New Year celebrations are a bigger deal than Christmas. There are numerous fascinating customs and superstitions that people adhere to. Filipino traditions are unique, and everyone observes them religiously on New Year's Day. Filipinos are very Animistic in their culture, so a lot of their traditions have evolved from their past animistic practices. Being an Asian Pacific nation causes Filipinos to be heavily influenced by Chinese culture. Here are a few New Year traditions practiced by Filipinos:

- **Round-shaped fruits** — Eating grapes or little round fruits is a Hispanic ritual that dates back to the Spanish colonial era. Twelve round grapes or other round fruits must be on the dining table by midnight. Each individual must eat all 12 grapes, and take a bite out of each of the others.

- **Loud noises** — On the big day, Filipinos aim to be as loud as possible. This practice is based on the notion that people's loud noises will chase away the bad spirits.

- **Wearing polka dots designed clothes** — Wearing polka dots is said to bring good luck. Filipinos believe that round items bring good luck. The more round you have on the more luck you get.

- **Jump as high as you can** — Every kid (even adult) jumps wildly when the clock strikes midnight. Jumping is said to make you grow taller, according to folklore.

- **Sticky Rice** — Filipinos value family, so they do everything they can to strengthen those ties. It is customary to consume sticky rice foods during the New Year, such as bibingka, a savory rice cake and biko, a sweet rice cake. It's meant to bring good fortune as well as bringing you all together — the sticky, glutinous rice makes good luck stick to you all year long.

From Stan — Happy 2023! It has been a busy two weeks since school has been out. In just a few days we will start the Spring Semester of 2023. We've experienced lots of growing pains with the addition of all the Darlene Carey Academy activities on our campus. This month CHED (Philippine College Accreditation Organization) will visit our campus for our second evaluation. Donna and I and all the staff have been working on updating our curriculum syllabi to meet the new standards.

Please pray for our dear friend John Page, former BMAA missionary to Cambodia. John's son, Tre passed away on Dec. 23 from a heart attack. Tre's wife died in 2019 from COVID. They leave behind three young children. John has flown back to Texas to be with his family.



From Donna — What can I say! After 13 years of marriage and four years of adoption hurdles, our daughter Kelsey and her husband Josh welcomed a little precious bundle to our family. Our whole family is over the moon in love with our newest addition — Emmaline Louise Blackman. She was born Nov. 19 and weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. Josh and Kelsey are making great parents and Kelsey facetimes us during the early morning feedings since it is early afternoon here. It is so much fun to watch Emmylou grow and connect with her this way until we get home in April and the first place we land is Columbia, Missouri to get our hands on this gift from God.

When Diane Lee returned to the Philippines back in September, she hurt her back and has been in pain ever since. She is now back in the States undergoing tests to determine what needs to be done. Please add her to your prayer list and Doug while she is away.

Church Visits — Because of flooding, we were not able to attend the Ata Tribe Baptist Church organization and ordination of the new pastor, Joel Francisco. We were also taking apples to around 280 children. (They have never tasted apples.) This is a work of Doug and Diane Lee, who have been working with the Ata tribe for several years.

— Donna: +63 908-894-6724/Stan: +63 908-894-6723. You can also contact us through email and Facebook Messenger: Donna, gojvcrusaders@msn.com/Stan, stanmusical@icloud.com. Stay up to date with the Scroggins and their work in the Philippines by visiting their website and checking out their blog — thescroggins.com. You can also partner with Stan and Donna by giving through your local church or the BMA Missions website.

AJ • Reaching the 10/40 Window

Editor's Note: For security reasons, this missionary's name and ministry location are not being shared.

I hope you all had a great Christmas! Here are a few updates to close out 2022!

Ministry Update — The past couple of months have been a busy, but rewarding time! I was blessed to start off October with a trip to Dallas to help Living Word Arabic Church by putting on a "teen camp" during their annual conference. It was such a great time of fellowship and I hope I'll be able to visit them again soon!

I also had the chance to share my testimony and my ministry plan with several churches and groups over the past couple of months. First, I shared a devotional with the Mississippi WMA, where I also got to fellowship with some amazing missions mentors. Then my mom and I got to go on a trip to Canton, Texas for me to speak at Old Bethel Baptist Church. I also had the chance to share my heart with the Arkansas WMA and Springhill Baptist Church Youth Group.

Speaking to the Springhill youth group was a special experience for me since my youth group played a huge part in my ability to discern my call to missions! It was so exciting for me to be able to introduce Unreached People Groups and how to pray for them.

Family Time — I am soaking up all the time with family I can get before moving to a foreign country in August. Spending time carving pumpkins on Halloween, sightseeing in Nashville, helping cook on Thanksgiving and devotionals on Christmas are just a few things I've been fortunate enough to do over the past few months.

I took my grandma to Nashville to see my favorite, Chris Renzema. We also saw one of her favorites, Dailey and Vincent, at the Grand Ole Opry!

2023 is the year — August 2023 is when I leave for my missions training program! That's just a little under eight months from now! I will continue to raise support over the next several months with a focus on gaining monthly supporters. Monthly supporters will be helpful while I am at missions training, but they will become essential when I move to the long-term field. These supporters will allow me to live and do ministry for a longer period of time. Please be in prayer that God will lead me to these willing churches and individuals that will be my monthly financial "senders."

Prayer Requests & Praises

- For me as I continue to raise

See SPOTLIGHT, Page 8

Mickeal & Sharon Quillman • Zambia

Our First Christmas in Zambia — This Christmas, we are learning about the local traditions in Zambia and sharing some of our favorites with new friends. Our Christmas celebration started Dec. 22 in Chibinga (pronounced chee-bean-ga) village. We started visiting this village about two months ago. Chibinga is about a 2.5-hour drive deep into the bush. We started with Bible studies every Thursday, and the response has been great. We have been raising money to purchase Bibles in the two local languages in Chibinga — Tonga and Lozi — and have been able to purchase about 50 so far. We want the people of Chibinga to be able to study the Word for themselves and not just take a missionary's word for it (II Tim. 2:15). One of the phrases I have used for many years is, "If I can talk you into something, someone else can talk you out of it" (Phil. 2:12).

We planned to eat a Christmas meal with the village and the members of the Bible study. On a typical Thursday, we will have about 50 adults and close to 50 children. In preparing for the meal, we made plans for about 120 children and 100 adults. When we arrived at the village, we could see that it was buzzing with people. We begin Bible study at 2 p.m. every Thursday, but we were getting to the village quite a bit early that day so we could begin cooking food for 300 people to eat after Bible study. The meal would consist of Nshima (pronounced "She-ma" and is a ground corn-based thick porridge), rape (a green leafy vegetable similar to kale), cabbage salad, kapenta (a small, dried fish like a sardine), chicken, rice, beans and popcorn. As we began unloading the truck, we could tell there were a lot more people than usual, especially this early as Zambians are well known for being late. (We like to call it Zambian time.)

As the day progressed, more and more people kept showing up. We recently built a wood structure with a blue tarp as a roof for us to meet under since the rainy season has started. We built the structure to seat about 125 people to make room as our Bible study continues to grow. The week before, I challenged them to begin inviting their friends and family to attend the Bible study with the encouragement, "Everyone can bring at least one person." The members of the Bible study took this challenge to heart! By the time 2 p.m. came around, we had over 300 children and around 250 adults. My mind went immediately to the story of Jesus and the loaves and fishes. Sharon and I, along with a few of the other leaders in our group, met to pray for God to do something miraculous — not just to help us have enough food to eat, but for those who had never heard the saving message of Jesus Christ.

We kicked off our Bible study with several songs, and the children had prepared three songs as a special. Then I had the privilege of sharing the story of Christmas. I started in the book of Genesis and explained the reason why we even need a savior to be born. As we walked through the story of man's disobedience to God's plan and the penalty for that disobedience, the people were intently listening. The whole area was packed with people — 550-600 people crowded in and all around our new structure that was built to hold 125. At the end of the message, I gave a response time for people to make the choice to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for the first time. We spent the next two hours praying with and counseling people for salvation.

I know many people came to receive the free meal they heard we were providing, but they received something more — the gift of eternal life! In the coming weeks, we will have a better count of how many received salvation as we follow up and continue to pour into their lives. Another phrase I like to say is "Salvation is free to receive, instant and eternal, but the relationship with Jesus Christ takes a lifetime." Please continue to pray for Chibinga as many are giving their lives to Christ, as we disciple them and for those who have not yet been saved. For those still wondering about the meal... we began cooking at around 10 a.m. and were still cooking at 8 p.m., but everyone who was there got to eat a meal, and we got to continue the conversation while they were waiting.

We pray you had a wonderful Christmas with church, family and friends.

Prayer Requests — Headman of Chibinga village as he is being disciplined as a new believer, discipleship of all the new believers, salvation of all unbelievers in Chibinga, the gospel to continue into the surrounding villages and our language acquisition classes.

Needs — Bibles in Tonga and Lozi language, shoes for the children in Chibinga, and tires and a new gearbox for our 4x4. (pastorquill@gmail.com)





End Time Views: The Nature of Prophecy

I confessed in my last article that, for most of my Christian life and most of my time in ministry, I had selected my end times views like I would a piece of pizza on a buffet — I went with what sounded best. I doubt I'm alone, and it's something we can't do for our end-time view isn't just a fringe part of our Bible knowledge rather through it we filter many other Scriptures and our Christian walk. For that reason, I wanted to share some of the different available end-time views, a glance over the "pizza buffet" if you will.

There are multiple levels of end-time views. Once you decide on a view from one theological fork in the road, you'll soon have another decision to make. The first fork in the road when it comes to end-time views is over the very nature of prophecy, especially the nature of the Book of Revelation. There are four main views or interpretative methods in modern Christianity regarding how Bible prophecy should be considered. If you've not seen some of these, they may be shocking.

Theological Fork in Road #1: The Nature of Prophecy

The first level of the end-time view selection party or the first interpretative fork in the road is on how one views the nature of Bible prophecy and especially the Book of Revelation.

First, there is the **futuristic approach or view** of the nature of prophecy and especially in Revelation. This view interprets prophetic passages that have yet to be fulfilled as future events that will be fulfilled. Again, if you have not dove into some of these other views, you probably feel like me and ask out loud, "Isn't prophecy synonymous with future events?" Well, for the futurist yes, but not for those that are proponents of these other views.

A second view is that prophecy, and again especially Revelation,

is merely symbolism for deeper spiritual truths. This view is referred to as the **Symbolic or Spiritualized View**. In this view, most or all prophecy is only a symbol for something spiritual. Under this view when a proponent reads about tribulation in Revelation, they likely view it as being only symbolic of the struggles Christian face.

A third view is one called **preterism**. The **Preterist view** interprets the bulk, if not all, of biblical prophecy to having been fulfilled during the first century and especially in 70 A.D. with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Under this view, there are little to no future events in prophecy. For preterists, the key verse is Matt. 24:34, which they understand to say that all the events given in the Olivet Discourse would occur in the lifetime of the disciples.

A fourth view is the **Historicist View**. This view is much like preterism, but rather than viewing all prophecy as having been fulfilled in the first century, proponents of this view place the interpretation at other points in history. One of the hallmarks of this view is that not every historicist proponent arrives at the same events as fulfillments.

So which view is right? I don't doubt that someone from each camp will read this. So, how do you know if your view is correct? If you've never considered these other views and now I've sent you thinking, how will you arrive at the correct view? Again, as you look through that list, it's not an actual pizza buffet for us to select our favorite. The truth must come from the overall thread of the Bible.

With that said, each view would have a list of verses a proponent could espouse to defend that view. Yet not every view can be right. How can we know which is right?

I believe we should look at it as a replay from college or NFL football. We should recognize

Revivals

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

that there is a clear ruling on the field which is the plain reading of Scripture in context — not just the immediate context, but the context of the overall narrative in Scripture. Secondly, history provides a ruling on the field. We have the history of the early church — the first followers of Christ. They held a view. And more importantly, we have the Jewish people in the time of Scripture who had a view. They had a narrative. The disciples expressed that narrative when they asked Jesus about the signs of the end of the age in Matthew 24. Jesus did not condemn their view either as He answered. There is a clear ruling on the field. We must hold to that unless there is ample evidence from Scripture that overturns that "ruling on the field."

Unfortunately, since we often make a selection based on what sounds good to us or what our favorite pastor or author has said, we don't start with the ruling on the field. Let's start with that ruling which has two hurdles — the hermeneutical hurdle (plain reading of Scripture in context) and the historical hurdle (what the original audience believed).

I believe it's important to add that Bible prophecy is addressed in the BMA Doctrinal Statement. In the "binding" part of the statement, a view is not mentioned though it does say, "Our risen Lord will return personally in bodily form to receive His redeemed unto Himself. His return is imminent (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 22:20)." This is a stance that there is a future and real return of Jesus.

The topic is addressed in an "addendum" and has the disclaimer, "The following statements are not to be binding upon the churches already affiliated with this association, or to require adoption by churches petitioning this body for privilege of cooperation, or to be a test of fellowship between brethren or churches. However, they do express the preponderance of opinion among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America." Then there is a statement endorsing "premillennialism," which is a futuristic stance. The starting point for our views doesn't start at the BMA Doctrinal Statement, rather the Doctrinal Statement should be a reflection of what we interpret Scripture to say. I believe this addendum is listed because it is the ruling on the field.

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)

Chaplain Guthrie Awarded Medal

By Dr. Scott Carson, Director • BMAA Chaplaincy

BMA Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Guthrie, a Chaplain and 2003 graduate of the BMA Seminary, was recently awarded "The Order of Martin of Tours" medal, a prestigious U.S. Army Chaplain Corps regimental award during the 2022 Religious Leader Symposium in Southbridge, Mass. Chaplain Guthrie was awarded for "Demonstrating the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence, selflessly serving soldiers and families and contributing to the promotion of the Army Chaplaincy."

"I've learned, from my service in the Army, that the success of individuals is due to the many team members who support them," stated Chaplain Guthrie. "I've been incredibly blessed through the years to have served on so many great teams that were singularly focused on the mission as well as taking care of their people, along with the great support of chaplain assistants who serve with an absolute commitment to the Army. It has been my honor to be able to influence the shaping of the Army to become more receptive to religious freedoms and religious expression among our military service members."

Chaplain Guthrie went on to say, "Chaplains represent two professions, the profession of arms as a military officer and the profession of the clergy. While chaplains minister to the chapel congregants, they also minister to people at their job sites, whether on post or on a patrol in combat. The responsibility of advisement to our commanders regarding religious matters is part of our professional duties, as well as the mentorship of many young chaplains. Lastly, our acumen is tested daily as we navigate the bureaucracy of the largest employer in the world."

Chaplain Guthrie is scheduled to retire from active duty on Nov. 1, 2023, after serving over 36 years in the Army, with the last 20 years as a military chaplain representing the BMA of America. Guthrie noted, "A chaplain's primary job is to nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the fallen. Our day-to-day jobs insert us directly into the lives of soldiers and army civilians who are giving everything they have to ensure the United States stays protected from our enemies." He continued, "As chaplains, we are honored and privileged to be able to serve the best our nation has to honor... our soldiers and their families. We meet people where they live and work when they are at their best or at their worst during life's most important events."

Chaplain Guthrie is now assigned to the United States Army Materiel Command as the command chaplain. This command



(L/R) U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains Major General Solhjem presenting the Order of Martin of Tours award to BMAA Endorsed Chaplain Colonel Kevin Guthrie.

consists of 190,000 soldiers and army civilians who ensure materiel readiness for a globally dominant land force. The Army Materiel Command oversees 10 major subordinate commands across the global Army footprint. These include:

- City management-like services of 73 Army garrisons
- Contracting services for the Army,
- Financial management for the Army,
- Foreign military sales,
- Supply for all soldiers,
- Aviation and missile maintenance and resupply,
- Electronics and communication across the U.S. Armed Forces,
- Bomb and ammunition production and storage for all U.S. Armed Forces,
- Global distribution service over land and by sea implementing more ships than the Navy and
- Production and maintenance of ground combat systems for the U.S. Army.

The Order of Martin of Tours medal Chaplain Guthrie was recently awarded is titled in honor of a soldier's religious experience. Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier who served in the fourth century and was stationed in Gaul, now modern-day France. One winter, he encountered a beggar outside of the city gates and although Martin did not have coins to give him, he cut his wool cape in half and gave it to the beggar. That night in a dream, Jesus appeared to Martin wrapped in the same cloak.

Today, the remaining half of Martin's cape is enshrined for protection in memory of that selfless act. In Latin, the word for cape is "capella" and from it is where the military chaplain derives their title and where we also get the word for our military chapels.



Antioch East, Magnolia added two by baptism and four by letter since last report; Ron Owen, pastor.

Brister, Emerson welcomed two by baptism; Dr. Eric Goble, pastor.

Needs Creek, Greenbrier gained two by letter; Dr. Joel Slayton, pastor.



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Wonderful Time

Sunday, it was good to stand behind the pulpit that I stood behind a few years ago and preached the charge to a newly formed church — Charity at Ward. Keith Lewis and his people are already catching the vision of needing more space. I apologized to Bro. Keith and Charity for referring to them as Charity Heights last week in my article. I must have had a “senior moment” as I had a flashback of Hot Springs.

Groundbreaking

Concrete will be in the ground soon, that is. We finally chose a contractor to do the foundation work in Flippin. I thank Bro. Johnny for running around to get the necessary estimates together.

Update on Your Missionaries

Michael Hight continues to build strong ties across our current Hispanic works. **Clinton Morris** has set the month of June as the time they will organize the Table Mission into a church. **Roberto Marcelletti** continues to have people showing interest in their work and is having their public meetings on Sundays in their mother church’s building. **Ruben Isturiz** is seeing some success in getting back to his pre-COVID numbers. **Bryan Clay** is on the lookout for property below Benton and has begun ministering in a couple of nursing homes in the area. **Juan Carlos Posadas** is continuing to build up Growing in Grace Mission’s work as he is getting closer to organizing also. **Johnny Shew**, as mentioned, is doing well with having first-time visitors on a regular basis. **Jake McCandless** continues to develop Bible study groups and is having to have his worship services now in his house for the lack of an available place. Please pray that God will give us wisdom and direction to secure them a more permanent place.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, (1/8) “We started the year with prayer programs Jan. 4-6. The last day of the meeting was from 7-12 a.m. We had an average of 31 people seeking God in prayer.

During a year-end meeting, we realized only three people from the church are sharing the gospel regularly, so we took advantage of Thursday to train the congregation in sharing the gospel. We hope they were encouraged to do so.

“It is interesting how, at the beginning of the year, we all set ourselves goals to achieve during the year, and I have found the pleasant news that several families and individuals have proposed to study the Word. Let us pray that more will join that initiative and that they will be able to fulfill their wish.

“We are praying for a North American couple God has placed on our hearts to do missions among Hispanics who wish to congregare with us. This would enhance and speed up the process of the congregation to reach all the neighbors, and not just focus on Hispanics. If you have a passion for all ethnicities to be reached, this is a good place to reach your goals and realize your dreams. Let us pray for local cross-cultural

missions, and if it is God’s will, that He will produce in the hearts of this North American couple the desire to congregare and serve with us.

“We have many projects to develop this year for which we would appreciate your prayers: control of vehicular passage through the land by the neighbors, the construction of the playground, the professionalization of sound, remodeling of some spaces and maintenance of physical facilities such as painting and cleaning. In the spiritual area, the implementation of AWANA and continuing the theological formation of church leaders. Thank you for all your prayers and support!”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “It has become a tradition at Ebenezer to start the year with prayer. What I do is visit with each family throughout the month of January. We pray primarily for the man of each family with the commitment that he will pray for his family. This week, I will be praying for other families. We will be praying for the family that arrived from Venezuela in my home since they are currently in another family’s home.

“We continue with the series of sermons that have to do with plans. We are in a time of prayer for God to put His plans in our hearts. In the middle of the prayer, we ask

questions such as, ‘God, what do you want us to do this year? Give us your agenda for us in 2023.’ Help us pray that it will be God’s Spirit leading each member at Ebenezer to be on God’s agenda and plans.”

We are thankful to each of you for your prayer and financial support. Without you, our task would be very difficult. To God be the glory!”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “We had a wonderful time of worship Sunday morning, even though we still have a few out sick.

“After our morning service, we all went to our land, where we hope to begin our building soon, and had a prayer/dedication service. We joined hands in prayer and thanked the Lord for building His church here in Flippin, for saving this land for us and for giving it to us, then we gave it back to Him. We dedicated it to Him and pledged to use it for His glory as a house of prayer, a house of worship to Him, a house of studying and obeying His Word by both being and making disciples and a house where the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached and His light and His love will show forth. I then broke the ground with a shovel, not a golden one or even a new one, but one that had been used for work, just as we are dedicating His land and His house and us as His church to do His work. Oh, what a glorious day we had!

“We thank you for your prayers. Please continue as we need them and He is answering them!”

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, “This week went very well. Everyone that has been sick has recovered. Our online ministry has picked up, and we are looking at training a few more small group leaders for the online portion. We are still honing our practices for our online and recorded services.

“In the next few weeks, these items will be addressed. We are partnering with Samaritan Church to do a Boardgame Event to help drive awareness and build allies within our community. We are also expanding our homeless outreach ministry. We will be doing a five-hour training session Saturday through the Good Soul program. Much work is being done.

“I am looking forward to the Spring. Keep praying for our church and the people we are in-

LOSS

(Continued From Page 4)

a member of First Baptist Church, where he sang in the Churchman Quartet, served in the AWANA program for over 30 years and taught the Adult 3 Sunday School class for 40 years. He received his Associate of Arts degree from Central Baptist College. In 2014, he was honored as CBC’s Distinguished Alumnus of the year, an honor for an individual who has served their community for more than 20 years. He held ministerial positions in youth, music and pastorate in many churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas. He served as the executive director of the Daniels Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas for 36 years. He ended his career working for Carthage Independent School District as the OCS (Occupational Course of Study) program director, again serving the youth of his community.

Cynthia “Cindy” Ann Smith Jones, 60 of Laurel, Miss., passed away Dec. 11. She met her husband of 41 years, BMA Pastor Corbey Jones at Southeastern Baptist College and was the sister of BMA Global Missions President Dr. John David Smith. She loved to play the piano and sing with her family.

teracting with on a daily basis.”

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes “Faith Journey enjoyed another fellowship this week, and boy, was it good! We had several types of soups and sandwiches followed by the best desserts! We are trying to hold a fellowship time once a month to get to know each other better, laugh and enjoy learning about the gospel. You can’t get much better than spending time together and enjoying the Word of God with some good food!

“My wife and I got the joy of visiting with Paul White this week. We were able to visit about how we feel about what is happening at the mission and what our present plans look like, as well as our future plans with finding a location and beginning a building project. We left our time spent with him feeling encouraged and refreshed that we are right where God wants us to be and doing the Lord’s work. We hope everyone has a great week.”

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, “We went to Springdale Tuesday to evangelize, and we were able to share the message with six people — two heard the gospel and the others accepted that we pray for them. We have kept in touch through their phone numbers.

“I was able to meet a person on Wednesday who has just arrived in the Northwest area and was looking for a church. We were able to help and guide him on certain things he does not know about the area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Mini Seminar, Jan. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; BMA Global Missions Center, Conway.

Homecoming, February 17-18; Central Baptist College, Conway
BMA of America, April 25-27; Antioch Baptist Church, Conway.

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

SOAR Student Conference, July 3-5; Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Texas,

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, March. 14; Stoneridge Camp, Smithville.

Jonesboro District WMA, April 4; 5:30-meal, 6:30-meeting; Prospect, Jonesboro.

“We were able to meet Sunday, and although some families could not attend due to health problems, we did have five guests. Each meeting brings new people, and we praise the Lord for each one.

“Then we went to the fellowship lounge and enjoyed beautiful fellowship time accompanied by excellent coffee, donuts and Mexican sweet bread.

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, “This week, we had our monthly worship gathering in our home. It was an amazing experience. While sitting on the couch, where I usually watch a ball game, I was worshiping. There was something special about it. I’ve never heard people sing that loud. We also had three first-time guests join us. God blessed us with some conversations struck up with neighbors around us! It was a night I will always cherish.

“With Epic Life, my heart is to try to line up with the examples of the early church in Acts and the Epistles. One of the glimpses of the early church we get is in I Cor. 14:26 (NIV), “...when you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.” We’ve tried to match this by creating multiple opportunities for everyone to be involved. This week, along with my sharing, we shared testimonies, prayed for one another, read Scripture and others brought brief messages. It was a powerful time.”

NORTH AMERICA (Continued From Page 1)

join God's team on His missionary cause. It is not your church that has a mission to carry out but rather that the mission of God has your church to carry out His mission. Churches plant churches!

CO:MISSIONED means partnering with one another in reaching the people He has placed here in North America. We now have church plants in seven languages — English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Garifuna and French. Yes, we are CO:MISSIONED to go to the ends of the earth, but also to reach those right next door.

Driven by this commission, we are also reaching Hispanic populations in Dallas, Texas (Omar and Anna Pina); St. Louis, Mo. (Juan and Hannah Fernandez); and Vidalia, La. (Angel and Zorismal Colón). With the Great Commission in the driver's seat, we have just approved partnerships with David and Triana Nava in the greater Orlando, Fla., area and Edixon and Belkys Pina in Phoenix, Ariz.

One of the newest partners in our commission is Cherry and Terma Gamboa, who are planting a Garifuna church in the Bronx, NY. They are third-generation disciples from the ministry of David and Shelley Dickson when they were missionaries in Honduras. Elvis and Wendy Garcia are doing a wonderful job in coordinating all our Hispanic works.

Michel and Ruth Poirier are busy working in the French-speaking world of Quebec, Canada, having planted three churches and planning for more with their associates Michael and Josie Barton. They also minister in Haiti and are planning leadership training in several French-speaking countries like Cameroon and Ivory Coast. The potential is unlimited because of the God we serve.

CO:MISSIONED to reach every tribe, people, language and nation includes Jamshad and Anila Hadyat, who are ministering to people from Pakistan who speak Urdu in the greater Atlanta, Ga., area. It also includes Boris Lebedev, who has planted multiple Russian-speaking churches in Florida and now in the greater Atlanta area. The challenges are many, but when we embrace our responsibility in this CO:MISSION partnership with God, every struggle and trial is worth it.

Obedying our commission has enabled us to plant English-speaking churches in the following American cities:

- Oklahoma City, Okla. (Grace Harbor)
- Plano, Ill. (Jacob's Well)
- Southaven, Miss. (Central)
- Cumming, Ga. (StonePoint)
- Pearl River, La. (The Crossing)
- Nixa, Mo. (Refuge)
- Smithville, Mo. (North Lake)

Opportunities For Service

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.

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.

SPOTLIGHT

(Continued From Page 5)
support and reach out to churches and individuals.

- For my health as I continue to prepare for the physical demands of the mission field. Praise God that I have found a great nutritionist, meal prep service and, as of today, a 5:30 a.m. gym partner!

- For my missions training program classmates. Pray for those I will be spending the next year with and those who may become teammates.

If you or your church are interested in supporting me on this journey, please contact me at: arkslp@protonmail.com or (501) 314-9806. Support can be mailed to BMA Missions, PO Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72032 or given online at: bمامissions.org ("Designate my offering" and choose Amanda (AJ))

- Richland, Wash. (The Summit).

There is also a Russian-speaking church in Orlando, Fla. and an Arabic-speaking church in Dallas, Texas.

We presently have planters who have been CO:MISSIONED in Minneapolis, Minn. (Michael and Laura Strong) and Morgan, Utah (Gavin and Haley Roberts). CO:MISSIONED means we are their partners in prayer, encouragement and financial support. We can also provide more direct hands-on help through mission trips, phone calls, emails, cards and building commission relationships!

Presently, we are talking to potential church planters in Wyoming and Canada and believe we will soon have the opportunity to partner with two more Garifuna works. There are several more Hispanic planters who are ready and willing to go if we come alongside them in their calling. Our prayer is that God allows us to fulfill this commission in 12 to 15 languages in the next 5 years!

Churches plant churches, and an association of churches can partner to carry out the Great Commission, then live out and make the CO:MISSION a reality!

Deaths

John "Johnny" Connerley Milum, Jr., 74 of Jonesboro, passed away Jan. 14. He was a member of Cathedral Baptist Church.

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 3)

- To see every BMA church engaged in the process of starting a new church.

- To see every BMA church prayerfully consider the P5 multiplication process to pray, prepare, partner, plant and parent.

- To see a 6% annual increase in new churches!

- To see our churches recommit to why we exist — to seek and to save the lost through the presentation of the gospel.

- To plant new churches where in 50% of the growth is conversion growth (new believers).

- To see all our churches recommit to evangelism and to seek growing our churches by reaching and discipling the lost.

- To see more of our churches commit to training their membership in evangelism, discipleship and multiplication.

At BMA Global Missions, we are always guided by the principles of God's Word. Our mission is 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. Our vision is to see every BMA partner church around the world engaged in the process of starting a church. May God allow us to see many more churches planted in 2023 as the gospel is proclaimed and as believers are discipled and gathered into local churches that will repeat the process until Jesus comes. God bless you and thank you for your partnership with BMA Global Missions!

CBC

(Continued From Page 1)

us is a tremendous, and somewhat overwhelming, financial burden. Our best estimate is that the five-week shutdown, during prime student recruiting season, cost us \$1 million in lost revenue. I have shared the need in church services, associational meetings, local civic groups and with numerous individuals. I also wrote about it, devoting four pages of our 70th Anniversary newsletter to a summary of the event. You can read it at cbc.edu/newsletter.

The theme of our chapel this year, in celebration of our 70th year of operation, is Eph. 3:20, "He is Able." We will not operate from a position of fear because we know, without a doubt, that God is able to do "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Eph. 3:20).

We need your help to meet our 2023 goals. Here are some of my prayers and goals:

- **Financial Position** — I have been very open and transparent in sharing that this is a burden we cannot carry alone! The response from businesses, individuals and churches has been very encouraging. However, my goal is to get us to the point where we do not have to rely on special offerings and urgent appeals for our everyday operations. We have two main sources of revenue — tuition and contributions. Will you join me in making it a priority in your church to send us your students and continue to support your college?

- **Scholarship Gala** — It is imperative that we have a successful Scholarship Gala and meet our goal for the event of \$800,000. We have budgeted for this income to help us continue to be competitive in our scholarship programs. The 4th annual event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, at 6 p.m. at the Conway Expo Center. The black-tie optional event will be a celebration of "Fearless Faith." The proceeds from the event will benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports all institutionally funded scholarships. For more information and updates, go to cbc.edu/events.

- **Increased Alumni Involvement** — Homecoming is scheduled for Feb. 17-18. If you are a CBC alumnus, please consider contacting your friends and plan to attend. We have alumni all over the world who have benefited from the "CBC Experience." We want to challenge them to reconnect with their alma mater. I hear people all the time tell me, "My time at CBC changed my life." It certainly changed my life. We will be looking for new ways to engage those former students.

- **New Baseball Field** — We recruit 80-plus student-athletes to play baseball at CBC — and without a home field, all our baseball games are played at Burns Park in North Little Rock. We simply can't continue to recruit effectively without a home field. In terms of facilities, this is my top priority! This, I truly believe, will only become a reality when God places it on the hearts of specific men and women — that just might be you. He has already led one individual to commit \$500,000 to this project. Will you pray with me about this great need?

I also asked the four members of my Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to share their goals:

**Brooks Walthall,
Vice President**

For Enrollment Management

- **PACE Program:** Increase the number of students served, achieve stability in enrollment and expand our business partnerships and relationships.

- **Traditional students:** Increase overall student enrollment, achieve stability in enrollment and increase interest in ministry degrees and student enrollment in that area. I would also like for us

to expand our relationships with churches, schools and businesses students go to work for after their time at CBC.

- **Outreach:** Develop and foster a relationship with the state and regional chaplaincy in the military to stimulate military enrollments and build communication.

**Chris Mitchell,
Associate Vice President
For Student Services**

- **Athletics** — Introduce student-led devotionals in all athletic programs.

- **Dining services** — Increase the variety of food offerings, including adding an international food bar to accommodate our students from other countries.

- **Student Activities Board** — Start small group mentoring for on-campus and off-campus students.

**Paul Cherry,
Vice President for Finance**

- Attain overall stability in finances.

- See an increase in monthly contributions.

- See an increase in tuition revenue.

**Gary McAllister,
Vice President
For Academic Affairs**

- Seek accreditation for all business programs from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), which is a global business education accrediting body and the first organization to offer accreditation to all levels of collegiate business educational degree programs from associate to doctoral. The ACBSP evaluates aspects of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials and educational support, and it assesses whether or not business programs offer a rigorous educational experience and commitment to continuous quality improvement.

- Strengthen our commitment to military students by partnering with the ROTC and expanding our degree offerings in Military Science.

- Recognize Joyce Garrison, who started the Business Department at Central Baptist College, by naming the department in her honor (This is planned for Homecoming, set for Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.).

Thank You

Your support, financially and in promotion of the college, has been integral in getting CBC to this point, and it is so important to the future of Central Baptist College. It is my great honor to have led this institution for the past 18 years. Your prayers, letters, notes, e-mails, texts, etc. mean so much! I anticipate another year filled with blessings. I am praying and trusting God for miracles that will allow CBC to do **big** things for Him, and I invite you to join me!