

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## What If We Never Wrote Anything Down?

By Jordan M. Tew,  
Executive Director  
Baptist Publishing House

I recently asked myself this question, "What significant role does Baptist Publishing House play in the life of the local BMA church?" I believe that is an important question to consider today, as there appear to be more opportunities and avenues for churches to access Sunday School curricula than ever before. As I thought through this question, another question came to mind, "What if we never wrote anything down?"

I have the privilege of living within walking distance of the BMA Seminary, where the Kellar Library houses many historical and current BMA books. In fact, there is an entire room dedicated to BMA authors! I sometimes wonder where

### See WROTE, Page 12

a country where the challenges are unique and unlike those we face here in the United States.

We hope to see more American churches partner with the work happening in Africa. Partnering with African missions can look like a number of things—praying, regularly encouraging ChangeMakers and missionaries, supporting them financially and even going. We can't give the Great Commission to the ChangeMakers and just send money. We need to go as well.

While we have many effective leaders and pastors in Africa, the need for more remains. The demand for training, mentors and leaders far outweighs the supply. I urge you to constantly pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His field. Whether they're nationals or Americans, it doesn't matter... just pray that He'll raise up leaders, pastors and missionaries.

Go. Make disciples. Baptize. Teach. These verbs from the Great Commission are what we are challenging you to put into action. If you are interested in visiting the mission field in Africa to establish a partnership there, reach out to me at [johnmichaelpoulin@gmail.com](mailto:johnmichaelpoulin@gmail.com).

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## Benefits of a Long-Term Pastorate

By Allan Eakin, Associate Editor

*Editor's note: This is the second of two articles on this subject. The first article can be found in the Feb. 1, 2023 issue.*

How long is a long-term pastorate? That's a tough question to answer. A long-term pastorate is certainly longer than two or three years. Some suggest that a pastor doesn't become truly effective until years five to seven. So, likely a good starting point for a long-term ministry is 10 years or more.

Stable leadership is vital to the strength of any organization including a local church. In general, stable pastors that serve a local church for an extended period of time will result in a stable church.

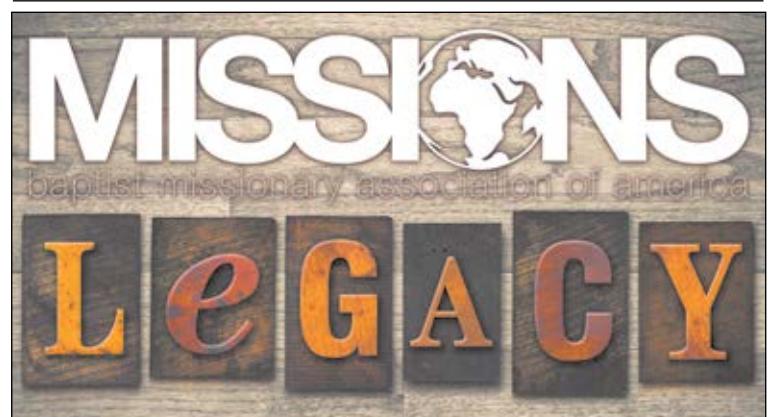
In the first article, three benefits of a long-term pastorate were presented. Those benefits included credibility for the pastor, spiritual growth for both the pastor and the church, and stability for the pastor, his family and the church.

Consider three additional benefits of a long-term pastorate:

• **Effective Change** — A benefit of a long-term pastorate is the opportunity to make effective changes necessary to move the ministry forward. The wheels of change move slowly in most Baptist churches. Yes, some things are non-negotiable — doctrine, principles, character, etc. But some change is necessary for churches to remain effective.

Why is change so difficult for some churches? Some of the responsibility lies with pastors. Short-term pastorates of two or three years create an attitude that is counter-productive among the congregation. The church

### See LONG-TERM, Page 12



## 2023 Legacy Missionaries: On the Cutting Room Floor (Part 3)

By Holly Meriweather

*Editor's Note: The following is a story that will not make it into the Legacy Missionary video that will be played during the ceremony at the National Meeting in April. These are stories that have been left "on the cutting room floor." Visit [BaptistTrumpet.com](http://BaptistTrumpet.com) or see the Dec. 21 or Jan. 11 issues for other stories about the 2023 Legacy Missionaries.*

Missionary Ruth Bowman went to the mission field in 1976 after two of her children were grown and gone and her youngest, Lisa had two more years of high school. Ruth's husband, Bobby had retired from Naval service as a corpsman, where his assignments were all over the world, so his family could not accompany him. Their children had attended 10 different schools during that time, so after his retirement, she was grateful for the stability of being in one place.

But that only lasted seven years.

### See LEGACY, Page 10



# CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

## PROFILE

### Central Baptist College

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Terry Kimbrow  
President



## Sports News

By Erik Holth

### Men's Basketball

• Conway, Feb. 2 — Trailing 4-0 inside the first two-and-a-half minutes, CBC exploded from there, using a 38-0 run to put their American Midwest Conference (AMC) game with Hannibal-LaGrange at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse out of reach. CBC (16-8, 8-4 AMC) led 55-22 at the half and cruised to a 105-59 win over HLGU (7-12, 2-9 AMC). The 38 consecutive points are the most ever scored by a Mustang team consecutively in the program's history and spanned nine minutes and 47 seconds of game time. Three Mustangs were in double figures — Brevin Brimble (23), Jalen Adams (19) and Braylon Steen (10).

• Fulton, Mo., Feb. 4 — Looking for an AMC season sweep, CBC was on the court at Anderson Arena for a clash at William Woods. CBC (16-9, 8-5 AMC) couldn't hold William Woods' (12-10, 6-6 AMC) late surge and dropped the contest 73-70. Gabe Johnson led the Mustangs with a career-high 23 points, while James Moore added 13 and Brevin Brimble had 11.

### Women's Basketball

• Conway, Feb. 2 — Looking to bounce back after a tough road trip, CBC hosted the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, looking for a season sweep in AMC play. CBC (9-11, 4-11 AMC) trailed 34-32 at halftime but got hot in the third quarter and cruised to a 77-61 win over HLGU (4-17, 2-12 AMC). Caroline Citty led the way for CBC with her first career double-double, tying a career-high with 21 points and grabbing a career-high 13 rebounds. She was joined in double figures scoring by Rhys Anderson (14), Diana Rivera (13) and Emma Bates (11).

• Fulton, Mo., Feb. 4 — Coming off a big win in their most recent game, CBC took on the Owls of William Woods inside Anderson Arena for an AMC contest. CBC (9-12, 4-12) trailed by five at halftime and fell to WWU (6-16, 4-11 AMC) by a 57-55 score. Caroline Citty led the way for CBC with 13 points, while Rhys Anderson chipped in with 12 and Diana Rivera added 11.

### Softball

• San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 3 — Opening the 2023 season on the road, CBC was on the field at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) to take on the #15 OLLU. CBC (2-3) would accomplish their goal, losing game one to OLLU (2-1) 6-5 before taking the final game 8-4.

• San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 4 — Looking to salvage a split on

## Student Ministry Matters

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## Is Your Student Ministry Ministering?

We often think of student ministry as what we do on a Wednesday or Sunday night. We gather our students together and think real ministry is being accomplished. While the work of equipping our students for the Christian life is important, ministry happens when our students get involved in serving the King in the world beyond the doors of our church buildings. What does that look like? One of my recent graduates was the president of their school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She spoke at their "Praise in the PAC" and "Fields of Faith" events. She chose to bring Christ to her campus. Over the years, I have had students involved in other ministry opportunities on their campuses and off.

The short answer is that we can't just have weekly meetings and think that our students are doing ministry. We need to help them intentionally be involved in their communities and classrooms. So how do we do that? How do we help them move out of the building and into the world? Here are some thoughts to get you started:

• **Teach your students about ministry.** Show them what Scripture has to say about real ministry. The Word is powerful, and it transforms hearts. Share with them about the lost and dying world around them. Tell them about missionaries who are impacting the world in the US and beyond.

• **Choose community organizations where they can volunteer.** Find groups that are making a real-world difference. These groups can work with unwed mothers, the homeless population, the undernourished or others. You can do a local "mission" trip and spend a week in your own town making a difference.

• **Celebrate those that serve.** Whether it is your students or the adult volunteers serving with you, take time to celebrate those that are taking Jesus out into the community. You can do that at your weekly meetings or through your social media accounts. Our groups become what we celebrate. Take time to point out the good your people are doing.

There are other ways to help move our students to impact their worlds, but perhaps this can serve as a starting place. Student ministry needs to move our students out of the building and into the world. The gathering is important because it is a time of equipping. The gathered worship of the church is important because it is a time for the "one anothers" of Scripture. However, we have fallen short if we don't help our students move out of the church and into the community and classroom.

Join us in the conversation at the Student Ministry Matter Community Facebook group and let us know how you encourage your students to carry Jesus into their world.

**David Corretjer** placing third at 125 pounds and **Darron Harvey** finishing second at 285 pounds.

### Baseball

• **Benton, Feb. 5** — Opening the 2023 season a day later than originally scheduled, CBC hosted the Buffaloes of Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) at Benton High School. CBC (2-0) pushed 30 runs across the plate in a doubleheader sweep, beating ABC (0-2) by scores of 20-0 and 10-0. In the season-opening 20-0 win, CBC got the

**See SPORTS, Page 3**

## PRESIDENT'S & DEAN'S LIST



## CBC Releases Names On President's List and Dean's List

It is a pleasure to release for publication the President's and Dean's Lists in recognition of student academic achievement. The following lists are for the fall of 2022:

### President's List

To qualify for the President's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point average of 4.000 out of a possible 4.00.

**Traditional students:** Baylie Ainsworth, Magnolia; Lauren Anderson, Cibolo, Texas; Seth Arnold, Greenbrier; Averie Ayers, Daingerfield, Texas; Abigail Barker, Conway; Callum Bisset, United Kingdom; Caroline Byers, Kennett, Mo.; Joshua Claiborne, Clarksville; Grace Collins, Sherwood; Christine Collins, Sherwood; Laney Crutchfield, Malvern; Andrew Davis, Mena; Warren Farish, Atkins; Emily Farmer, Vilonia; Jordyn Frederic, Alvin, Texas; Madeline Freeman, Fort Smith; Braydan Garrett, Plumerville; Emily Gentry, Greenbrier; Kylie Germann, Rogers; Alyssa Hagewood, Maumelle; Rebecca Hanry, North Little Rock; Kane Harrell, Conway; Coby Harvison, Greenbrier; Ashley Henderson, Harrison;

Autumn Herring, Maumelle; Heather Hoffman, Wylie, Texas; Alexandra Jeter, Paragould; Ruth Johnson, Conway; Audrey Johnson, Jacksonville, Texas; Macy Jordan, Conway; Silas Kirchner, Conway; Marlee Lamoreaux, Viloria; Austin Lejeune, San Antonio, Texas; Jenell Light, Conway; Heidi Maxwell, Saint Clair, Mo.; Kylie Mcgarrah, Benton; Jesse Mcgarrah, Benton; Lauren Mcginley, Hensley; Okikiola Ojeniyi, Nigeria; Christa Owen, Conway; Emily Owen, Conway; Kenzie Parker, Harrison; Emily Pharr, Conway; Isabelle Piétrangelo, Brazil; Noah Pratt, Hot

### Dean's List

To Qualify for The Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or higher out of a possible 4.000.

**Traditional Students:** Dalton Alexander III, Arnaudville, La.; Rhys Anderson, Tulsa, Okla.; Anna Atwood, Little Rock; Cory Ballew, Viloria; Imanol

Barragan, Conway; Emma Bates, Paragould; Anna Battenfield, Siloam Springs; Savannah Book, Brookland; Keaton Brahic, Judsonia; See CBC, Page 4



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## SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

fifth no-hitter in program history and the second combined no-hitter (also the first in the opening game) from **Austin LeJeune** and **Caleb Sollars**. The Mustangs also scored 20 runs or more for the sixth time in program history and put up 20 runs in a shutout for the third time in program history. CBC also hit for the cycle in the second inning of game one (single by **Danilo Taborda**, triple by **Ruben Hernandez**, double by **Austin Teal** and home run by **Gabe Walker**).

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 6**—The

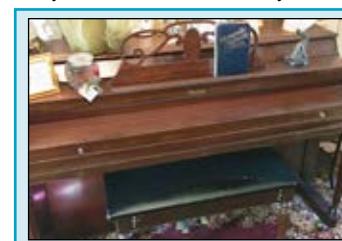
AMC released their preseason coaches' poll and CBC was picked fourth by the AMC coaches. CBC received 30 total points in the poll and was picked behind defending champion Columbia, Missouri Baptist and William Woods.

for you!" Allow God to decide what is best for you and the best place for you to serve Him. Don't miss the mark of God's "best" for you by settling for your "good."

Comparison creates jealousy in your heart and leads to not being grateful for God's faithfulness in your life and your church. This short-term perspective creates in you a desire to look for "greener" grass but remember, it is usually just as tough to mow if not tougher.

The outcome is moving on before God is finished and never being a part of God's preferred future for the church where He has placed you and called you to lead. Your church needs leaders who are willing to serve for the long haul for God's glory. Blackaby stated, "There is a real danger in projecting your desires onto God and using your happiness as a gauge for God's will."

Stop the comparison trap now because you have your own race to run. Finish well. The truth is that for God to use us at all, in any way, is indeed a great privilege we do not deserve. God knows where you are, and He is fully aware of your challenges. Turn to Him and continue to be faithful in what you know He has shown you to be doing. Paul makes an amazing declaration to King Agrippa in Acts 26:19 (HCSB) when he says, "*I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.*" For Paul, it was enough to be given any task His Lord and Savior required of Him. May that be our testimony as well.



## Free Piano

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## Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## Central Baptist College Homecoming

I was just thinking about the upcoming Homecoming at Central Baptist College. There are four days—Feb. 15-18—of events scheduled for alumni, former students and friends of CBC. The college is owned by the BMA of Arkansas and has been a blessing to young men and women for the past 71 years.

CBC has been part of my life for 59 years, and 57 years for my wife, Karen. It's special to us because it is where we met. To say we love our college would be a great understatement.

In those years since we were students, we have missed very few homecomings. We certainly plan to attend Homecoming 2023!

### This Year's Events

- **Wednesday, Feb. 15**, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., the annual Chili Cook-Off will be held, followed by a Chapel Pep Rally from 1-2 p.m.

- **Thursday, Feb. 16**, at 5:30 p.m., the CBC women's basketball team will be in the Reddin Fieldhouse.

- **Friday, Feb. 17**, the main event will be the Outside Alumni and Friends Party featuring food, fellowship and Laser Tag. Current students are welcome to participate.

- **Saturday, Feb. 18**, is the biggest day of the four. At 8:30 a.m., the Endowed Scholarship Breakfast will take place. At 10 a.m., a very special ceremony will take place in the Burgess Auditorium. The CBC Business Department will be named for the longtime instructor, Joyce Garrison.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Alumni Luncheon will take place with several alumni being recognized and receiving awards. Honored this year will be the recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Young Alumnus Award, Mustang Community Impact Award and the Mustang Ambassador of the Year Award.

The afternoon event takes place in the Reddin Fieldhouse with homecoming basketball games. The women's team will play at 1 p.m.

The 2023 Homecoming Court and Queen will be announced between the games. This year's court is composed of: freshmen, Emily Gentry and Audrey Johnson; sophomores, Sheridan Rogers and Abby Wilson; juniors, Sierra Burrows and Ashanti Williams; and seniors, Autumn Herring, Allison Mantooth and Christa Owen. The 2022 Homecoming Queen, Mallory Guyton, will crown the new queen.

The men's basketball game will follow the homecoming ceremony.

### The CBC Alumni Association

Much work has been put into the planning for homecoming. The CBC Alumni Department and the Alumni Association are to be commended for their tremendous efforts in making this year a memorable occasion.

I urge CBC alumni, former students and even prospective students to attend as many of the events as possible. There is just something special and rewarding about reconnecting with old friends. Karen and I hope to see you at CBC Homecoming 2023!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CBC Homecoming**, Feb. 17-18;  
Central Baptist College, Conway.

**Ark. Galilean Fellowship and  
Basketball Tournament**, March 3-4;  
Central Baptist College, Conway.

**CBC Scholarship Gala**, March  
28; Conway Expo Center, 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.

**Student Ministry Matters Re-  
treat**, Sept. 16; Central Baptist Col-  
lege, Conway.

**BMA of Arkansas Meeting**, Nov.  
2-3; Central Baptist College, Conway.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Jonesboro District Brother-  
hood**, Feb. 14; Nueva Esperanza,  
Jonesboro.

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

**Mt. Vernon District Brother-  
hood**, Mar. 6, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.

**Jonesboro District Brother-  
hood**, March 14; Stoneridge Camp,  
Smithville.

**United District WMA**, April 1;  
Hattieville, Hattieville.

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

**Celebration 2023** (formerly the  
National Senior Adult Conference),  
Nov. 28-30; Chateau Resort;  
Branson.

By Executive Editor  
Jeff Herring



## Encouraging Note

As I mentioned in my article last week, we have had a number of churches contact us over the last few weeks to cancel their church plans, and I shared the need for an increase in subscribers in order to keep the ministry of the *Trumpet* going. I received a note from a faithful reader and subscriber with his intention, even though he is on a fixed income, to start an "each one, win one" campaign for subscribers. He sent a check to renew his subscription (\$39) plus enough for one additional subscription (\$78 total) to help cover the cost of helping a church or someone who has limited assets. He also encouraged others to "take up the challenge" and do the same.

I am so thankful for each of our faithful readers, and it is a great blessing to get notes of encouragement and these special offerings at just the right time. Sometimes it can be a little discouraging when we have those canceling, but this week was a reminder that there are still those that understand the value and importance of the ministry of keeping our people informed through the *Baptist Trumpet*.

## Arkansas Faith And Ethics Council

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Rep. Bentley presents HB 1156 in the Arkansas House of Representatives on Feb. 1.

## Legislative Update

Another week for the state legislature is in the books; week four, I believe. The following is a compilation of some of the key bills and proposals with which we are concerned, working on at some level or tracking. There are other measures, but the ones we list in these updates are the major ones:

• **House Bill 1024** — Unfortunately, this bill passed both the House and the Senate and will become law if signed by the governor or allowed to become law without the governor's signature or veto. We opposed it vigorously, and many of you sent messages to your elected members in the legislature urging the bill's defeat. We thank you for that.

In time, the new law will dramatically increase public drinking across our state by making it much easier for many cities and towns in wet counties and dry counties as well to establish so-called "entertainment districts." Those are designated areas where people can walk around outside with open beers and mixed drinks. Nothing

good can come from that.

• **House Bill** — HB1028 has been approved and is now Act 21. It will simply amend current state law to replace the term "child pornography" with the term "child sexual abuse material." This change in terminology will be more descriptive and more effective in enforcing criminal laws against exploiting, depicting and exposing children in regard to obscenity.

• **House Bill 1043** — This bill will enhance the criminal penalties for producing or selling the very destructive drug fentanyl. This drug has become a scourge, damaging and killing untold numbers of people, including many young people. This bill is still awaiting action in the Senate's Judiciary Committee. It deserves to become law, and we think it will.

• **House Bill 1174** — This bill, while well-intended to further defend and protect unborn children, goes too far in our opinion. Should it become law, HB1174 would allow for the charging and conviction of a woman who willingly undergoes an abortion of her child. The bill is

## CBC (Continued From Page 1)

Zylan Brown, North Little Rock; Joshua Brown, Minden, La.; Callen Brown, Greenbrier; Madeline Bruce, Greenbrier; Sierra Burrow, Quitman; Katherine Carson, Springdale; Mario Ceballos, San Antonio, Texas; Emma City, Searcy; Emily Cole, Naples, Texas; Kyle Collins, Cat Spring, Texas; Manuela Cruz Hernandez, Columbia; Mason Crymes, Timbo; Christopher Daugherty, Mantachie, Miss.; Ashleigh Daugherty, Mantachie, Miss.;

Eliza Derryberry, Cabot; Jeremiah Dodson, Greenbrier; Nathan Dodson, Greenbrier; Eric Dover, Alma; Nathan Duda, Framingham, Mass.; Lydia Dunlap, Conway; Michael Dunn, Russellville; Julio Escobar, Houston, Texas; Ysabella Esquivel, Corp Christi, Texas; Jasper Gadella, Netherlands; Amanda Goncalves, Brazil; Ian Gonzalez, San Antonio, Texas; Ashleigh Gross-Mitchell, South Africa; Cassie Hager, Millington, Ill.; Dillon Hall, Damascus; Cameron

pending in the House's Judiciary Committee, but we don't think it will gain any traction and we cannot, in good conscience, support it.

• **Senate Bill 43** — This bill will further define what constitutes "adult-oriented performances" and will prohibit such performances from being conducted on public property or in the presence of children and further forbids public funding of those events. This bill passed the House and is hopefully headed for approval in the Senate. It should become Arkansas law.

• **Senate Bill 81** — This bill will amend the law concerning obscenity provided to a minor, including from a library. It was filed recently and is pending in the Senate's Judiciary Committee.

• **Senate Bill 66** — If it becomes law, this bill will require that internet and other distributors of obscenity utilize reasonable age-verification methods to prevent minors from acquiring the obscenity. Failure to do so can result in lawsuits against those providing obscenity to minors without the required safeguards. Judgments for successful litigation can include awards, punitive damages, attorney's fees and court costs. The bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in the House where it is highly likely to be approved. This protection for our children is needed and should become Arkansas law.

• **House Bill 1156** — If approved, HB1156 will protect students at public schools and public charter schools from having to share sex-specific spaces such as locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms and changing areas where stages of undress are common with a member of the opposite biological sex. Accommodations, such as single-use facilities, may be provided for those declaring a different gender

Harden, Memphis, Tenn.; Kimbrow Harrell, Conway; Gage Harris, Taylor; Erica Hawkins, Stuttgart; Ruben Hernandez, Dominican Republic; Landon Hitchcock, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Amber Horton, Vilonia; Gabriel Jackson, Conway; Mollie Johnson, Texarkana;

Bryson Jones, Conway; Bailee Kelley, Greenbrier; Abby Kirby, Maumelle; Jayla Kramer, Conway; Austen Krisell, Greenbrier; Olivia Lambrightsen, Mount Morris, Ill.; Evelyn Land, Conway; Victoria Lasker, North Little Rock; Jarvis Leigh, Columbus, Miss.; Whitney Mallory, Greenbrier; Allison Mantooth, Helotes, Texas; Frederick Marsh, Rison; Alejandro Mas, Tampa, Fla.; Brian Mas, Tampa, Fla.; Bryan Maxey, McKinney, Texas; Dominick McBride, Gosnell; Joseph McElhinney, United Kingdom; Allie McWhorter, Warren; Christopher Mendoza, Cedarville; Alejandro Mendoza, Oxford, Miss.; Carter Mills, North Little Rock; Amber Morse, Conway; Erin Nolan, Conway; Tyler Norris, Maumelle; Chris Orellana, Fort Smith; William Palmer, Damascus;

identity than the sexual identity given at birth. The bill has been approved by the House and is pending in the Senate's Education Committee. This bill is essential if we are to protect female students from having to undress and shower with biological males.

• **House Bill 1301** — We strongly oppose this bill. It would legalize abortion if a doctor says the unborn child has a "fetal abnormality incompatible with life," whatever that means. The bill has no definition of fetal abnormality, so it could mean just about whatever a pro-abortion doctor

Douglas Paolinetti, Shelby, Mich.; Madison Paul, Vilonia; David Platt II, Tuckerman; Jadon Price, Vilonia; Mary Pruitt, Beebe; Joshua Ramirez, Little Rock; Noah Rivera, Hilton, N.Y.; Ignacio Rosales, Mandeville, La.; Jayne Selph, Benton; Alvaro Serrano, Siloam Springs; Landen Siler, Judsonia; Cadie Sizemore, Greenbrier; Caroline Skinner, Bryant; Jakub Slapal, Czech Republic; Jaclyn Smith, Greenbrier; Gracie Sparks, Pine Bluff; Kailey Sullivan, Conway; Danilo Taborda, Dominican Republic; Wyatt Taft, Conway; Hudson Turnage, Conway; Bradley Turnage, Greenbrier; Ethan Urban, Maumelle; Maele Van Houtert, Netherlands; Grace Vandegriff, Lufkin, Texas;

Hannah Varnado, Franklinton, La.; Dontarrious Walker-Callaway, Northport, Ala.; Sydney Weiser, Conway; Colton Willey, Greenbrier; Tommie Williams Jr., Beaumont, Texas; Laura Wilson, Greenbrier; Abby Wilson, Lufkin, Texas; Skylar Wise, Romance; and Hannah Work, Bryant.

**PACE and Online Students:  
See CBC, Page 10**

wanted it to mean. The danger in establishing an arbitrary jumping-off point where abortions could legally be performed is obvious. Where might it stop? This bill is awaiting action in the House's Public Health Committee. We strongly oppose this law and will work hard for its defeat.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these issues, please contact us. We will be glad to explain these matters further. Thanks for your participation in good government. It works best when we get involved, have our voices heard and our preferences are known.

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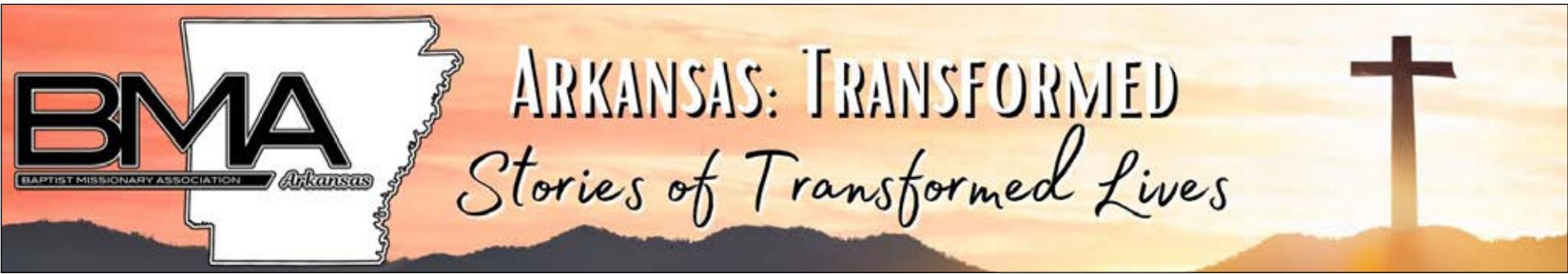
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## Arkansas' Student Ministry Matters Podcast Has Global Reach

By Dan Carson, Director

Student Ministry Matters (SMM) was born from a desire to help volunteer, part-time and full-time student ministry workers. We are the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department. Our desire is to assist student ministry workers as they provide Christ-centered teaching and care to their students. We accomplish our goals by providing connections, coaching and continuing education for those that love and care for teenagers.

In a society that has reduced the value of human life, we have students that are hurting more than ever. It demands that SMM invests in our workers, so they can invest in our students. Those working with students can feel beat up and simply tired. SMM exists to help those that are working to help others. Our world is in desperate need of Jesus. SMM exists to help student ministry workers spread the message that the Father left for us — Jesus Saves!

At the core of all we do, our mission is to help those that are seek-



ing to impact the next generation for Jesus. One of the ways we carry this out is through our weekly Student Ministry Matters Podcast. We have conversations about student ministry for full-time, part-time and volunteer student ministry workers. It is a podcast aimed at providing support, encouragement and connection for those that work with students in any ministry setting. God has blessed this weekly investment in student ministry workers and allowed our impact to grow. Recently, our podcast passed the 20,000 download mark.

Since its beginning in February 2020, our reach has continued to grow. As of this writing, we have released 148 episodes and 8 ministry updates. Those episodes have reached all 50 states and 93 other countries. Total downloads have reached 20,945 — up from 6,120 in 2021. I thank Chris Vines for serving with me as co-host.

Have you checked out the Student Ministry Matters Podcast? We thank God for helping us continue the mission that he has given us.

| Top 10 Downloaded SMM Podcasts   |  | Release Date      | Downloads |
|--|--|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 Episode 130 - Introducing Christianity to Mormons with Eric Johnson      |  | September 5, 2022 | 3906      |
| 2 Episode 129 - Engaging Generation Z with Dr. Tim McKnight                |  | August 29, 2022   | 358       |
| 3 Episode 128 - Write It On Their Hearts with Melissa Swain                |  | August 22, 2022   | 348       |
| 4 Episode 110 - Helping Students Navigate Anxiety with Hanna Burge         |  | April 11, 2022    | 227       |
| 5 Episode 125 - Successful Student Ministry with Dr. Sam Rainer            |  | August 1, 2022    | 219       |
| 6 Episode 117 - Helping Students Have a Real Faith with Jonathan Cofer     |  | May 30, 2022      | 214       |
| 7 Episode 127 - Praying for Your Students                                  |  | August 19, 2022   | 200       |
| 8 Episode 121 - Prepping for the Big Trips                                 |  | June 27, 2022     | 197       |
| 9 Episode 124 - Ministry as a Married Couple with Jason & Janna Burns      |  | July 18, 2022     | 194       |
| 10 Episode 109 - Helping Students Navigate Death & Loss with Jennifer Grim |  | April 4, 2022     | 190       |

Listen to the **Student Ministry Matters Podcast** at [studentministrymatters.podbean.com](http://studentministrymatters.podbean.com) or through most major podcasting platforms.

Also, mark your calendars for the **2023 Student Ministry Workers Retreat** scheduled for Sept. 16 at Central Baptist College in Conway. The speaker for the sixth annual event is pastor, professor and author Dr. Tim McKnight. He is the editor of *Navigating Student Ministry* and author of *Engaging Generation Z*. He is the pastor of Mosaic Church of Anderson, S.C., a multi-ethnic multi-generational church plant and serves as associate professor of youth ministry and missions at the Clamp Divinity School at Anderson University. You can register for next year's event at [SMWR2023.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).





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spread the gospel by planting new churches in AREas where  
people need to be connected to Jesus through a community of faith.



Hispanic leaders of Arkansas gather for a spiritual retreat in June 2022.

## Arkansas' Hispanic Ministry Benefits from Generational Missions

By Michael Hight, BMA of Arkansas Hispanic Coordinator and Pastor of First Baptist Church, Caldwell

The greatest blessing a missionary can ever experience is second and third-generation ministry leaders who continue to carry out the mission! When we started El Faro, we intentionally built into our DNA the intent to develop leaders who would go on to plant more churches. Now, years later, we are seeing that come to fruition through these men and lady:

• **Guilmar Guarez** came out of El Faro, and he is now ordained and pastoring La Gran Comisión in Alexander. His spiritual growth continues to amaze me.

• **German Galindo** was our first baptism at El Faro, and he is now in Mexico preparing his family to plant a church on the outskirts of Mexico City.

• **Douglas Pacheco** was saved through the ministry of La Gran Comisión, and he is now preaching for BMAA Hispanic Ministry Coordinator and South City Church Discipleship Pastor Elvis Garcia regularly at South City.

• **David Canesa** was baptized by La Gran Comisión and is now studying at the Bible Institute for more service.

• **Alma Landin**, who was saved through the ministry of El Faro and is a member there, led her mother to the Lord over the phone in Mexico.

• **Juan Carlos Posadas** was an intern at El Faro. First Baptist Church of Caldwell has extended the arm to the Creciendo en Cristo mission in North Little Rock where Juan Carlos serves as a BMA of Arkansas missionary and has several men studying to be leaders.

The blessings just keep coming! I am so glad you allow me to be a part of this continuing work. I pray that God has many more blessings in store through your Hispanic Missions ministry in Arkansas and beyond.



David Canesa teaching at La Gran Comisión.



El Faro Pastor Jorge Vasquez prays over the next generation of leaders.



Worship service at La Gran Comisión.



## What God Has Wrought

At the end of each of Paul's missionary journeys, he went to Jerusalem. Luke tells us in Acts 15 and 21 that after both the first and third journeys, he was received by the church at Jerusalem, and speaking before all of the church with the elders and apostles, "*he declared what things God had wrought by his ministry.*" Paul did not try to take any credit or glory for the success of his ministry, he gave God the glory.

This was what came to my mind when Bro. Paul asked each of us State Missionaries to write an article for the *Trumpet* about what God has done in and through our missions. And we know that it is God that works through us, we can do nothing of ourselves, all we have to do is be faithful to Him, and willing.

It got me thinking back about what He has done since we started Faith Chapel. When we knew we were going to plant a church in Flippin, even before we knew that we would be BMA Missionaries, we went to Flippin and we walked and drove the streets and prayed over the city, looking for a place to have services. We didn't have much luck and were not even sure what to look for or where to start. We just were praying for God's will to be done.

As we left town that day, we passed a beautiful piece of land overlooking the Crooked Creek Valley, with an absolutely gorgeous view, and I said to Karen, in passing, "O my! That's where we need to put a church!" Well, we kept going to Flippin, every day for a while, praying and looking. We finally found a vacant building that we could afford, and we rented it and began planning for our first service. Everyone warned us not to expect much at first and to not get discouraged if no one comes, but we put up flyers all over town and met people and invited everyone that we saw.

On March 15, 2020, we held our first service and had 24 people in attendance. We were amazed and delighted, and so thankful. One lady came up to me after the service and said she had never been in a church like ours. She felt so much love. She had been raised catholic, and even went to a convent. I asked her if she was saved, and she said that

she knew she was, and as we talked, I believed that she was too. She said she had never read the Bible though, the priests didn't encourage that. She liked that I preached the scriptures. I asked her if she wanted a Bible, and her face lit up like I had given her a million dollars.

The next day, March 16, 2020, the governor came out and said that no one should have large gatherings, none over 10 people, especially churches. We had no idea what to do. Even established churches didn't know what to do. We decided to go online and, for the next 10 weeks, it was just me and Karen putting the sermon on Facebook.

I must admit we were getting a little discouraged when one day my phone rang. It was the lady from our first service, asking when we were going to be able to have services again. I and many others were getting tired of the lockdown by now, and I said that we would be having worship service Sunday and, if anyone came, I certainly wouldn't turn them away. Well, she came, and we had a wonderful service.

She became our first member that day and we baptized her the next week. We began growing from there and over the next few weeks, we had several more join, and several more were saved and baptized. It was an amazing time for us and it continues to be.

Then one day Karen was looking at real estate on the internet and a piece of property listed for sale looked familiar. We got the address and called about it and asked if we could look at it. When we met the realtor there, it was the very property that we had driven by on our first day in Flippin. We looked, talked to the realtor, and prayed — we even prayed with him! We made an offer that day. Karen and I bought it and were going to make payments until the mission could afford to buy it, but one of our new members made a very generous donation to pay off the entire amount and we sold it to the mission for \$100 less than we gave for it just to avoid the appearance of profiting off of the church.

We still believe that God had been saving that five acres for us for all of the time just to build Faith Chapel there and He made all of it happen. Since then, God has worked many miracles among us. We had a young man passing by get saved on our front porch. We have had several families with children join us. We had a man get saved in the street at our outreach event, and he brought his family the next Sunday. I don't think they have missed a service since and we baptized them in Bull Shoals Lake a few weeks ago.

We had two saved at one of our baptism services and later baptized them. We are now two and a half years since our first service and we have had 12 baptized on the profession of their faith, and our membership has grown to 40. We had 42 but 2 have gone on to be with the Lord. We have many coming regularly that have not joined yet, but we expect

By Johnny Shew, Missionary  
Faith Chapel Mission, Flippin



they will.

Several come regularly on Sunday nights because their own churches do not have services, one of them is even an ABA Pastor and his wife. We have 12-15 children each week and they are a blessing. We don't have much to offer them yet that the big churches do, but their parents bring them for what we do have. Everyone that comes says that they have never felt so much genuine love in a church, and we never want to lose that. We are a family and that is why they are coming. We have set five attendance records in the last two months, and our rented building is full.

We are making plans to build our own building on the five acres that the Lord gave us. We cleared the trees last week. God has given us financial support from so many in our association — churches, local associations and individuals. We are humbled and grateful for all of it. The family of our members that passed asked that in lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Faith Chapel in their memory, and we have been blessed by that as well.

I would like to tell you about every one of the members and visitors that God has sent us, they are all so special, but I have to end somewhere. I will share more another time. All of this happened during the pandemic — we have not had any "normal" times. I do not have room and I can't even begin to declare to you all that God has wrought here in Flippin, but we give Him all the glory. All we did was show up when and where He asked us to. He has wrought all this in spite of me and my inadequacies. He gave me a wonderful wife to hold me up and do this with me, and I am so thankful for her and to her as well. And I have said this before, I knew that I was being called to this, I knew I was supposed to do it, but I never knew that I would love it so much. I have been blessed beyond measure being your BMA State Missionary in Flippin, woe to me if I don't do it. And I can't wait to see what God will do next!



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# Mustang Message

## CBC Graduate Found God's Plan

My name is Caitlyn Hiland. I am a 2020 graduate of Central Baptist College, where I received a bachelor's degree in business administration. My road to CBC looks different than that of many of my classmates. When I was looking at colleges at the end of my junior year and the beginning of my senior year, I never thought about Central Baptist College as an option for continuing my education. CBC was never my plan, but CBC was God's plan.

My plans were to attend a large university and live the stereotypical "college life." That is not what happened. When I came to CBC, I didn't think I would love my classes. I didn't think I would enjoy being so close to home. I didn't think I would make new friends and I definitely didn't expect to grow in my relationship with the Lord. Funny thing... That's **exactly** what happened.

As a business major, I came out of the department with a strong knowledge of how business works in my community. I also learned how global business works.

By Caitlyn Hiland

Upon graduation, I felt prepared for employment. I had job-specific knowledge and the resources I needed to help me find a job. Dr. Beth Cantrell made sure of that. She helped me with the job hunt and made me want to succeed. That's how the professors are at CBC — they genuinely love and want what's best for their students.

My relationship with God changed because of my time at CBC. I was offered the opportunity not only to grow academically but also to grow spiritually. I learned what true grace is. I learned about the character of God and His mercy. I left wanting to grow deeper with Him.

I made lifelong friends on campus, friends that I know will always love me and will be praying for me, just like I will for them. We may not see each other as often anymore, but I know I can count on them at any time or anywhere.

I now work as the assistant office manager for Senator Boozman in Washington, D.C. I am excited to continue my work for the State of Arkansas in Senator Boozman's DC office. Senator Boozman has long been someone I have respected as a leader for the state, and I am honored to be able to learn, not only from him but from his staff as well.

In the role of assistant office manager, I help provide superior, constituent service for which Senator Boozman is known. I answer questions from Arkansans who call the Senator's Washington office about pending legislation and debates on the Senate floor. I fulfill requests for flags flown over the U.S. Capitol, and I help with the training of our office staff.

When asked, Senator Boozman said, "Caitlyn is a great addition to our team. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service that will benefit Arkansans in her new role and help us continue to support the needs of our state."

None of this would have happened without CBC. The institution gave me a place and a chance to grow. I was able to make connections and relationships that will follow me throughout my life. I can only hope that everyone can experience the opportunities that I've had at CBC.

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*"CBC was never my plan, but  
CBC was God's plan."*



*— Prior to joining Boozman's staff, Hiland served as boards and commissions coordinator for Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. She is a 2018 Greenbrier High School graduate, where she also earned her associate degree. She is the daughter of Cody and Jana Hiland.*

*CBC is committed to transforming lives by providing an education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.*

# Spotlight On Missions

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



## Stan & Donna Scroggins • Philippines

Filipinos love New Year's Eve. They love it so much they do it twice — once on Jan. 1 and then again on Feb. 1. The second is Chinese New Year and this year it is the year of the Rabbit.

### • Sunday February 26, 2023 —

There are several reasons this date is so important for missionaries.

First, it is a day to emphasize and **pray** for missionaries all over the world. These six years on the field have taught us how important your prayers are to us. Visit [bmamissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023BMAMissionsPrayerCards.pdf](http://bmamissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023BMAMissionsPrayerCards.pdf) and you will find a prayer card for each of our national US missionaries and all our international missionaries.

Second, it is a day of giving for missions. The question often asked is, "Why should our church give to our national Missions Department when we directly support missionaries now?" Here are a few reasons: We are an association of churches, working together to help spread the gospel in the U.S. and around the world. No one church can do this all-encompassing work by herself. But together, working together, we can do incredible, marvelous things. No BMA missionary, anywhere in the world, can do their work without the support and advocacy the BMA Missions Department provides. Changemaker missionaries, church planting, field assessment and preparation, financial accountability, missionary care, health insurance administration, retirement planning, even security training and many other services are not free. These services make it possible for missionaries to be in and stay in the field. All missionaries are grateful for their direct church supporters, but we all know how important the services provided by the Mission Department are, too.

Missionaries have three places to solicit support — friends, family and churches. The BMAA Mission

Department has just one — the churches. Please, let's all come together and make this year's World Mission Day a legacy to be proud of and to remember. Put a smile on a missionaries face by supporting World Mission Day.

### • The Darlene Carey Christian Academy continues to grow.

Almost daily, someone asks about how to send their children to the school. We started the January semester with 84 students. Be looking for a World Mission article highlighting Academy Director Radarlyn Vallejera. She is wife of ChangeMaker missionary John Rey Vallerjera (Jojo).

We are glad to be part of World Mission Day here in the Philippines. Our Bible College students are saving their pesos for our own World Mission Day offering.

• Welcome back, Diane Lee — Diane had to return to the United States for a back procedure. Donna and I are so glad all went well, and she is back in the Philippines. We know Doug is glad, too. The team is back together.

• Church visits — We love the freedom of being able to visit our BMAP churches on our island of Negros. Each week finds us traveling to another church just to visit and be supportive. The people are always welcoming and friendly and usually ask us to speak.

• It's official — Next month we will travel to the island of Maasin to organize the New Testament Baptist Mission into a New Testament church. We will also ordain Alfred, J.R. Suico as their pastor. It will be filled with celebrations, baptisms and fellowship. It is so exciting for us to be able to get this done before we depart in April.

As you might imagine, the most important event in January was the CHED accreditation team visiting our campus for the final review before awarding our accreditation. The review team recommended us

to their national office in Manila. Now we just wait for their announcement.

• From Stan — Kenneth Avenecena (2017 BMABC Graduate) will be returning in June to pastor the mission on Guimaras. He will also be taking his new bride with him. Congratulations, Kenneth.

Donna and I depart on Feb. 2 to visit the Okadas, our missionaries in Japan. Pray for safety and wisdom. It is always difficult to travel during these post-COVID days.

We are excited to travel to the mountains of Leyte for the March 19 church organization and ordination of Missionary Alfred J.R. Suico. This is a hard place to travel to and we do ask for your prayers for our traveling safety. We are also expecting guests from all over the Philippines and the United States.

• From Donna — With about 10 weeks until our departure for the United States, we are busy putting into place all of our exit strategies so that our seven years of ministry here will continue. Although we know we will return often, we desire for everything to continue even though we will no longer permanently live in the Philippines.

One important area is our Campus Clinic, as the only nurse serving our students, we knew we would need to make plans for this important need. We are so glad the college is sending Airish Joyce Claudio to complete her nursing degree. She will be ready to take over in just about one year.

Thanks for all your prayers!

Stay up to date with The Scroggins and their work in the Philippines by visiting their website and checking out their blog — [thescroggins.com](http://thescroggins.com). You can also partner with Stan and Donna by giving through your local church or the BMA Missions website. (Donna, [gajvcrusaders@msn.com](mailto:gajvcrusaders@msn.com); Stan, [stanmusical@icloud.com](mailto:stanmusical@icloud.com).)



BMA Bible College staff after receiving the recommendation from the CHED accreditation team.



## Fil and Lisa Kakilala • Philippines

• Gigantes Island Outreach — Our mission team on Panay Island has reached out to this remote island after New Hope Baptist Church there asked us to help revive their ministry. This island church has been without a pastor for years, but a small group of resident believers chose not to disband. Our mission team will periodically visit the island brethren there to minister and help develop church leadership. May the Lord call and raise a pastor who is from the island to lead the church. It has been a challenge for a pastor who is not from the island to stay, due to distance, poor living conditions, lack of modern amenities and dangers of sea travel. Please pray for this island outreach and for the travel safety and provisions of our mission team.



The mission team from Panay Island meets with Pastor and Mrs. Bulohabo at Parola Baptist Mission in Estancia.



Campus ministry in Iloilo City. Janelle is not much older than these senior high school students, but she's not timid to witness to them about the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

• School Campus Missions — High school and college campuses are rich mission fields for the gospel of Christ. However, there are schools that are closed or difficult to enter with the purpose of evangelizing and discipling students. The key here is to have courageous students who are reaching their fellow students on campus with the Word of God. Please pray for our brave student missionaries who witness for Christ on their campus.

• Resilient Coastal People — Children smile for a picture with an example of storm devastation behind them — Their houses have been destroyed by a strong typhoon and storm surge along the coast. In Estancia, thru Parola Baptist mission there, we help the survivors with food and clothes as they try to recover from their losses. The children who have been locked out of school during the recent COVID years eagerly welcome our extension Bible classes. They seem to be starved for in-person teaching and peer group learning. Many of them have now come to know Christ. Nene, one of the children there, suddenly died from an undetected disease. Praise God, she trusted Christ as her Savior in our Bible class. Let's pray for her grieving family and friends.

• Pray for the Bikers Ministry — The bikers witness for Christ along their route and try to establish relationships with contacts for Bible study. Fil is participating in the BMA World Mission Sunday. He will then return to the Philippines in March to help organize River City Baptist Mission, in the Molo district of Iloilo City, into a New Testament church. ([flakakilala@hotmail.com](mailto:flakakilala@hotmail.com))

**STAND FIRM  
& LIVE EPIC**  
BY JAKE MCCANDLESS

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## End Time Views: The Great Tribulation

We have one more list of end-time views to work through in this series on the different "end-time views," but I want to stall for one more article. So far, we have looked at the four main views about the nature of prophecy and the three main views concerning the Millennial Kingdom. The final list of views concerns the rapture, but to understand those different views we need to understand the progression of the final events of this age.

I stalled last week by looking at the biblical evidence that there's a specific final seven years at the end of this age. The key passage is Dan. 9:27, which not only says there will be a seven-year period but that it will be split in half. Though that is the only passage that specifies the seven-year mark, there are many that parallel the three-and-a-half-year periods. Jesus even references Daniel 9 in the Olivet Discourse recorded in Matthew 24. The Olivet Discourse is the sermon that followed when the disciples asked Jesus what the signs of the end of the age would be.

Jesus begins by sharing there would be a series of events called, "*the beginning of the birth pains*." He went on to tell that following this period there would be birth pains starting with the abomination performed by the Antichrist as Daniel had told. Here are Jesus' words: "*So when you see standing in the holy place the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—*

*and never to be equaled again*" (Matt. 24:15-21 NIV).

In Daniel 9, Daniel wrote that this abomination done by the Antichrist is in the middle of the final seven years. There are other passages that talk about what happens in the three and half years afterward, like Rev. 11:2 which foretells Gentiles will trample over Israel for 42 months (3.5 years) and Rev. 13:5 which tells the Antichrist (and his kingdom) will have authority and will blaspheme God for 42 months (3.5 years). Daniel foretold in Daniel 12 that the period from the abomination of desolation to the end would be 1,290 days (3.5 years). These are only a few of the references to three and a half years.

This idea of the Antichrist running roughshod over Israel at the end of the age isn't novel to the Book of Revelation. It's a theme of the Old Testament prophets as written in Psa. 79:1; Isa. 63:3, 18; Dan. 8:13; and Zech. 12:3.

Not only is the theme of the Antichrist and his kingdom trampling upon Israel in the final time period not new to the New Testament nor is the phrase "birth pains," Isaiah was given the same phrase to describe the same time: "*O Lord, in distress they sought you; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them. Like a pregnant woman who writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is near to giving birth, so were we because of you, O Lord*" (Isa. 26:16-17 ESV).

This passage tells of Israel's great difficulties before they finally turn and accept the Messiah and step into the Messianic Kingdom. This difficult time is the birth pains. Jeremiah calls these years the "*time of Jacob's trouble*." We saw Jesus call them a time of great distress. The final three and half years is the time of Jacob's Trouble and Great Tribulation.

## Reports from the Churches

The Bridge, Mt. Home added three new members since last report; Hershel Conley, pastor.

### CBC

(Continued From Page 4)

Claydelbert Austill, Perryville; Michelle Barnett, Greenbrier; Jacob Briley, Greenbrier; Raymond Chism, Perryville; Amanda Cox, Conway; Chastity Davis, Little Rock; Sarah Eoff, Conway; Alma Gomez, Conway; Hunter Henderson, Bigelow; Laken Mccoy, Conway; Alana Moore, Heber Springs; Jeffrey Moser, Houston; Ashlynn Pratt, Sikeston, Mo.; Charles Scallion, Pine Bluff; Brittany Schay, Little Rock; Nicklas Smith, Morriston; Diana Taylor, Greenbrier; and Joshua White, Vilonia.

So, what about the first three and a half years? We often refer to them as the Tribulation and we also often make the Tribulation and "*beginning of birth pains*" synonymous. Though there will be a Tribulation time ahead of the Great Tribulation, it is not limited to just those first three and half years.

According to Daniel 11 and Ezekiel 38, this time seems to be a time of peace in Israel, likely made possible through the agreement with the Antichrist, but Daniel 11 also reveals the Antichrist will be at war with other nations. Daniel 8 reveals that there will be war in the rise of the Antichrist. There's no doubt the rest of the world will face the "*beginning of the birth pains*" during this time, but that doesn't mean they start at the beginning of the seven years, we're not given a time period for when they start. We just know they immediately precede the birth pains.

Even before we get to those last seven years, Revelation 17 and 18 speak of another power rising and persecuting Christians. This entity is called "Mystery Babylon" or the "Great Harlot."

There will be the beginning of the birth pains that includes the beginning of birth pain trials Jesus foretold, the conquest of the Antichrist's rise and the persecution of Mystery Babylon, and this will most likely occur before the final seven years. The rise of the Antichrist, who has to be in power at the start of the final seven years, shows to bring war and upheaval to the world. Then this Mystery Babylon entity that rises before the Antichrist is said to be "*drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*" and all the nations are "*deceived by her sorcery*."

*Jake is the newest state missionary and would love to share about the work in Northwest Arkansas and encourage your church to stand firm. (standfirministries.com)*

## LEGACY

(Continued From Page 1)

Bobby Bowman had been pastoring churches and working in ministry after his retirement when he felt God calling him to Central America, where he could use his medical skills and plant churches. But Ruth did not feel the same. She says, "I did not want to go to Honduras, and I cried all the way down there. But when I had to leave it years later, I cried all the way back."

After their arrival, the Bowmans realized the medical needs in Honduras were many, and plans had begun for an orphanage that would eventually be turned into a hospital to better serve Hondurans. When another building was purchased to convert into a hospital, an orphanage was built and Ruth worked with the children there. The Bowmans' apartment was attached to the orphanage, so they came to Ruth for help.

The orphanage became her passion and God burdened her heart for the abandoned children who lived there. Some of them had handicaps, so she helped them learn to walk. Some needed help with their schooling. Others just needed love.

Ruth said, "When I worked with the children in the orphanage, I began loving our work in Honduras and the children who needed me. I was their mama, and to this day, they still call and send cards and ask me how I'm doing." God changed her heart so she could be the hands and feet of Jesus.

While in the process of opening a hospital in Honduras, pregnant women often asked Bobby Bowman to deliver their babies there even before it was ready. Compared to the conditions under which most women had to give birth, it was at least clean and sterile, so medical staff agreed to do so.

One of those mothers arrived at the hospital one day with labor pains and said to Bowman, "I have a story to tell you, doctor. The baby I had before this one died because I couldn't take care of him and give him enough nutrition. I can't provide for this baby either, so can you take it and raise it?"

Obviously, it was a shocking question for him since Bobby was 48 and Ruth was 50. He told her he would have to consult with his wife. The girl's pains had stopped, so she left to stay with a friend nearby until labor began again.

Four days later she returned, this time in active labor, and Bobby delivered the baby, a boy, on June 1, 1984. It was a date Ruth and Bobby would never forget.

"It was love at first sight," Ruth said. "Bobby knew my answer without having to ask. Tommy was a wonderful child to us, obedient and good." Today Tommy Bowman owns a catering business in Arkansas. He and his wife and



## Widow of BMA Pastor Dies

Sandra Kaye Francis, 71 of Greenwood, passed away Jan. 31. She was the widow of BMA Pastor Stephen Gil "Steve" Francis. During his ministry, he pastored Harrison Chapel in Beebe, Park Avenue in Searcy, Letona in Letona, Grace in Wynne and Tenth Street in Paragould. He also pastored churches in Missouri and Mississippi. She was the daughter of the late Kenneth Brown, a BMA pastor and long-time professor and one of the first students at Central Baptist College.

Survivors include: two sons, Matthew (Miranda) Francis of Sallisaw, Okla.; Mark (Catherine) Francis of Jackson, Miss.; a sister, Judy (Thom) South of Conway; her mother, Marie Brown of Conway; 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

A service was held Feb. 8 at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Plumerville with Dr. Thom South officiating. Interment followed at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Plumerville under the direction of Mallory-Martin Funeral Home of Stigler, Okla. (mallorymartin-funeralhome.com).

## Deaths

**Norman Curtis Harris, Jr.**, 76 of Gassville, passed away Feb. 4. He was a member of The Bridge Church in Mountain Home.

**Bernice Eloise Quattlebaum**, 100 of Conway, passed away Feb. 1. She was a member of Central Baptist Church.

**Jean Taylor Robertson**, 78 of Waldo, passed away Feb. 1. She was a member at First Baptist Church.

**Travis Vann**, 94 of Magnolia, passed away Feb. 1. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church.

**Mary Ruth Holstine Baker**, 91 of Elizabeth, passed away Jan. 30. She was a charter member of Landmark Baptist Church.

children live not far from Ruth and Bobby.

Bobby and Ruth left Honduras in 1995, where they had planted nine churches, built a medical clinic and started a Bible institute. Later, he established BMMI, Baptist Medical Missions International, which hosts medical clinics around the world. In April of 2023, Bobby and Ruth Bowman will be honored for their missionary legacy.



## Missionaries

**BMA OF ARKANSAS**  
 Michael Hight, Hispanic Coordinator; (501) 326-0198  
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984  
 Clinton Morris, The Table, Springdale; (870) 316-1519  
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton; (501) 522-0079  
 Roberto Marcelletti, Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.; (936) 202-7988  
 Jake McCandless, Epic Life, Pea Ridge; (501) 472-9079  
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## Can You Lie and Not Sin?

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). The ninth commandment. "Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Deut. 5:20). For the most part, this has to do with legal testimony in a court of law. The Jewish legal system relied upon honest witnesses. Human testimony has the power to convict or even condemn. We can see why the Lord would safeguard truth in testifying. Other safeguards included the need for more than one witness for a death sentence — "Only on the testimony of two or three witnesses shall a person be put to death" (Deut. 17:6). And the provision that the accusers would themselves throw the first stones — "The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people" (Deut. 17:7).

If someone was caught committing perjury, they received the same punishment the accused would have received, "If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother" (Deut. 19:16-19). These provisions, along with the ninth commandment, safeguarded civil justice in Israel.

This is the primary context for the ninth commandment, but false testimony renders harm even outside a courtroom and is thus a sin wherever it takes place. Whenever we make a truth claim, we are required by God to do so truthfully. The biblical condemnation of untruth spreads a very wide net. They include false witness and accusation, cheating in any form, wrongly defending yourself, denying the truth, leading others astray and slander of any kind. No wonder the wise man prays, "Keep falsehood and lies far from me" (Prov. 30:8). God obliges us to always seek and serve the cause of truth. As Jesus said, "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'" (Matt. 5:37). Paul writes, "Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor" (Eph. 4:25).

Someone might reply, isn't it true that by speaking the truth we often do more harm than good? Should I say, "Yes," when someone asks me, "Do you think I've gained weight?" Should I say, "I'm sorry, but the food was terrible," to the bad cook who asks about the meal? Let me say, in response to this, that there is a place for social tact; honesty does not always demand brutality. Yet, before we start excusing any pattern of untruth, perhaps we would do better to seek wisdom in our speech.

What, then, about deceiving an enemy in war? What if someone comes into my house and puts a gun to my head, demanding to know if my wife is in the house? (The latter is the classic example of situational ethics.) How, then, do we handle seemingly competing values?

The answer, as usual, is that we should pay closer attention to the Bible. The Bible does not say that everybody has the right to demand information from you. Here, we return to the main context of the ninth commandment as truth in testimony. The reason Rahab was not sinning when she deceived the soldiers in Jericho was that she was participating in Israel's war with the Canaanites; it is not lying to deceive your opponent in war. There are, in fact, a number of circumstances in which people do not have the right to demand information from you. In the case of the criminal looking for your wife, or of the Nazi soldier looking for the Jews hiding in your basement, these are not the "neighbors" spoken of in the ninth commandment, at least not in that capacity.

Far from thinking of situations in which we may excuse the impulse to tell a lie that is so deeply ingrained on our hearts, we should ask God for a new heart, for His Spirit to work His own character into us — including a deep and abiding love for truth — so that we might do His will in every situation.

## From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Sunday, Jan. 29, Jose Carlos and I accompanied Fernanda to an audition she had in Chicago. She is

looking for a university to continue her Master's studies. Thank God, the trip was made without mishaps despite the winter storm that was ravaging the country.

Oscar Gomez preached the portion of the book that corre-

sponded to the series of studies we are developing on Hebrews. In the worship team, Marlon played the guitar and Oliver the drums. Both are learning to play those instruments. Thank God for these boys' ability to learn musical instruments.

"On Thursday, Feb. 3, Anahí left for the presence of the Lord. She was a two-year-old girl for whom we were praying. God decided to take her to His presence. Don Roberto and Doña Norma are the maternal grandparents. They have joined the church through the study group on Thursdays. Let us pray for comfort for the family and that this is an opportunity for Anahí's parents and the rest of the family to draw closer to God."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "On Sunday, Feb. 5 (as is our custom on the first Sunday of each month), we celebrated the Lord's Supper. It is always a good time to remember the sacrifice, covenant and the coming of Christ. We continue praying and ministering to the Venezuelan family. Thanks to God, Eduar is working and, little by little, his economic situation is improving. As I have told you, they have not made their decision for Christ, but my prayer is that they will do so soon and we will be able to baptize them.

"We see an enthusiasm in Ebenezer that is as it was before the pandemic. I see that both our attendance and offerings have improved and, little by little, we see the seed sown during the time of the pandemic. It has been very slow to get active, but God is touching hearts. We are almost ready for Sunday, Feb. 12, when we will talk about 'True Love.' It will be an opportunity to bring guests and share the gospel and food after our service.

"In the evening, we will gather at one of our member's homes to watch the Super Bowl. Each year that we have been able to do this, we have met people who otherwise would not be able to attend. Pray that, in these two activities, God will allow us to meet and build bridges of friendship with people who would never go to the temple.

"Pray for my son, Rubencito (Little Ruben) who has already been accepted by the university. Pray that God will provide the necessary funds for his studies. May God be glorified in our lives."

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great time of worship this week at Faith Chapel!

## 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.

**Kelty's First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas** is seeking a pastor of youth and missions. Resumes, including references, along with sermon



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

**Oakland Heights, White Hall**, Feb. 26-March 1; Wes Wooley, pastor.

**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge**, April 16-18; Danny Bradley, evangelist; John Durham, pastor.

samples, may be sent to dave@kelty's.org. For more information and a complete job description, visit kelty's.org/youthpastor.

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

into our lives that need to be ministered to. We are always open to pouring into the lives of others, young or old, and hope we please the Lord with whom we are given. God is always faithful, and we need to be faithful as well."

"We had ice all week and had to cancel our Wednesday evening service. The weather improved greatly and it got to over 60° and sunny on Sunday.

"The concrete contractor is planning on digging and pouring our footings for the new building on Monday morning — praise God! We were in Acts 26 Sunday morning, and it is fitting to remind us why Jesus called us to this mission, 'to make thee a minister and a witness to this community, to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.' And we know that He will use this building, just as He uses us, to do just that.

"We thank you for your prayers for us, Flippin, those we are sent here to minister to and for this building that we, His church, will meet in. Please continue praying because He is answering our prayers."

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "The weather caused several missed meetings this week. I came down with the worst case of strep I have ever had. It took me four days to feel better. I am praying this next week will be better in terms of health and weather."

"We have some great activities planned for this month, including building homeless giveaway bags for our community, gearing up for our new ministry called 'Around the Table' and the ladies are working on a Bible study."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "We had to adjust our community visits at the nursing homes some this week — one due to the weather, but one was due to an outbreak of COVID in the facility. Please be in prayer for the residents and staff to get through this time and keep them healthy. Hopefully, we will be able to get back in there as soon as it is all clear."

"Speaking of exciting, I just returned from city hall, where I submitted an application to have the property rezoned for a church to meet. Yes, we're zeroing in on a location! It's exciting."

"God is starting to bring people

## LONG-TERM

(Continued From Page 1)

membership is often unwilling to commit to change because they understand that, in two or three years, the next guy will want to do something different and, in two or three more years, the next guy will want to do something else different. Affecting change among Baptists is more like turning an aircraft carrier than turning a cruiser. However, a long-term pastorate builds trust and stability. Then, change is something in which to invest rather than resist.

### • Generational Ministry —

Another benefit to a long-term pastorate is generational ministry. The tenured pastor is present for many of the critical moments in life — some joyous and some difficult. With a 20-year pastorate, God's man could potentially be present for the birth, baptism, graduation and marriage of a church member. Watching a new disciple profess faith in Jesus, begin serving in the church and then become a leader, results in tremendous spiritual satisfaction for the pastor. Walking with a family during the loss of a grandparent and then a parent is meaningful.

These moments of pastoral care can only be experienced with a multi-year or even a multi-decade pastorate. Multi-generational ministry is a blessing to both the pastor and the congregation.

### • Community Pastor —

Yet another benefit of a long-term pastorate, especially in a small or medium size community, is the role of "community pastor." That is, the community at large begins seeing a pastor as **their** pastor, even though they are not members of the church where he serves.

For years, James Ray Raines served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Gurdon. He was involved in the community and his kids were active in the public schools. The entire community seemed to know Bro. Raines. He officiated at funerals for church members **and** community members because he was known in the community. That relationship with the community led to many ministry-specific opportunities.

Being viewed as a community pastor is not about popularity or ego, but about service and sharing Jesus. That kind of effectiveness comes only through a long-term, engaged pastorate.

So, what's the takeaway? Despite the challenges and sacrifices necessary for a long-term pastorate, if God allows a man to serve in a church leadership role long-term, the positives far outweigh the negatives. Both the man of God and the congregation should enter that unique relationship with long-term vision and commitment.

— Allan recently began his 12<sup>th</sup> year as pastor at Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell and hopes to finish his public ministry there.

## WROTE

(Continued From Page 1)

the BMA would be today if men such as E. Harold Henderson, D.N. Jackson, J.E. Cobb, John Gregson, Philip Bryan, L.H. Raney, W.J. Burgess and others never picked up a pen or sat down before a keyboard. Would we know who we are or what we believe? Would we even know what makes the BMA the BMA?

While the BMA is an association of local, autonomous churches, the churches of the BMA choose to associate under certain doctrinal convictions and cooperate, primarily, for the sake of missions and education. If the BMA never printed doctrinal statements, never provided a Sunday School curriculum and never published books, we would not have a clear standard for our doctrine or practice. There has to be something concrete, something tangible. It helps to have something "written down."

The fact that the BMA is able to publish such works contributes greatly to the continued unity of local BMA churches, the preservation of BMA doctrinal distinctives and the furtherance of biblically-based New Testament churches.

This happens every week across the BMA. For example, hundreds

of BMA churches meet for Sunday School each week and are able to study God's Word using a curriculum that supports, rather than challenges, their doctrine. These churches are able to associate and cooperate more closely because they believe the same basic doctrines that are affirmed and strengthened by the turning of each page of BMA Sunday School curricula.

Missionaries are working to disciple new believers and develop future pastors using BMA curriculum. Recently, we were able to fund the purchase of a new printer for a BMA missionary in Africa. The men they are training and the churches they will be planting are not going to believe and teach things that contradict what your church believes and teaches. Having access to BMA materials keeps established and future BMA churches "on the same page."

We are able to see new BMA leaders (in North America and worldwide) be discipled and new BMA churches planted that reflect what we believe. This is significant in preserving our ability to associate. Consider what would happen if new BMA pastors and churches did not believe or teach what established pastors and churches believe or teach! The outcome would not

be healthy.

These things are possible because, decades ago, we started "writing things down." Our BMA forefathers knew the significance of publishing BMA curriculum and other works. The results are evident every time you drive by a BMA church. Consider this illustration:

At one point, a church voted to petition to join the BMA. Part of that process included agreeing to the BMA Doctrinal Statement and Principles of Cooperation. Those things could only be read and voted upon because somebody "wrote them down." After the church joined the BMA, they wanted to preserve the doctrine they voted to affirm. They were able to do this by providing their people with BMA Sunday School curriculum. Each week, her members learned and grew together.

When they met for annual association meetings, they found brothers and sisters with shared doctrine, convictions and practices. This was also a result of men "writing things down."

Later on, a young man who grew up in that church was called to ministry. He eventually replaced his pastor, who had to retire after many years of service. When this

new pastor stepped into the pulpit, the church did not have to worry about what he believed or would teach. They knew he would be faithful to the Bible and their doctrine, for he had been taught the truth each week in his Sunday School class.

While the little story above may sound made-up, it is based on the lives of two men I know personally.

The year is 2023, and Baptist Publishing House is still "writing things down." Our writers are strictly BMA, as they must be members in good standing of a local BMA church and affirm the Doctrinal Statement of the BMA. Each writer is also approved by our board of trustees. Rest assured, we do not outsource writing assignments to non-BMA writers.

While there are many good and faithful Christian publishers, including many Baptist publishers, there is only one BMA publishing department. We are the only publisher that is committed to the churches, Doctrinal Statement and heritage of local BMA churches. I hope what we are "writing down" encourages, strengthens and motivates your church toward the work of Great Commission ministry.

May God bless you and your church!

## World Missions Day is February 26, 2023

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[bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday)

Jerry Kidd Missions Offering

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