

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 and Jan. 18 issues. They are being printed in the order they were received, except that the *Trumpet* always goes last.)

Daniel Springs Camp By Jason Prewitt, Executive Director

Every year, we dream, plan and pray God will use your camp ministry to be not only a location but a resource for churches, church leaders, individuals, families, local, state and national departments of the BMA. We are so blessed to see how God has expanded that dream to be a resource to schools and communities. One of our mantras has been that the camp gates are open to many different opportunities for ministry partnerships and for people to hear about Jesus.

Our dream and prayer each year is that God will use His ministry to impact lives. We are constantly pray-

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Moral Action Agency By Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director

Christian problems in America in the 21st century are many — Humanism, political correctness, atheism, Darwinism, Wokeism, Critical Race Theory (CRT), Black Lives Matter, gay rights, open drug use and on and on. We believe America stands at a moral crossroads, a juncture that will define the future of this country. Christians are openly scorned and ridiculed by the media. When was the last time you saw a believer in Jesus Christ favorably portrayed by the entertainment industry?

Do you recall a single recent occasion when Christian virtues such as abstinence or marital faithfulness were treated respectfully by any major media outlet?

A past cover article of Newsweek featured the image of the Bible, with the headline, "The Religious Case for Gay Marriage." It denied the plain teaching of Scripture that homosexuality is a sin and termed the authoritative truth of the Scripture (and we who adhere to it) as the "worst kind of fundamentalism."

On the judicial front, our courts continue to grow increasingly hostile to any public expression of Christian faith. Public schools, funded with the tax dollars of millions of Christians, make it difficult for Christian students to exercise their freedom of religion while accommodating and openly tolerating the belief system of other religions.

• **We begin with prayer and repentance.** We first examine ourselves and come to the Lord in true humility. *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear"*

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Baptist Trumpet By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

As we begin this new year, there are a number of things Allan and I would like to accomplish to help keep our subscribers informed about all things BMA (local, state, national and internationally), things pertaining to the Christian community as a whole. We also want to inspire them with articles that encourage each of us to live our best life for the glory of God. Here are a few things we look forward to God doing through this ministry in the coming year:

• **New Software Development** — We are in the final stages of the ongoing software project that will be embedded in our new website to manage our circulation information as well as integrate with our accounting software to help streamline and reduce redundant tasks that are part of the system now. Part of the funds for this project were raised during our Special Emphasis last year, but we will need to raise the balance of these funds this year to make sure it is fully covered.

• **Planned Equipment Updates** — While we are not at the "end of our rope" yet, the computers we use to get the *Trumpet* out each week are getting up there in computer years. We don't want to be put in a situation of having to scramble because one of them fails while we are trying to get the paper out. Our plan is to raise the funds needed for this during our upcoming Special Emphasis (March-April). This will also allow us to use all subscription and regular offering funds to cover our regular expenses instead of these types of costs.

• **Increase in Subscribers** — The decrease in the number of subscribers is nothing new. It has been a trend for many years, primarily due to the normal decrease that comes from deaths and changing memberships that haven't been offset by adding new subscribers to church plans or personal subscriptions. Just in the past few weeks, two churches have let us know they want to discontinue

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Come to Conway!

By **Clif Johnson**, President • BMA of America

I am overjoyed to invite all our BMA churches to Antioch Baptist Church in Conway for the 74th Annual BMA National Conference on April 25-27 (Tuesday through Thursday). We are an association of churches who have banded together to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission. We are churches who **go to the world, with the Word, and we go together.**

With that in mind, on Tuesday night, for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of "Go to the Word," and the need to be a strong doctrinal people. On Wednesday afternoon, David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist Church in New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of "Go to the World" — our commission as churches. That evening will be a special night where Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of "Go Together," emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association. These three biblical commands will guide our worship services throughout the week, along with breakout sessions addressing real-world problems and the Bible's guidance and answers to them, such as mental health in our membership, addressing sexual abuse within the church and leadership in the church.

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BMA Meeting to Feature A "Conference Atmosphere"

The BMA National Meeting (April 25-27 in Conway) will look different this year with much more of a "conference" atmosphere. BMA President Clif Johnson says he is expecting a great response from BMA churches across the country, adding, "The format for the meeting is completely new this year. There will be plenty of time for us to take care of the appropriate business at hand, but more importantly, we will be worshiping our God and hearing from wonderful speakers. In addition, all our American missionaries from around the world will be home! It's going to be a great couple of days!"

Special Hotel Rates Offered

A limited number of hotel rooms have been acquired at a special rate that will expire on March 25. You will find booking links at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting or you may call the hotels listed below and ask for the special rate under the group name "BMA National Meeting:"

- **Holiday Inn Express** — (501) 205-1315; \$94
- **Hampton Inn by Hilton** — (501) 327-0200; \$104
- **Courtyard Marriott** — (501) 358-3300; \$114
- **Hilton Garden Inn** — (501) 329-1444; \$119
- **Home2 Suites by Hilton** — (501) 504-2602; \$124

Dinner on the Ground Reminder

This year, the meeting will feature a night of fellowship, food, inspiration and worship at the first-ever BMA "Dinner on the Ground." The event will be Wednesday night, April 26 at the Conway Expo Center.

According to Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMA Global Missions, this promises to be the highlight of the 2023 National Meeting. "For the first time in many years, all our American-based missionaries will

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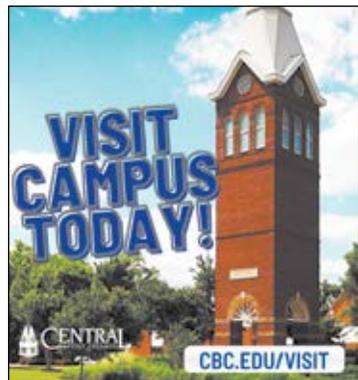


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It's a Great Season To Check Out CBC

Spring is one of the best times to check out and join the CBC family! Stampede Preview Day is fast approaching on March 8. All high school seniors, juniors and sophomores are invited to attend. While on campus, students will get to hang out with our faculty and students, take a campus tour, try out our delicious campus cuisine and experience chapel hour. It's all the best things about CBC in one day. Students and their guests can register at cbc.edu/visit.



Are you a youth pastor or high school counselor who is interested in bringing a group of students to Stampede Preview Day or on a tour? We'd love to host your group! Email us at admissions@cbc.edu so we can create a one-of-a-kind experience for your students.

Scholarships

For new students joining us in the fall, CBC is offering a generous full-tuition scholarship in the Leadership Scholars program. Awarded to outstanding incoming freshman, the Leadership Scholar award is given to a select number of students who exhibit a combination of academic and personal leadership qualities. Interested students can find more information about this scholarship by contacting the Admissions Office (admissions@cbc.edu) or by visiting the Financial Aid and Scholarships page. You can access the application directly by visiting cbc.edu/leadershipscholar and clicking on the "Application" button at the top of the page.

Speaking of scholarships, financial aid packages are being made daily at CBC. If you are thinking of attending in the fall semester, it's time to send us your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Once our Financial Aid office receives your FAFSA, we will be able to build a customized scholarship offer just for you. Our FAFSA code is 001093. Have questions about scholarships? Email us at financialaid@cbc.edu.

Dreaming of a Degree

Have you always dreamed of a college degree? You can do this — It's your time! The CBC PACE program is designed for busy adults. Classes are only five weeks long and meet one night per week. The deadline for PACE Block 2 Registration is Monday, Feb. 6. Registration is ongoing — there's always a class starting just around the corner. Register today!



Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 17** — Finishing the non-American Midwest Conference (AMC) portion of their schedule, CBC took on the Panthers of Philander Smith College (PSC) at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (13-7) trailed 37-29 at halftime and lost to PSC (13-2) 73-51.

• **Conway, Jan. 19** — Opening the second half of AMC play inside AR Reddin Fieldhouse, CBC took on the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP) in St. Louis. CBC (13-8, 6-3 AMC) trailed by four five and half minutes in, but recovered and scored 53 second-half points to

cruise to a 92-69 win over UHSP (5-14, 3-6 AMC).

Women's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 19** — Opening the second half of AMC play at home, CBC took on the Eutectics of UHSP in St. Louis. CBC (7-9, 2-9 AMC) trailed by 14 at halftime and fell 81-63 to UHSP (13-5, 9-2 AMC).

• **Conway, Jan. 21** — Looking to snap a five-game losing streak in the AMC, CBC hosted the Comets of Cottey College at AR Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (7-10, 2-10 AMC) overcame a four-point halftime deficit to beat Cottey (8-11, 4-8 AMC) 54-49.

Track & Field

• **Pittsburg, Kan., Jan. 21** — Competing for the first time in two

Deaths

Linda Ann Parker, 71 of Waldo, passed away Jan. 20. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Magnolia.

Margaret Nell Wynn, 90 of Emerson, passed away Jan. 17. She was a member of Antioch East Baptist Church in Magnolia.

Baalyis Carrol Herring, 87 of Quitman, passed away on Jan. 11. He was a member of New Home Baptist Church, the twin brother of the late William Harrel Herring and the uncle of BMA Pastor John Herring and Trumpet Executive Editor Jeff Herring.

Elizabeth Danielle Watkins, 25 of Conway, passed away Jan. 10. She was a member of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Wooster.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.

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.

Revivals

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

Lemonwood, White Hall, Feb. 24-26; Neal Clark, evangelist; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

weeks, CBC was back on course at the NAIA/Juco Invitational, hosted by Pittsburg State University. Four athletes, **Ally Swaim**, **Ashleigh Gross-Mitchell**, **Josh Brown** and **Jadon Price** competed for CBC. Swaim won for the first time this season, cruising to a 9.33 in the 60-meter hurdles and winning by a tenth and a half. Gross-Mitchell competed in both the 60-meter dash and the long jump, where she recorded a time of 8.88 in the 60 and a 4.32-meter jump in the long jump. Brown competed in both the 60-meter dash and the hurdles, posting times of 7.75 and 9.03. Price competed in the long jump and posted a mark of 5.32 meters.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 23** — The AMC announced their athletes of the week and a CBC track athlete was among the selections. **Ally Swaim** earned athlete of the week once again for the third time in her career. Swaim won the 60-meter hurdles at the NAIA/Juco Invitational with a time of 9.33 seconds. She finished .17 seconds ahead of second in a field that included runners from several conference schools.

CAMP

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ing and working toward that plan by increasing the ministry footprint, increasing our strength financially and enlarging our capacity to be a bigger and better resource partner, so that the salvation message of Christ is shared. In focusing on those three things, we are working on daily plans that lead up to long-term God size dreams by:

• **Increasing the ministry footprint** — Increasing our contact base and meeting with all age groups to offer our facilities as a resource. Also work on increasing our team of volunteers, short-term and seasonal employees for summer and weekend events, weekly volunteer and adding part-time and full-time staff members that have a heart and love for ministry that allows us to love on people of all ages. We have a great base of living billboards that share their heart about the ministry and how the camp is a resource.

• **Increasing our strength financially** — Our financial health has been blessed over the years, and we want to continue to get stronger to allow for facility improvement and ministry growth. We have 54 acres of amazing opportunities to improve and grow opportunities for relationships and conversations to take place. Making improvements is a challenge, but the dream is to continue to work to make the beautiful facility we have into a place that will continue to draw individuals and groups for many years to come.

• **Increase our ability to be a resource** — We have also had the opportunity to creatively travel and assist other ministries at different locations. It has been amazing for our summer missionary staff to not only get excited about the opportunities to be on mission on our home campus but be excited to go to other locations. We have been blessed to help churches with a few of their own events and have built a great relationship with some of our West Texas Churches in assisting them with their camp in West Texas. We want to continue to find creative ways to partner with our churches to share the message of Christ's love and salvation.

We are so excited, and a little overwhelmed sometimes, by the opportunities. We can think of the many things we want, but we know God is at work and has a plan that far exceeds ours. He has the ways, the means and the plan, and we pray to continue to be a part of all He is doing.



MAC

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from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14). "We are God's people, and since He is holy, we are to be holy as well," said Franklin Graham.

• **We must respectfully engage those in our circles of influence with the truth of the gospel.** "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (I Peter 3:15-16). Christians should never resort to the divisive, hostile behavior often employed by those who demean our faith. We speak the truth in love.

• **While respectful, we nevertheless must be bold in our faith.** This is not the time to be ashamed of our faith, but to boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord. That's why, with every opportunity we are given, we clearly articulate the gospel message. I will never shrink back from proclaiming Jesus Christ as the only Name by which men can be saved (Acts 4:12) by those who are courageously standing up for their faith in Christ in their neighborhoods, in their schools and in the halls of political power. I believe the Bible stories of bold men and women will challenge and inspire us to take a strong stand for Christ in our world.

With God's help, we can make a difference. We must make a difference!

Annual Calendar Prayer Needs

As we seek the mind of God, please pray for these many contacts. Face-to-face contacts are the best way to influence our congressmen and senators. Please help us with prayers and financial support. We truly need your help.

Mrs. Adams and I count it a great honor to represent the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Below is our schedule for 2023-2024:

• **January** — Sanctity of Life Month and God and Country Rally

• **April** — BMA of America, Conway

• **May 4** — National Day of Prayer

• **June 12-17** — First Trip to Washington, D.C.

• **June 25-July 2** — Annual Moral Action offerings across BMA

• **July-August** — Three God & Country Rallies

• **Sept. 10** — Honor our Grandparents Sunday

• **Sept. 25-27** — Second Trip to Washington, D.C. and Value Voters Summit

• **November** — National Senior Adult Time and (Nov. 7) U.S. Election Day/Vote Your Bible Values

• **February 2024** — National Prayer Breakfast, D.C. (invitation accepted).



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS
 P.O. Box 878 • Conway, Ark. 72033-0878
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 LARRY BARKER, Director of Operations North America
 BMA of America Missions Department
 healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



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 bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to resumes@calvarybaptistarlington.org or Pastor Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 2021 S. Davis, Arlington, Texas 76010 or Jay Juarez at (214) 762-9807.

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.

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

Reports from the Churches



Fellowship, Walnut Ridge added two by letter; John Durham, pastor.

Herman, Bono welcomed one by baptism and one by letter since last report; Randy Stimach, pastor.

Landmark, England reports three new members; David Inzer, pastor.

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

Victory, Gentry witnessed one by baptism; Bill Sheffield, pastor.

West Race, Searcy gained one by letter; Chad Brandon, pastor.

(HCSB) states, *"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth."* He is not a maverick who guides people independently of the Father and the Son. His guidance will never contradict what the Father and Son say in the Scriptures.

One great habit to start immediately would be to ask someone to be your prayer partner. Ask God to place just the right person on your heart, then ask them to make it their habit to meet with you at a specific time to pray for one another. Another great habit would be to connect with three or four others to study the Scriptures together, pray for one another, then hold one another accountable for what each of you says you are going to do. Neil Cole described this discipleship tool as Life Transformation Groups, made up of two or three people, all of the same gender, who meet for personal accountability for their spiritual growth and development.

Habits determine who you are, and the habit of deepening your prayer life and the prayer lives of others is a game-changer. Bill Elliff challenged us to, "Determine before God in prayer to make this a year of great advance in your prayer life." And it all begins with dailyness.

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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How to Close Your Church's Door

I was just thinking about how Satan hates the Lord's churches. That is not a news flash; it is a truth we've known for centuries. The devil wants to close down churches in every community across the nation and around the globe. And now, in this era, he is getting lots of help accomplishing his goal.

The awful truth is that churches have become their own enemy. I don't want to be a prophet of doom and gloom, but a harbinger crying out a warning. Churches are, in fact, dying instead of thriving... and that is not the world's fault. Here are a few thoughts on how the close your church's doors:

- **Favor what is convenient.** In 2023, we are a people focused on convenience. We seemingly cannot do anything if it requires effort or sacrifice. Have you noticed how many churches have ceased having Sunday School or evening services? Is it because those are no longer good? No! It's because they have become inconvenient. For decades, Sunday School was the number one means of outreach and evangelism in churches. It was the prime means of discipleship. But, little by little, we are seeing that it is no longer of importance.

- **Fail to make worship the priority.** I know this will ruffle feathers, but performance is not a substitute for worship. Too many churches today focus on making the service look like show places in order to make attendees comfortable, excited and entertained — to the neglect of putting worship of the Almighty a priority. Worship services are not supposed to excite the saved but to exalt the Savior.

- **Forsake meeting for worship.** One of the things that has set churches back has been the COVID pandemic. People got comfortable with the convenience of watching church services via live stream, and many members have failed to return to attending the services in person.

There is good reason the writer of Hebrews was inspired to write: *"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near"* (Heb. 10:25 BSB).

- **Forget the Lord's Commission.** Worship at your church is essential. It is there that the concerns and fears of the world can be overridden by the reminder that God is always in control. There is just something special when the church comes together to sing, pray, give and hear the Word of the Lord.

When believers fail to do those things together, it is easy to forget our Lord's Commission and the churches' purpose in this world. *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* (Matt. 28:19-20 NIV).

- **Falter in praying for your church and pastor.** Every member of your church has a responsibility to pray that the church remains alive and vigilant in your community. Prayer is one of the greatest privileges we possess as believers. When we falter in prayer, it opens opportunities for Satan to tempt and draw weaker ones away.

I am in my 59th year of ministry. I have seen the days when churches were alive and growing. I have seen towns positively affected because revival broke out in churches. Sadly, today I have seen many of those churches diminish and some have disappeared. Churches in the BMA of Arkansas that once were bursting at the seams with attendance are hanging on today by a thread... just trying to exist. It breaks my heart!

I have not written this to criticize, but to challenge. May God be with our pastors. May the Holy Spirit encourage them. And may the churches pray for them to have boldness and to preach in the power of the Spirit.

May we see revival in our towns because there has been revival in our churches. May see open doors instead of closed doors.

Godly men and women choose to develop the habits that produce godliness in their lives.

Habits Determine Who You Are

Recently I was listening to the Making Disciples with Robby Gallaty podcast. It was the March 27, 2022 episode "Keeping the Fire Burning." He stated that, "The habits you do on a daily basis create the person you are." II Corinthians 4:16 (NIV) says, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are being renewed day by day."* President of BMAA Global Missions Dr. John David Smith defines one of those daily habits, solitude, as "An intentional turning away from the demands of life in order to run to God for the refreshing of our souls!" In *Atomic Habits*, James Clear says, "Your habits shape your identity, and your identity shapes your habits."

Is your soul being refreshed daily? Are you being renewed daily? If our identity shapes our habits, then what does that mean as followers of Christ? Robby Gallaty put it this way, "In order to see godliness, there has to be dailyness." Daniel's custom (habit) was to pray three times a day. One consistent habit of Jesus is found in Mark 1:35 (HCSB): *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there!"* The key takeaway from James Clear's statement is to "choose the small, regular actions that will help create the habits to get you there."

Do you desire intimacy with Christ? Do you long to create a sacred place with Him? If so, you will have to build the habit into your life of a specific place and a specific time to meet with Him. Schedule a regular divine appointment with God and make it a habit. You must schedule it daily and make it a habit of "dailyness." Robby Gallaty said that "dailyness is where the sacred meets the routine." You cannot afford to forget that you will become the sum total of your habits, whether good or bad. That is why the Word of God tells us to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17) and to study to show ourselves approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15).

Another one of James Clear's wisdom nuggets is, "Every action you take is a vote for the person you wish to become." That causes us to

consider the challenge of not being conformed to this world but being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom. 12:2). Clear forces us to examine our actual actions and habits, not our "best intentions." I have never met a Christian who said, "Please help me out because I just pray way too much." Jesus' example in the area of prayer is seen again in Luke 6:12 (HCSB), *"During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God!"*

Consider some small changes you could make right now that will add up over time. As has been said by many, "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten." Robby Gallaty stated, "If you want to change your future you must change your present and you change your present by changing your habits." The challenge is not only developing the right habits but improving the right habits you already have. How could you improve your quiet time with the Lord? What could you do to make your spiritual disciplines come alive and cause your spiritual flame to burn even brighter?

Bill Elliff shared this about prayer in *Prayer With No Intermission*: "Our problem is not that God won't answer, but that we won't stay long enough in the Throne Room to let His heart mold us to His will." Maybe we need to improve our prayer habits by being silent a little longer, still a little longer and in solitude a little longer to properly discern and hear His voice. It is far too easy to fall in love with what you do for Christ more than in love with Christ. That is why we must intentionally, daily, create an environment of dailyness where we can encounter the living God. Psalm 63:1 (NKJV) says, *"... O God, thou art my God. Early will I seek thee..."*

Bill Elliff makes the pursuit of God's presence the main purpose of our prayer life: "We fail to understand that the Word of God and prayer are God's primary means of communion with Him!" He continued, "God is talking all the time! He is not silent, but there are few who get quiet enough to hear Him... There are few who listen!" John 16:13



Little Rock Family Planning Services was the last surgical abortion facility to close in Arkansas. The facility shut down following the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Decision*.

Important Bill Introduced in Legislature

By Russell Threet, Pastor • West Park, Ozark

The churches, pastors and members of our association are nearly universal in our belief that abortion is murder and a sin before God according to the Bible. With this article, I want to put out a call for Christians to practice what we preach in the way we view abortion legislation. As I write this, the Arkansas legislature has convened its legislative session. You need to be aware that there is a bill that has been filed in this session that, if passed, would provide equal protection for the unborn in Arkansas. This bill is identified as House Bill (HB)1174.

Many may be laboring under the belief that abortion is illegal in Arkansas. That is not true. There are still babies being murdered regularly in our state under the cover of law. The use of abortion pills has increased exponentially in the last couple of years, and this practice is on a trajectory that will likely account for more abortions in Arkansas than we were seeing in the pre-Dobbs decision era. The federal government is also working to expand access to these drugs and allow them to be prescribed to end pregnancies well beyond the 10-11-week mark, which is their current maximum window of prescribed use.

That is one of many reasons that HB1174 is needed. It will seek to provide equal protection under Arkansas law for all persons, born and unborn. It says, in part "All provisions of the Arkansas Criminal Code apply to a prosecution for the death of an unborn child that would apply to a prosecution

for the death of any other person, including applicable presumptions, defenses, justifications, laws of parties, immunities and clemencies."

For decades we have proclaimed in the pulpit and in politics that abortion is murder, but we have failed to practice what we preach. There is no state in our nation where an unborn child has the same protection under the law as you or me. HB1174 would provide that equal protection. There will be much opposition to this type of legislation from unexpected places, but my prayer is that we try to assess this issue biblically. If abortion is murder (and it is), we have the responsibility to protect the most innocent among us and "deliver those who are drawn toward death and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter" (Prov. 24:11 NKJV). Join us in this effort by doing the following:

- Contacting your legislators (visit arkansashouse.org/learn/district-map to find your representative and senate.arkansas.gov/senators/senator-search to find your senator) and let them know you support HB1174 and want them to support it in any way possible.

- Inform others in your circles of influence so they can also get involved in promoting HB1174.

Let's practice what we preach! Feel free to contact me at brorussellthreet@gmail.com if I can help in any way. I would be glad to talk to pastors, churches or other groups about the bill and how they can get involved.

2023 Legislative Session Update

By Jerry Cox, President • Family Council

A lot happened during the second week of the Arkansas Legislature. Here's a quick look back at the past few days:

Good Bills Filed So Far

- Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R/Jonesboro) filed HB1156 addressing privacy in public school locker rooms, showers, restrooms, changing areas and similar facilities by requiring public schools to designate these facilities for "male" or "female" use.

- Rep. DeAnn Vaught (R/Horatio) and Sen. Kim Hammer (R/Benton) filed HB1148 providing an income tax credit for purchasing certain baby supplies.

- Sen. Tyler Dees (R/Siloam Springs) filed SB66 requiring pornographic websites to implement an age verification process to protect children from pornography.

- The House Judiciary Committee unanimously passed HB1098 by Rep. Julie Mayberry (R/Hensley) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R/Mountain View) that makes it possible for volunteer fire departments to install pro-life "babyboxes" at their stations.

- The Senate City, County and Local Affairs Committee passed SB43 by Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) clarifying that drag shows are a form of adult performance under Arkansas law,

Proposed Bill Would Allow Prosecution of Women for Abortions

By Jerry Cox, President • Family Council

On Jan. 19, Rep. Richard Womack (R/Arkadelphia) and Sen. Matt McKee (R/Pearcy) filed HB 1174. The bill would change Arkansas' law concerning fetal homicide. It also would amend the state's wrongful death law that governs lawsuits people can file when an unborn child is killed. Current law exempts a woman from prosecution or other legal action when her unborn baby is killed. This prevents a woman from being prosecuted or sued for the death of her unborn child — even if the child's death is caused by an abortion.

HB 1174 would amend Arkansas' law in such a way that a woman could be prosecuted for having an abortion, and she could be sued if her unborn child dies. The bill contains exceptions for "accidental miscarriage," and for certain types of medical procedures necessary to save the life of the woman. It is unclear at this time how a court might interpret these exceptions in light of Arkansas' other laws concerning abortion.

As Family Council has said before, our laws should not punish a woman who has an illegal abortion.

and that adult performances/including drag performances/cannot take place on public property or where children can see them.

- SB4 (National Security) — This bill by Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) restricts access to TikTok on computers, tablets, phones and other devices owned by the State of Arkansas.

Bad Bills Filed So Far

- The Arkansas House of Representatives passed HB1024 (Public Drinking) that could expand public drinking in "entertainment districts" across Arkansas. This bill by Rep. David Ray (R/Maumelle) and Sen. Matt McKee (R/Dist. 6) 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. HB1024 now goes to the Arkansas Senate for consideration.

woman who may have been forced to have an abortion against her will.

- **How will our state prosecute illegal abortionists if the women face prosecution too?** Now that abortion is prohibited in Arkansas, our authorities need to be able to prosecute abortionists who violate the law. In order to do that, they may need testimony from women who have gone to those abortionists for illegal abortion procedures. Will women come forward to testify against abortionists in court if they know that they can also be prosecuted? In the long run, prosecuting women as well as abortionists may make it harder to hold abortionists accountable for breaking the law.

- **We don't have to prosecute women to prevent abortion.** Since last June, Arkansas has been able to prohibit abortion and shut down abortion facilities without punishing a single woman. Under our existing pro-life laws, the State of Arkansas can prosecute abortionists and close their abortion facilities. We don't have to prosecute women in order to prevent abortion in Arkansas.

We appreciate Rep. Womack and Sen. McKee. The Arkansas Legislature is very likely the most pro-life legislature in the nation. After all, Arkansas has been ranked the most pro-life state in America for several years now. We applaud the pro-life spirit demonstrated by our good friends Rep. Womack and Sen. McKee. Their introduction of this bill proves that they care deeply about this issue, and we are grateful for that. Sometimes friends simply agree to disagree on certain policies. We are looking forward to working with both of these great lawmakers on many more good laws during this legislative session.

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Brandon & Brittney Lingle • Thailand

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! Is anyone else still singing Christmas songs? It was truly a joy to celebrate Christmas with family and our church here in Thailand. The most wonderful time of the year always goes by too fast.

Before we share some things going on here in Thailand, we just want to thank you for your faithful support in 2022. It really amazes me how many of you have partnered with us from the beginning (almost 10 years) until now. We are so thankful to God for you.

• Our Moms Came to Thailand

— Meme and Nana came to Thailand! This was my mom's first time coming (and she said last time after that long flight). Brittney's mom has been a few times now, so she helped them navigate the journey around the world. The kids were so happy to have them to play with and show them around. They survived the humidity (yes, it's hot here in December), the strange foods, no Dr. Pepper and the blank stares they got when talking to people in English. We were proud of them and glad they came to visit us.

• **Pastor's Conference** — Dec. 10-12 we hosted our first Pastors Conference at North Bangkok Church. We had about 30 men attend that are pastors or interested in preaching. Jo did a great job in teaching them about expository preaching and the importance of the preacher's life. We enjoyed being with those men and learning about their ministries around Thailand. Jo and I are talking about when and where we can host the next one.

At the end of the conference, we met with the men for an hour to get feedback since this was our first one to host. They also shared with us what they learned and took away from the days we spent together:

- "I learned the importance of not neglecting family."
- "Not everyone should preach or is qualified."
- "Want to improve my preaching, my outlines and living a holy life."
- "The thing I got out of this training the most is God's Word is the most interesting and best thing to serve my people."
- "I've never preached but this has given me confidence to do it someday."
- "Heart full and excited to emphasize God's Word in preaching."
- "Now I understand what expository preaching is."
- "Importance of passion in preaching."

• **Rot** — One of the men at the Pastors Conference was our intern, Rot (pronounced like "wrote"). He has been learning a lot and growing and it's been a joy to watch. After the conference, he felt more ready and confident, so he preached his first sermon. We plan to go visit him in his village next month (about a 4-hour drive). He is still praying about possibly starting a church there. Pray with us for him. Thank you for supporting us so we can serve him.



• **Meet Jay** — He is a member of North Bangkok Church who has been considering the possibility of moving to his wife's village to start a church in the future. He is praying about starting an internship/apprenticeship with us as well. Would you pray for him? He is thinking about starting in a month or two but is not sure yet. Jay often helps lead worship at North Bangkok and has been a faithful brother and friend for several years now. It would be a joy to study with him and serve alongside him.



• **Homeschooling** — I am so thankful Brittney is teaching our precious kiddos. We are also thankful for a helper that is teaching them Thai. I am proud of their hard work and not grumbling too much. Brittney and I often talk amongst ourselves and to the kids about how neat an opportunity they have to grow up here. Who knows what the Lord has planned for them.

• **Pray** — Pray for Brittney and me (Not a day goes by that we don't think about baby Judah and miss him. Christmas was especially hard, but because of Christmas, we will see Him again.), pray for future Pastor Conferences and projects coming up and pray for Rot and Jay.

• **Praise** — Praise God that our moms got to come and spend time with us and for the ministry opportunities we have and for your support. (brandon.thaimissions@gmail.com)



Michael & Laura Beth Strong • Minneapolis, Minn.



December was a busy, heavy, fun and blessed month. It was busy because school was finishing up while holiday parties and special worship services and studies were taking place. It was heavy because Laura and I were going through the first Christmas since the loss of her biological father and my mom. It was fun because God allowed us to spend time celebrating the birth of Jesus with our church family and He opened the door to get away and rest for a few days. It was blessed because we got to pause and think on the first and second comings of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A lot has taken place since the last newsletter. God has opened up new relationships with other local ministries, including a church that has brought encouragement and support. We are currently at the end of the process of meeting with the church and its partner ministries to talk through the opportunity of the church allowing us to use the church building. I attended the last meeting and shared our vision with the group. We are praying and waiting on a decision from all involved. They were very gracious in allowing us to use the building for three weeks in December. We had no way to meet at our normal facility and didn't have the funds to rent other options. This was an answer to prayers.

We also had the opportunity to hold our first business meeting. We voted on four policies, including two that involved caring for children. I got to see how much our people cared for protecting children and serving families. These were the most debated items on our agenda, and we ended up unanimously agreeing on the amended policies. We are looking for ministers to oversee and serve in children's ministry and nursery. I am raising funds now to pay for temporary help until we establish volunteer staffing. The policies will allow us to establish boundaries and safety measures to train workers to best serve the people of Minnesota who attend worship and various Bible studies. We have a ministry that serves women and children that is

waiting for us to establish childcare and transportation so they can add us to their official rotation. Each of the women who stay at their facility must join a church. They get to try several out and pick one to commit to membership. We look forward to serving this community once childcare and transportation are established.

We are also witnessing growing commitment and consistency in our members. Attendance has remained steady each Saturday at our worship service. We have an average of 19-20 people who attend each week. We are seeing a growing number of visitors that come consistently. They may miss a week here or there, but they generally return. We are working on being faithful to King Jesus and using our gifts to help each person in attendance worship God. One of our men, Dakota, has really embraced his role as a greeter. I am so proud of him and have been blessed to personally mentor him on Tuesdays. We got to go give out winter clothes that were donated last week, and Dakota showed and shared the love of Jesus with everyone he met.

We have been giving out lots of Bibles, Bible study books and tools and clothes over the last few weeks. We want to make a tangible difference in our city and have been using everything God blesses us with to do that. We will be working with some other groups to serve our people in the coming months. This will include prayer walks, recovery groups and new group studies on the Church and Habits of Grace/Spiritual Disciplines. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our Good King, Jesus. Thank you for providing these gifts and the funds we need to be able to do what we do. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and by supporting the work here.

December was not without its challenges. The primary challenge we faced was health issues. During our getaway, most of the family got the stomach bug. The scariest part was when some of the kids walked with me across a frozen lake, and Julianna's left arm suddenly went numb. She developed a migraine

and started falling asleep while walking. She has had some similar issues in the past, so we met with a cardiologist. We still don't know what is going on, but we were able to lean in on Christ and pray together for His help and comfort.

Laura and I were able to teach the family how to recall God's promises and meditate on His character when the weight of the world weighs in on us. I had to carry Julianna roughly a half mile across the lake while her left side was going numb and she was passing out. God was faithful to care for our hearts while we waited on His answer for healing and help.

Laura has also experienced an increasing number of nerve-related issues. She is also experiencing numbness at times and lots of pain at other times. You may recall that she suddenly developed two forms of neuralgia shortly after I left U.S. Bank and went full-time in missions work. Her neuralgias have been a daily pain for her. She has been a faithful witness to the unexplainable satisfaction one can have in Jesus despite the brokenness of our bodies and the world. She has remained faithful and exhibits joy in Jesus in a way that testifies to how truly valuable He really is. I am humbled by her life's testimony in such a constant state of trial.

Felicity was diagnosed with Raynaud's Syndrome. This isn't deadly but has created some unique difficulties for her. We are doing our best to serve her and point her to Jesus as she gets accustomed to what may be a new normal. At the same time, we have seen our sons get almost daily headaches and migraines. We have no idea what is going on to cause them.

We have seen this as spiritual warfare and an attack on our family and the work here. God has been gracious to help us guard our hearts by reminding us of His goodness. We do our best to grow in serving one another and pointing them to Jesus. I would like to ask you to pray for us. If you don't mind adding us to your prayer requests at church and in your small groups, we would appreciate it. We know God is bigger than any opposition we face and whether He chooses to heal our family or let the issues remain, we trust He is doing what is best to showcase His glory and give us everlasting joy, hope, peace and love.

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End Time Views: The Millennial Kingdom

One of the movie scenes that has stuck in my head the longest is from an old Muppets movie. I'm showing some age on that one. In the movie, Kermit and Fozzy come to an intersection that has a giant physical, literal fork in the road. From that point on in life, when someone said there was a fork in the road, I looked for a physical giant fork. So far, I haven't seen anything but a plastic fork littered in the ditch. I have come to many forks in the road while driving and in life. I have also come to them in interpreting and understanding the Bible. You surely have as well.

I began this series of articles with one about how end-time views aren't a pizza buffet or at least we can't choose our view like a slice of pizza on a buffet. Because we might be like my daughter who is only going to get dessert pizzas! We tend to select a view by what sounds the best, but rather we need Scripture to do the selecting for us.

When I say Scripture, we must realize that we can often take a passage and spin it to defend anything we want. Therefore, we need to let multiple witnesses in Scripture lead us to a view and let the context in Scripture be the determining factor. As I wrote in the last article, we should view it as football replay officiating. We should let the ruling on the field — meaning the straightforward reading of the text and how the original audience understood it — stand unless we have enough biblical evidence to overturn it. With that said, let's look to the second theological fork in the road to finding a biblical end-time view.

Theological Fork in Road #2: The Millennial Kingdom

Within the futuristic view of Bible prophecy, there's a pivotal event that determines how one views the end times. In our last article, we walked through the four main approaches to Bible prophecy. One of those was the futuristic view which views prophecy as being fulfilled in

the future and The Book of Revelation is understood as future events.

Even among those who hold to this futuristic view, there is a debate over that one event — the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial Kingdom comes from Rev. 20:1-10, which tells that following Jesus' return and the defeat of the Antichrist, He will bind Satan for 1,000 years and He will rule on earth with the raptured and resurrected saints. The term millennium is from Latin and means 1,000 years. The debate has three views:

- **Premillennialism** views that there will be a literal 1,000-year reign of Jesus just as in Revelation 20.

- **Amillennialism** views that there is not a literal 1,000-year reign of Jesus and views Revelation 20 to be understood only symbolically or spiritually. Proponents may view most of Revelation as futuristic but view this event in Revelation 20 as symbolic.

- **Postmillennialism** views that Jesus returns after this 1,000-year period or an undetermined amount of time. Most who hold this view believe we are living in the Millennial Kingdom now and that the church is this kingdom. This view peaked in popularity in the early 1900s. The world wars cast serious doubt on the idea that we were living in that kingdom of unparalleled peace.

One can see that the hermeneutic ruling on the field is that Scripture plainly states that there will be this kingdom with Satan bound for 1,000 years. Therefore, any challenge to premillennialism must provide evidence that Revelation 20 isn't meant to be understood literally.

The early church was also premillennial. The writings of the early church fathers address it often. They use the term "chiliasm," which is using the Greek word for a thousand. I must admit "chiliasm" sounds so much cooler than millennialism. We will "chill" with Jesus for 1,000 years. The historical ruling on the field is also in favor of premillennialism.

The case would seem solid for

premillennialism, and I believe that it should be. But in fairness, this 1,000-year time period — where Jesus has returned but it's not the "all-things new" time yet — is novel to Revelation. It is one of the only end-time events that is revealed for the first time in Revelation. Most every event in Revelation has an Old Testament precedence. Because of that, it might be easy to suggest that there aren't multiple witnesses of the Millennial Kingdom in the Bible.

Though the "1,000 years" is new and introduced in Revelation 20, this kingdom is essential to complete the narrative and fulfill the Messianic

prophecies in the Old Testament. For it is through this reign of Jesus on earth with His saints that the Abrahamic Covenant of Genesis 12 and 15 is fulfilled. It is through this reign of Jesus that the Davidic Covenant of II Samuel 7 is fulfilled. It is in this kingdom where the words of Isaiah ring through that the Messiah will have the government upon His shoulders and bring peace.

I've come to believe there isn't an event with more Old Testament precedence than the Millennial Kingdom. I guess I've shown my cards — I'm premillennial. I'm going with the ruling on the field for I do not see any evidence to over-

turn a plain reading of Revelation 20 — "I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain... He seized... Satan, and bound him for a thousand years... I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus... They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Rev. 20:1-4 NIV).

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)



BMA

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION AMERICA

74th Annual BMA of America National Meeting April 25-27, 2023 • Conway, Ark.

Tuesday Morning, April 25

9:00 a.m. BMA Global Ministry Center open for tours (611 Locust St.)

Tuesday Evening, April 25

6:00 p.m. Worship Antioch Baptist Church (150 Amity Rd.)
 Antioch Worship Band
 President Dr. Clif Johnson
 7:30 p.m. Meet Your Missionaries Fellowship Time Antioch Baptist Church
 8:45 p.m. Close

Wednesday Morning, April 26

7:30 a.m. Breakfast provided by CBC Central Baptist College (1501 College Ave.)
 8:00 a.m. New BMA Pastors' Orientation Central Baptist College
 9:00 a.m. WMA Meeting Central Baptist College
 9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Meeting Antioch Baptist Church (150 Amity Rd.)
 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Conference Antioch Baptist Church

The Leadership Imperative Dr. Steve Crawley
 Preventing Abuse and Protecting Your Church Brotherhood Mutual
 Helping Members with Mental Health Needs Lee Poe
 Leading for Growth Pastor Bill Eliff
 Spanish Speakers Breakout Elvis Garcia

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. BMA Global Ministry Center Tours (611 Locust St.)

Noon State and Local Leaders Lunch BMA Global Ministry Center

Wednesday Afternoon, April 26

1:30 p.m. Worship — Pastor David McMurray Antioch Baptist Church (150 Amity Rd.)
 3:00 p.m. Legacy Missionary Service Antioch Baptist Church (150 Amity Rd.)
 Introduction of New BMA Missionaries

Wednesday Evening, April 26

6:00 p.m. BMA Dinner on the Ground Conway Expo Center (1505 E. Oak St.)
 8:30 p.m. Close

Thursday Morning, April 27

8:30 a.m. BMA Department Reports Antioch Baptist Church (150 Amity Rd.)
 12:00 p.m. Close of National Meeting



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

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Moving Forward

Hopefully, in the next week or two, we will be looking at securing a meeting place for our newest Pea Ridge work. Please pray that God will be in the center of all our decisions.

Time Out

I had a procedure done on Monday and will be out of the office this week, but will be available on my email or phone as I plan to work from home these few days. Nothing serious, just a little repair work. Like my doctor said, radiation is a gift that keeps on giving.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:

Juan Carlos Posadas writes, (1/15) "On Tuesday night, a group of men met to review our strategic planning and the calendar of activities for 2023. In addition to informing them, they were challenged to take on some areas of responsibility in the church — cleaning the exterior of the temple, preparing the Lord's table, preaching monthly, and working on any of the projects we have for this year. After praying for a month, we will meet again and determine the areas of responsibility of each one. It is a blessing that for the first time, we were able to have this type of meeting with men committed to the Lord. Please pray for Oscar López, Oscar Gómez, José Luis Galeano and Fernando Rivera, the ministry that each of them will develop in the church and that they may be an example to the congregation and their families.

"We went to visit Lucio Jesús in intensive care on Saturday. He was run over and is in very bad shape. According to the opinion of the doctors, he lives because he is connected to a mechanical respirator. His sister, Marta was with him, and we managed to share the gospel with them. Marta made her profession of faith, and we encouraged her to read the Word and congregate with us. Unfortunately, she does not live in Little Rock. She came from Memphis because of her brother's situation. Let's pray that Lucio's parents will be authorized a permit to enter the country and be able to visit Lucio in the hospital. Let us pray that God's will be done with Lucio's life, and the spiritual growth of Marta."

(1/22) "Last week, we had the opportunity to give Joel and Marlen's family a double bed and a recliner. They were very grateful to God and the church for the provision for their home. Marlen and her daughter, Alexandra have been visiting the church. We hope the whole family will join the congregation.

"Saturday afternoon, some men from the church cleaned the front yard, cut some branches from the trees, collected leaves and trimmed the bushes around the temple. We still need to clean up the backyard another weekend.

"We are very happy because God has answered our prayers for more people to serve in Sunday School. We already have a group of five sisters who are teaching the children of the congregation. The sisters had a training and planning meeting Saturday afternoon. Please pray for Sayra, Consuelo, Maria Luisa, Mariandre and Mariana. They make up the Sunday School work team."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "We had a good week in Ebenezer. We continue to pray for the families that ask us to come to their home to pray. This week, we will be praying for two more families, and we will close our prayer cycle for each family in Ebenezer. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, we prayed for Eduar and his family, who arrived last October. We presented them with the gospel last week and are praying for them to make their decision for Christ. Pray that God uses me and touches their hearts. My desire is to see Eduar, his wife, his son and two daughters go down to the waters. It would be a beautiful baptism.

"The attendance on Sunday, Jan. 22, was very good. It is the result of praying in the homes. Every time I have the opportunity, I tell Ebenezer, 'Sunday should be the result of us during the week.'

"Pray also for the workshop we will be starting in February — 'Evangelism, Discipleship and Gospel Movement.' This 10-week workshop will be the key to the growth of the kingdom of God among us. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great week at Faith Chapel. Most of our families are back, but some were out with sickness, and we pray that

soon we will all be well together.

"We made some progress on the new building this week. Our water line from the main at the highway has been dug and is being installed, and the power company has come and engineered their lines and will soon be installing them. The concrete contractor hopes to begin the footings this week, and the septic components are on order. We ordered the trusses this week. And the weatherman is calling for snow tomorrow night!

"I told one of our members yesterday that the Lord is giving us a perfect opportunity to trust in Him. The weather is unpredictable in Arkansas in January and February, but we trust in God's timing for every stage of this project.

"We thank you for your prayers for us, Faith Chapel, Flippin, those we are trying to reach and for our building project. Please continue as God is answering them."

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "We are plunged back into sickness again. I know a lot of churches are experiencing higher missing in action folks. I am praying for all of our people to get better. Some of them attended through the online church option.

"DeAnna and I are praying for the next field of ministry opportunity. Please pray with us as we seek out where God would have us plant again. We will keep you updated on the details as we discover them. It is always hard for me when I'm waiting to hear and to see from God. I am quite the impatient person when it comes to life details. God has always used these times to reteach me and refocus me on the fact that His divine pathways are laid out before me, and He will show me them when we are ready.

"The church leaders worked through a Good Soil Training on Saturday. Please consider investigating this discipleship and evangelism tool. They have been so helpful in training our people to understand the overarching narrative of the Word of God, and to be able to start at the beginning with people when we evangelize.

"As we have been out and about, we are running into more people who have heard of the Table, or even know us from The Table. It is very exciting to see that our efforts to create awareness have begun to pay off. We are prayerful that this leads to connections and relationships."

TRUMPET

(Continued From Page 1)

the church plan (around 100 subscribers total). One of those churches relied on a generous church member to cover the cost of the church plan subscription, but those funds ran out and there was no room in the church budget. Another church was making needed cuts and, as much as they didn't want to discontinue the *Trumpet*, they had to make cuts. The pastor did say they would "keep an eye on the budget" and when they "see an improvement," they will "pick the *Trumpet* back up." I made them an offer to keep their church plan active for three months to see if that would get them far enough down the road. I believe it is that important to keep the people in our churches connected to the information we provide each week in the *Trumpet*.

I share these stories just to let you know how important it is that we have an increase in the number of subscribers. If our subscriber numbers keep going down, it won't matter if printing costs remain the same, the price per subscriber will continue to increase and we may be forced to increase our rates again. We do not want to do that. The bottom line is we need more subscribers.

Will you do your part? If your church is already on the church plan, will you seek to add all current families to the list and each new member to keep your list current? If your church is not on the church plan, will you prayerfully consider setting it up for your people? If you know

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes "We had a good week at Faith Journey. We have begun a weekly schedule with several nursing facilities in our community. We have been able to start to develop relationships with residents and staff so we can minister to the needs in these places.

"We are really enjoying the time of getting into the Word of God and developing friendships with those that can come to the Bible studies. We went in thinking we would be a blessing to them, when it turns out they have been a huge blessing in our lives. God is so good!"

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We were able to restart our small group (Group of Grace) in Rogers and continue with the process of intentional discipleship we have begun. We finished the first course on salvation. Unfortunately, we have not been able to start the group of Springdale because the husband of the family where we meet is quite sick. We ask for your prayers for Francisco Martinez.

"Our Sunday service was wonderful. The good thing is, in each of our services during these two months we have gathered, we have had visitors. Then we had our usual sharing after the service where we are getting to know each other more as a family in the faith. We can learn

of someone that is not a subscriber, will you consider gifting them a subscription for the first year so they can be informed and inspired?

• **Future Possibilities** — As I have shared many times previously, we have no plans to discontinue the printing of the paper. So many people enjoy having something they can hold in their hand and read. With that being said, we have spent the last few years building up our digital offerings (*E-Trumpet*, Interactive *Trumpet*, website, archives, etc.) to give you the most for your money as a subscriber. With our latest subscription rate increase we transitioned to our new Total Access Subscription. That means you have access to everything we have to offer — printed or digital paper, website and archives! I don't know what the future holds, but we want to keep adding to the value you get from the only weekly BMA newspaper. While we have a presence on many social media platforms, we have not really tapped into the possibilities of connecting with both current and new subscribers in that realm.

• **Financial Stability** — We have spent the past few years seeking to bring this ministry to a place where it could operate both now and in the foreseeable future. The subscription rate increases over the past two years helped bring our actual operating costs in line with our expected revenue from subscriptions and regular offerings from churches and individuals. This stability is not something we take for granted.

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about the situations our brothers suffer to be able to pray in a more specific way for their situations and hearing that several families are struggling with some situations.

"May will be the month of the Christian home for us. All topics will be focused on marriage, parenting and other topics of interest to the whole family."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "I guess it is just how we're wired — to second guess ourselves. Over the past several years, through Stand Firm, I have found that children are more likely to keep their faith into adulthood when it is seen and caught than just when it is taught. It is more important for them to be exposed to a genuine faith in the home than an extravagant youth and children ministries. I know that is true statistically, but sometimes wonder if our multigenerational approach is good enough. Well, it proved itself this week.

"Our leaders launched a 40-day devotional and prayer time challenge. I just targeted the adults, but wished I had something for the kids. Though I didn't have a 'plan' or a 'program' for the kids, some took it upon themselves to start doing a 'quiet time' because they saw it from their parents! That just shows the power of God and the power of multigenerational ministry in homes."

TRUMPET (Continued From Page 7)

There are still months when we receive a timely offering outside of regular giving that helps us breathe a little easier. There have been times in the last two years that we had to dip into our reserves (which we are thankful God has provided), and we hope to build up our general fund to the point that is not necessary.

Thank you for all your support for this ministry. As I have shared before, I did not seek out this job, but I do believe God brought me here and has asked me to serve. For that, I am thankful and will continue to do my best to serve Him by serving you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Gospel Singing featuring the Haley Creek Singers, Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m.; Kingsland Baptist Church, Kingsland.

CBC Homecoming, Feb. 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,

PRESIDENT (Continued From Page 1)

One feature that is certain to set this year's meeting apart will be our Missionary Dinner on the Grounds to be held on Wednesday night at the Conway Expo Center. All are invited to attend this landmark evening where you will be able to meet each of our missionaries. You can register for this dinner at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. (All dinner reservations must be made by April 1.)

Additionally, we will be hosting a new pastor's orientation, as well as a call-to-action meeting for all

MEETING

(Continued From Page 1)

be home from around the world. We want all our BMA family to join us in honoring them and encouraging them that night. It's going to be a special time.

The event will take place around an all-you-can-eat catfish/chicken dinner. The cost for the meal is \$25 per person. To ensure the appropriate amount of food is ordered, **reservations and payment must be made before April 1**, at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. Payment will not be accepted at the door.

The night will also feature the presentation of the Gerald Kellar Award presented annually by the BMA Seminary, a special message by veteran BMA Missionary Buddy Johnson and a wonderful night of music that will include the Central Baptist College Choir.

of our state and local associational officers to be held on Wednesday morning at Central Baptist College.

This association of churches is **your** association. So let us gather together with great joy as we celebrate all God has done through her and let us also come prepared to strengthen our bonds even more as we **go!**

Check Out The *Trumpet* Archives At baptisttrumpet.com/archive
Enjoy reading about the history of the BMA through the pages of the *Baptist Trumpet*, dating back to its origin in 1939!

World Missions Day is February 26, 2023

CO-MISSIONED

A SHARED MISSION - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Register your church at
bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday

Jerry Kidd Missions Offering

MISSIONS

SOAR 2023

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JULY 3-5, 2023
GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE TEXAS

REGISTRATION
\$135.00 PER PERSON
DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2023
\$150.00 PER PERSON
AFTER JUNE 4, 2023 DEADLINE

GAYLORD TEXAN
\$139.00 PER ROOM
UNTIL JUNE 10, 2023







CHRIS VINES NATHAN BREWER SOAR COLLECTIVE STEPHEN CASTLEBERRY DONNY PARRISH