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CO:MISSIONED in Southeast Asia — Plowing the Hard Ground

By John Meriweather,

Regional Director for Southeast Asia and VP of Operations

“We are local-church driven. We believe local congregations are both the source (sending and supporting) and the goal (planting and multiplying).” This value statement is the heart and vision of BMA Missions and is represented in our theme for World Missions Day — **CO:MISSIONED — a shared mission, a shared responsibility.**

Churches sending. Churches planting. That is both our duty and our privilege. God’s mission is my mission, your mission, our mission.

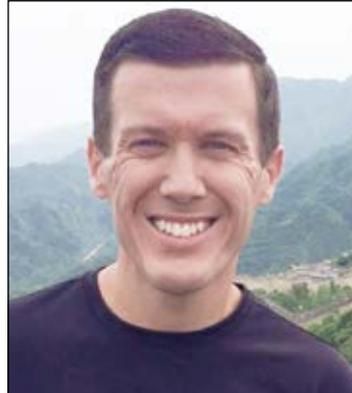
It’s the reason for our partnership... to **send, start and support** churches in every nation. While this mission both motivates and energizes us, it also faces a challenging reality when we leave the comfortable confines of our culture.

Carrying out God’s mission is much like farming — you prepare the soil, plow the field, plant the seed and cultivate the ground with prayers for reaping a harvest. Now imagine the field you were given to farm was a rock quarry. Preparing and plowing the ground is tedious and takes longer and requires more effort than you ever imagined. You plant seeds only to realize the ground isn’t ready. Will you ever reap a harvest? That is what it feels like for our missionary teams in the countries of Southeast Asia like Thailand, Myanmar, India and Nepal.

In Southeast Asia, the challenges are diverse and unique, yet very real. These countries are dominated by firmly-steeped religions like Buddhism, Hinduism and a growing Muslim influence. In some cases, there is overt oppression and anti-Christian opposition. In all cases, there are cultural and religious hurdles unlike anything we experience in the United States. When entire countries adopt a religion that is centuries old (Buddhism, Hinduism), the perseverance required just to see receptive ears and hearts can feel like climbing Mount Everest. It can take years of preparing and plowing before you see the sprouts of those first seeds.

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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



Jonathan Montgomery is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of First Baptist, Taylor and serves as director of Missionary Care for BMA Missions. Contact him at (318) 578-0465.

Petie Ward is available for pulpit supply and pastoral ministry. He has 29 years of pastoral experience. Contact him at (870) 234-2960.

Blackwell Baptist Church in Atkins is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, contact Roy Story at (501) 242-2584.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Lake City is seeking a pastor. Resumes may be sent to larry-montgomery163@yahoo.com or Larry Montgomery, 246 CR 723 Jonesboro, Ark. 72405. For more information, call (870) 930-6388.

However, through your partnership and perseverance and with God’s power, praise the Lord we are seeing the harvest!

- God has called a new BMA missionary team in the **Himalayas** that has already built relationships and will focus on planting our first church there.

- In **Thailand**, after many years of plowing and planting, our church in North Bangkok is growing beyond their current capacity. Discipleship and leadership development efforts there are bearing fruit. They are working with a disciple on plans for a church plant in a different region of the country.

- In **Myanmar**, the People’s Defense Forces are at war daily with a militant government. Our churches are going underground but continue to meet, pray and

See ASIA, Page 6



Reflections From Asbury

By Bill Elliff

Executive Editor’s Note: This article is a compilation featuring excerpts from two blog posts regarding the current revival taking place at Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky., and is shared with permission from Bill. Visit BillElliff.com to read the posts in their entirety and see new updates.

On Feb. 10, my wife, Holly, and I decided to make the nine-hour drive from our home to Wilmore, Ky. to observe and experience what God seems to be doing, once again, at Asbury University. I’m so grateful we did.

February 1970

This was the year God broke into a normal chapel service which continued non-stop for the next seven days and nights at Asbury University. The Jesus Movement was already beginning, but the Asbury Revival accelerated it dramatically. Eventually, teams of students left Asbury and went across the country, telling the story. Everywhere they went, revival and awakening broke out. We came this week because our lives were transformed by the movement at Asbury in 1970 and the Jesus movement that occurred. We have longed for and sought revival ever since.

February 2023

Wednesday morning, Feb. 8, the Lord moved in another chapel service in Hughes Auditorium. As of this writing (Feb. 13), that single service has continued morning and night and is now on its sixth day. I talked to

See ASBURY, Page 4



Re:Charged in Prayer

By Larry Barker, Regional Director for North America and VP of Church Strategy and Training

The Re:Charge Conference is over and behind us. However, the impact and inspiration from this wonderful time where our souls (spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational) were ministered to through worship, God’s Word, fellowship, laughter and just having some fun continues. We prayed over one another, for one another and with one another. Our keynote speaker, Bill Elliff, reminded us that the most powerful person in any room is the one who is praying. Bill stated, “The man who prays brings God into the equation.”

His challenge was to make a major adjustment in our daily prayer practices by simply beginning to pray more right now. The greatest classroom for learning how to pray is on our knees praying. I Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to “pray without ceasing.” That means we can pray without an intermission. Bill stated, “God knows your life will not work if you are not talking to Him.” Pastor, we are in the midst of a battle for the souls of our

See PRAYER, Page 5

In This Issue

Basketball Tournament for Young Men (pg. 8)

CBC Homecoming Court Announced (pg. 2)

Earthquake: End-Times Event or Not? (pg. 6)

Pastor Tenure (pg. 3)

Why Do I Need to Be Saved? (pg. 7)




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PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President



Back Row (L/R): Christa Owen, Allison Mantooth, Autumn Herring and Sierra Burrow. Front Row (L/R): Audrey Johnson, Emily Gentry, Abby Wilson, Sheridan Rogers and Ashanti Williams.

Central Baptist College 2023 Homecoming Court Announced

The Central Baptist College Student Services Department has announced the court for Homecoming 2023. The following nine women were selected by their peers for the 2023 Homecoming Court:

- **Emily Gentry** is a freshman Psychology and Social Services major from Greenbrier. She is a member of the CBC Band, Handbells and Worship Choir. Emily is the daughter of Brad and Kim Gentry, and attends Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

- **Audrey Johnson** is a freshman Elementary Education major from Jacksonville, Texas. She is a member of the Student Activities Board, Tower Media and is a leadership Scholar. Audrey is the daughter of Eric and Kelly Johnson, and attends Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier.

- **Sheridan Rogers** is a sophomore Exercise Science major from Russellville. She is a member of the Student Orientation Staff, plays on the CBC Volleyball team and is a member of the chapel band. She also serves as the female representative for the Association of Student Athletes. Sheridan is the daughter of Richard and Jennifer Rogers, and attends City Church in Conway.

- **Abby Wilson** is a sophomore Elementary Education major from Lufkin, Texas. She is a member of the Student Orientation Staff, Student Activities Board, Tower Photography, Singers and Worship Choir. Abby is the daughter of Aaron and Anita Wilson, and attends Woodland Heights Baptist Church in Conway.

- **Sierra Burrow** is a junior Psychology and Counseling major from Quitman. She is a leadership Scholar and serves on the Student Orientation Staff and Student Activities Board. Sierra is the daughter of Thad and Heather Burrow, and attends Mount Olive Baptist Church in Guy.

- **Ashanti Williams** is a junior Elementary Education major from Jonesboro. She serves as a resident assistant and is a part of the Student Orientation Staff, Student Activities Board, Tower Media, Worship Choir and the spring musical. Ashanti is the daughter of Antonio and Antonette Reid, and attends City Church in Conway.

- **Autumn Herring** is a senior Health Science major from Maumelle. She is currently the senior team leader for the Student Orientation Staff, president of the Student Activities Board, assistant editor for Tower Media Photography, a member of the Worship Choir and a member of both the White Coat Society and the Medical Professions Society. Autumn is the daughter of Jeff and Kristin Herring, and attends Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

- **Allison Mantooth** is a senior Kinesiology major. She is currently on the Student Orientation Staff and a member of the CBC Singers and Choir. Allison is the daughter of Chris and Amy Mantooth, and attends Second Baptist Church in Conway.

- **Christa Owen** is a senior Psychology and Social Services major from Conway. She is a CBC Band member, serves as an instrumental ambassador and is a reporter for Tower Media. Christa is the daughter of Steven and Carla Owen, and attends Woodland Heights Baptist Church in Conway.

The Homecoming Court will be presented, and the 2023 Homecoming Queen will be announced, between basketball games on the CBC campus on Saturday, Feb. 18. Games will begin at 1 p.m. in the AR Reddin Fieldhouse.



Sports News
By Erik Holth

Softball

- **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 1** — The American Midwest Conference (AMC) released their preseason softball poll, and CBC was selected to finish fifth in the AMC. The Mustangs are coming off a 25-20 season that saw them finish third in the standings last season.

- **Alexandria, La., Feb. 10** — Playing on the road in a tournament for the second weekend in a row, CBC was at Generals Field for the first day of the LSU-Alexandria Generals Showdown. CBC (2-5) dropped both contests, falling 7-1 to #5 Freed-Hardeman (1-0) in game one before losing 3-0 to #14 William Carey (1-0) in game two.

Men's Basketball

- **Conway, Feb. 9** — Looking to move one step closer to clinching a home game in the upcoming AMC quarterfinals, CBC hosted the Lyon Scots on Senior Night at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (17-9, 9-5 AMC) fought back from down 8 early, shooting 55% in the second half to down Lyon (8-14, 4-10 AMC) 88-80.

- **Walnut Ridge, Feb. 11** — Playing for the final time on the road during the regular season, CBC was at the Southerland Mabee Center for an AMC clash with the Eagles of Williams Baptist (WBU). CBC (18-9, 10-5 AMC) led by seven at the half and hung on to defeat WBU (14-9, 9-6 AMC), 81-80. **Jalen Adams** led four Mustangs in double figures scoring 16 points, **Tajuan Johnson** added 13 (and had a double-double with a career-high 14 rebounds), **Brevin Brimble** chipped in 11 and **Gabe Johnson** added 10.

Women's Basketball

- **Conway, Feb. 9** — Looking to get one step closer to making the AMC tournament for the fourth straight season, CBC took on the Scots of Lyon College in front of a raucous crowd inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (9-13, 4-13 AMC) led at halftime and at the end of three, but couldn't hold Lyon (9-13, 8-10 AMC) in the fourth quarter, falling 65-62. **Caroline City** was the lone Lady Mustang in double figures with a career-high 24 points, while **Olivia Lambrigtsen** grabbed a career-high 12 rebounds.

- **Walnut Ridge, Feb. 11** — Playing on the road for the final time this season, CBC was inside the Southerland Mabee Center for an AMC rivalry clash with the Eagles of WBU. CBC (9-14, 4-14 AMC) led early but couldn't capitalize, falling to WBU (16-10, 12-6 AMC) 86-52.

Baseball

- **Blue Mountain, Miss., Feb. 10** — Heading to the road for the **See SPORTS, Page 3**



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Changing Direction In Your Teaching Plan

Student ministry workers are often stereotyped as not having the ability to plan. By and large, I would say that is not the case. Most student pastors are working hard to impact their students and know they have to do a great deal of planning to accomplish their goals for their ministries. Those that are bi-vocational must do extra planning just to make it through as they serve in their churches, families and workplaces. Prayer-infused planning is a marker of a successful student ministry worker. That is especially true in the area of teaching and preaching. It is important to have a solid plan for the year and beyond. However, there are times when that plan needs to be set aside for something different. Determining when to make that change can be a bit of a challenge. When determining whether or not to make a change, there are at least three reasons to not make a shift:

- **You have grown bored with the current book of the Bible and want to move on to something else.** If you prayerfully considered what to cover, this may have more to do with you than anything else. Take some time for prayer and seek to recommit yourself to finding God's Word for your students in the passages you are studying.

- **Studying has grown difficult, and you would prefer to avoid the hard passages.** Your students are going to see your avoidance of the passage as taking the easy way out. Dig in and get to the heart of the passage.

- **A change might be easier for you.** You may have some lessons or sermons in your "back pocket" and a shift might be the easier thing for your schedule. Don't go down that road. Invest the time in your lessons and sermons. Know that your students deserve your hard work.

Beyond the reasons not to make a change in your teaching plan, there are things to consider as you evaluate your current situation:

- **How is the Holy Spirit leading?** Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you lead and teach your students. Acts 16:9 is a prime example of this. The ministry team was sharing the gospel and doing good things, but then the Holy Spirit gave them a course correction. We can be doing good and godly things, but the Father may have something else in mind for us. We need to be sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit.

- **What are the needs of my group?** Our culture is ever shifting. There are times when we will need to speak to topics and subjects that are impacting our students. Be aware of what is going on with your people.

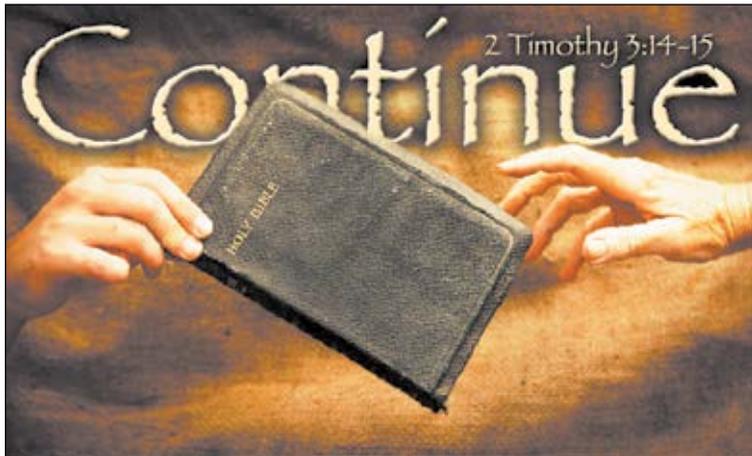
- **How can I best shepherd my students?** We need to be aware of how our teaching plan is leading our students in their spiritual walk. There can be moments when awareness will lead us in different directions than what we spent time planning for that week.

Some of us handle change better than others. You may be the one looking for a reason to change your plan. Let me encourage you to evaluate the situation carefully. Don't just do it because it is easier. Think about the long-term impact of what you are working through with your students. They need a well-rounded understanding of God's Word, and you are the one God has placed in their lives.

— This article is adapted from information Chris Vines shared during our recent podcast on the subject. Chris is the co-host of the Student Ministry Matters Podcast and Student Pastor at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope. Check it out at studentministrymatters.podbean.com or join the conversation at [Facebook.com/groups/studentministrymatterscommunity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/studentministrymatterscommunity).



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Pastor Tenure

How long should a pastor stay at a church? While the answer to that question can be quite subjective, there are a lot of prayerful considerations that must go into such a crucial decision. Statistics suggest that the average length of tenure is somewhere between 2.5 to 5 years. Unfortunately, that means many leave their church right before the most fruitful years are about to occur. Dr. Kevin Blackwell stated, "We must see a continual increase in pastoral tenures if we want to see lasting revitalization and the strengthening of churches across North America. Too many times pastors leave a church right at the point of breakthrough."

Lifeway has described the stages of pastoring and the length of tenure as: "Year 1: Honeymoon. Both pastor and church have a blank slate and they enter the relationship hoping and believing the best about each other. Years 2 and 3: Conflicts and Challenges. No pastor is perfect. No church is perfect. Each party discovers the imperfections after a few months. Years 4 and 5. Crossroads, Part 1. This period is one of the most critical in the relationship. If the conflict was severe, the pastor will likely leave or be forced out. Indeed, these years, four and five, are the most common years when a pastor leaves a church."

The years 6 to 10 are the time of fruit and harvest. This is when a church is "likely to experience some of its best years, by almost any metrics, during this period of a pastor's tenure. The years 11 and beyond: Crossroads, Part 2." Staying over 10 years is actually a very rare opportunity that most pastors and churches never experience. Yet, the facts and data are clear that longer-tenured pastorates produce healthier churches because they have developed strong relationships, built trust and learned how to navigate difficulties and trials together.

Some pastors and churches never experience a honeymoon because of

the toxic situation already present in the church that was never been dealt with biblically. Years 2 to 3 is the time period that can determine a long successful pastorate or not. Maybe the church has never watched a pastor willing to stay long enough to lead them through conflict management, but instead has always avoided addressing the issues and has run from them by moving on. Notice that years 4 and 5 are when most pastors end up leaving — just before the potentially most fruitful years are about to hopefully happen.

If you are considering a change or moving to another ministry, here are some things to consider in discerning God's direction. If God placed you there, by clearly showing you it was His will, then do not question in the dark difficult times what God showed you in the light. Slow down and spend time distinguishing between God's will and your will. Maybe you are receiving other offers and an opportunity seems almost too good to be true. Remember that usually, things too good to be true are, and an opportunity does not mean obligation. There are times to stay and go but that decision can only be discerned by seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Be careful about over-emphasizing circumstances because God's will can be hard, difficult and requires enduring some difficult seasons. Just because it appears to be an open door and a better opportunity does not mean it is God's will and what He desires for you and your church. In speaking about circumstances, Henry and Richard Blackaby said, "The key is not the occurrence itself but the presence of the Holy Spirit as He communicates through life events." They continued in *Hearing God's Voice*, "Just an open door is not in itself a sign of God's will, neither is a closed door a sign that something is against God's will."

Here is a great process to consider in making sure that it is God who is calling you away into

another ministry:

• **Pray, pray and pray some more.** This is absolutely necessary in listening to the Holy Spirit. Making a major decision when your spiritual walk and relationship with Christ are struggling can be disastrous. Bill Elliff in *Prayer with No Intermission* stated, "The greatest purpose of prayer is to come into the presence of the Father and align our will with His." Make sure John 15:7 is a reality in your life, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

• **Slow down and take your time.** Consider getting away for a two or three-day prayer retreat. Have a renewed devotion and passion to your secret place as you focus daily on your relationship with Christ. In Matt. 6:6, Jesus first tells us where to pray, in the secret place, before He tells us how or what to pray. Psalm 91:1 says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Circumstances, advice and thinking things over are all good things, but the best thing is realizing that everything flows from the presence of the Lord — everything! That is why it is so important to wait on the Lord.

Then take even more time striving to discern His perfect will in the matter. Waiting on the Lord is not always easy, but it certainly is worthwhile. Quoting the Blackaby's again, "We would rather climb Mt. Everest than wait on the Lord to speak in the stillness of the day. In times of silence, we tend to begin speaking rather than continuing to listen... Waiting on God can be one of the most profound, faith-stretching experiences of your life." If you are going to tell your church that God told you to leave, make sure that is what He said!

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

first time this season, CBC was at Toppers Field for a doubleheader against the Toppers of Blue Mountain Christian University. CBC (2-2) lost both contests to BMCU (5-1), dropping game one 7-1 before losing game two 4-3 on a walk-off single in the ninth inning.

• **Blue Mountain, Miss., Feb. 11** — Looking to try to salvage a split, CBC was back at Topper Field for the final two games of a four-game set against the Toppers of Blue Mountain Christian University. CBC (2-4) couldn't muster much offense, losing 4-0 and 7-1 to BMCU (6-1).

Wrestling

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 13** — For the third consecutive week, CBC has a wrestler selected as wrestler of the week by the American Midwest Conference. **Joshua King** was selected this week, joining **Darron Harvey** and **David Corretjer**, who have both been selected twice this season.



What I See...
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Roots to last a lifetime
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The Blessing of Dirty Dishes

It seems there is always a sink full of dirty dishes at The Hedge. One day last week, I was getting ready to leave and my eye caught the familiar sight in the kitchen; so I stopped, ran some water and cleaned up before I left. While I was washing, I felt a twinge of irritation rising in me over the fact that a bunch of college-aged young adults didn't seem to know how to wash a dish after they had used it.

Dishwashing is on the list of a few things I do at the ministry that often cause me to feel some irritation. Others include picking up empty soda cans and water bottles from the tables in the living room, taking out the trash in the bathroom (because if one more person was to stomp on the trash it would explode the trashcan) and making small piles of students' clutter that they've decided to leave around the building for indefinite amounts of time in hopes they will see them and take their things home.

As I was washing the other day and my irritation was rising, I sensed that the Holy Spirit was trying to lead me into a different way of thinking. The thought that started drowning out my irritation was this: "At least there are students here to make dirty dishes so you can serve them."

There is an interesting passage in Mark 10:35-40 that describes how James and John came to Jesus and asked Him to grant them the privilege of sitting on His left and His right someday when He was in His glory. Jesus asked the brothers if they thought they would be able to bear the baptism that He would, soon enough, bear and they answered in the affirmative. Then Jesus said they would, indeed, receive that baptism; but it was not His decision to make as to whether or not they would sit next to Him in glory. Then in verse 41, we see how the other disciples are indignant at James and John for even asking this question.

In verses 42-45, Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus signaled to His disciples that in His kingdom, service is characterized as the sign of authority. So, to be in an authority position in the kingdom of God necessitates that one would serve others. Furthermore, when those in authority act in service, they follow in the King's path — the same King who washed His disciples' nasty feet knowing that 1 would betray Him and the other 11 would in one way or another, deny Him as He was murdered.

That makes dishes, soda cans, trash overflows and misplaced items seem quite insignificant. The more I've thought about it, the more it makes them seem like opportunities to exercise authority the way my King would have me — by serving!

Lord willing, I hope to have the opportunity to wash dishes for many more days to come. That's what I see when I look back on the last month at The Hedge.

• **Conway, Feb. 13** — Wrestling at Reddin Fieldhouse for the final time this season, CBC was on the mat for a dual against the University of the Ozarks (U of O). CBC posted three victories in the match, falling in total score 40-13 to U of O. **David Corretjer** won by a 12-5 decision at 125 pounds, **Alejandro Mas** won by fall at the 2:01 mark in the 149-pound weight class and



Beacon, Taylor added two by letter; Kerry Easley, pastor.

First, Springhill, La. welcomed one by letter; Chris Lucy, pastor.

Christian Richer won by a 10-2 major decision at 165 pounds.

ASBURY

(Continued From Page 1)

one of the leaders who was there on Wednesday. His observation was that these last days have been days of consecration, but we are yet to see what could happen in the days ahead.

Asbury has a history of such movements, even before 1970. Their expectant faith has provided fertile ground for the Lord's visitation. (Faith is undoubtedly an ingredient in why this is happening. There were some places where Jesus could do nothing because of their unbelief).

The quiet, precious movement of God continues into its sixth day in Wilmore, Ky., on the campus of Asbury University. This is not the first time an extended movement has occurred here. Similar movements happened in the 30s when a prayer meeting led by E. Stanley Jones lasted for many days. In the '50s, two other activities occurred, and in 1970, a chapel service was extended for seven days and nights. God used it as a catalyst for the nationwide revival called the Jesus Movement.

I've had the privilege of sitting in Hughes Auditorium, where this is happening, for the last two days, watching and experiencing this extraordinary movement. Only for the purposes of explanation (and no other reason), I would mention that I have been a pastor for 54 years serving in the Baptist stream. Revival touched down on our small Arkansas school (Ouachita Baptist University) in 1970. My wife and I witnessed the manifest presence of God firsthand as a noonday chapel went throughout the day, canceling classes and changing lives. We've never been the same.

I've been a student of God's revival movements across history for 50 years. I traveled for several years to churches, helping them pursue God in revival. I was a founding member of the OneCry initiative that seeks to help pastors and churches pursue God for revival and spiritual awakening. I have spoken and written a great deal about this theme, for it is the desperate need of our day. Our deteriorating culture illustrates that it is time for a needed movement from Heaven. Samuel Davies of the First Great Awakening said, "There are eras when only a large outpouring of the Spirit can produce a public general reformation."

We have seen seasons of His movement in the church I helped plant 25 years ago. One particular season happened in 2011 after six months of fasting and praying by the congregation. One Sunday morning, the Lord interrupted our normal schedule with an unusual outpouring of His Spirit which lasted through the afternoon. That continued — every night except Saturdays — for three to four hours each evening for the next five weeks. It was not weird, nor wildly uncomfortable, but the quiet movement of the Spirit, filled with prayer, repen-

tance, salvation and spontaneous baptisms by new believers. Many came to faith in Christ.

I mention these things for one reason alone (please understand) — it is certainly not to boast — to explain who is writing this article to perhaps help those who would criticize this movement from a distance.

The Quiet Order of Asbury

Last night, I saw some self-appointed critics of the Asbury movement on social media. Of course, they had not been to Hughes Auditorium they just "heard" that this and that was happening. When I read their second and third-hand reports, I was shocked, but not surprised. God always has His critics.

What is happening at Asbury (as I witnessed first-hand) has some beautiful, biblical components. This is what I've observed:

• **Vibrant, Powerful Worship** — Worship is being led by various student teams. Some are more proficient than others, but all are humble. We do not know their names. There are no fog machines nor lights — just piano and guitar by unnamed students worshipping God. We are singing songs that would be familiar to most of us, often just acapella (with no instruments). Contemporary songs are sung, often interspersed by the hymns of the church. There are no words on the screen, and they do not seem to be needed.

• **Intense and Intentional Humility** — The wise pastors on Asbury's staff who are gently shepherding this movement keep reminding us that there are no superstars and that no one is to be exalted except Jesus. They have encouraged us to get lower and lower and lower under Him, exalting Him higher and higher. I have personally watched them stop a person or two who may have tried to hijack the meeting. They realize that God's manifest is precious and desperately needed. They want no one or no thing to quench or grieve His Spirit.

• **Life-Changing Testimonies** — The leaders, at times, will open the microphones for a season of testimonies of what God has done. They instruct the crowd to observe these ABC's — All glory to God alone, Brief and Current. They stand with the microphone in hand and wisely shepherd these moments. They will close the lines when they sense it's time to move forward. Often during these testimonies, when they sense God repeating a theme, they have paused and called for those with the same issues to stand, and for people to gather around them and pray.

• **Guided Prayer** — At various times, they have led us into corporate prayer. Instructions are given, and then we turned into small groups and cried out to God. At the altar, they have a continuous team of prayer counselors, identified by lanyards around their necks, who are helping those in need and

praying with them. They have gently invited the people to come to these trained counselors for prayer.

• **Unashamed Witness** — Everywhere, people are sharing with others in need outside the auditorium. God is opening people's lips and giving them the Acts 4 courage to "speak the Word of God with boldness." The result is what you would expect — the gospel is spreading rapidly, and many are coming to faith in Christ.

• **Spiritual, Emotional and Even Physical Healing** — Many are giving testimony of how God is instantly releasing them from years of bondage to addictions. Release from past hurts, bitterness and fear is happening quickly for the humble ones who admit their need and cry to the Savior. Some are testifying of physical healings, just as occurred in the Book of Acts, but this is not at all the dominant theme of the meetings. The theme is Jesus — exalting Him, surrendering to Him and testifying of Him to others.

• **Preaching** — One prognosticator on social media proclaimed that this was not of God because there was no preaching. I smiled, because there have been moments of preaching throughout and a "regular" sermon every single night, delivered humbly by godly pastors.

• **Wise Leadership** — I cannot say enough about this. I have been in many moments of intense revival. I have led in a number of these moments. I stood at a microphone for five weeks, shepherding a movement of God for three to four hours a night. I'm overwhelmed by the wise, quiet, strong and loving leadership of those in charge. It is not dominating and not restrictive. They are discerning God's movement and cooperating. They are giving instruction and direction when needed.

• **Consistency with the Ways of God** — The Jesus movement was characterized by vibrant, simple worship and constant witness to the gospel. I was there. The church, by and large, reacted to the "hippies" who were being saved and the more current expressions of worship. Many churches ridiculed this and quenched the Spirit, unwilling to accept new wineskins. Most of these churches have plateaued and died. The churches that humbly opened the door to lost people and wisely shepherded God's activity exploded. Calvary Chapel, a small California church, kept responding to God and, in the Jesus Movement's wake, started 1400 churches.

Two things characterized the 1857 revival: First, fervent noonday prayer meetings that grew from 6 people (with Jeremiah Lanphier) to 50,000 people every day in New York City alone, and second, unashamed testimony and witnessing. There were simple "rules" that they used to guide the prayer meetings. They lasted from 12-1 each day. It spread across the country. Prayer requests came from around the

world. I've read many of those actual requests — most are for the salvation of someone somebody loved. In revival, our hearts return to beat with the heart of God, whose great desire is for people of every tongue, tribe and nation to come to Him.

When the church begins to pray, that is revival, for we are usually prayerless. When that reviving turns to fervent, unashamed witnessing and the rapid acceleration of the gospel, we term that "spiritual awakening," for that is exactly what God is doing among the lost.

• **Giving God Time and Waiting** — The revival here is not hurried or rushed. There are long periods of stillness and waiting. If you want to rush in, get a big dose of God and rush out, don't come. God works on His timetable. We give God little time and almost no silence. What is happening here is occurring because thirsty people are waiting before God. In time, He speaks to one, then another, bringing them back to intimacy with Him. I've always thought that we don't experience God because we put Him on our timetable. Waiting is a lost art, and it is turning our full attention to Him until He makes Himself known that we need.

• **Spreading** — As of the fifth day of the movement, 22 colleges have sent groups of students here, hoping to see the same outbreak on their campuses. It would not surprise me if that was how this exploded nationwide, for students are most tender and willing. It is also no coincidence that a very carefully-made movie about the Jesus Revolution is coming out by our friend, Jon Erwin, on Feb. 22 and that the Collegiate National Day of Prayer broadcast has been scheduled for over a year to be broadcast from Asbury on Feb.

23. We should pray that these will further accelerate God's work.

• **Overwhelming Love** — One of the leaders spoke to us last night about the beginning of the revival when a pastor spoke about our hypocritical, self-seeking love. He remarked that what these days have done has reversed that. Asbury has become a sanctuary of the love of God. That is the essence of God (He is love) and has been the hallmark of every moment when He is placed again on His rightful throne in our hearts, homes and churches. "Heaven a World of Love" was preached by Jonathan Edwards. And revival is Heaven coming down.

So, what is your response? I talked with a friend who reminded me of this beautiful truth from a missionary involved in the great revival in Shantung, China, in the late 20s. "We heard of the revival in Korea, which began in 1907. It was a mighty movement and had been born through a prayer-revival among missionaries. Oh, to be able to go there and bring back some glowing coals to our own field! But the journey was long and expensive and I had not the money. As I prayed for money and looked for an answer, a definite word was sent instead: "What you want through that journey you may be given here, where you are, in answer to prayer." The words were a tremendous challenge, and I gave my solemn promise: "Then I will pray until I receive. Having pledged myself... the first conscious thought was: Then prayer means as much as that, and that my promise should be kept means as much as that." That experience helped me to endure through the almost 20 years which were to pass before the first small beginnings of revival were vis-

See ASBURY, Page 5

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Birthday party for the twins.

Bryan & Pam Risner • Romania

• **Family Update** — The craziness of these last couple of months has continued. First, Pam's family visited us for over a week, then we had the twins' and Pam's birthdays and we moved — all in three weeks! We have officially moved to the Oradea area. This new ministry in Oradea has brought excitement to all of us, but we are still sad to leave the Brasov area and saddened to say goodbye to the friends we made there. But we will see them again!

Your 18th birthday is memorable for all teenagers. The kids knew it would be different because of living on the mission field, but they loved every moment. We also celebrated Pam's 40th birthday with friends at a restaurant. We loved seeing our friends in the Oradea area and visiting with everyone for an evening.

We packed our whole house in about five days. As an answer to prayer, Bryan found a moving company that loaded our stuff and delivered it to our new home. Prayers are appreciated as we continue to adjust back to this area.

A teen meeting was also a birthday party for Lindsey and Landon. We sang songs, had a devotional and played games. Most teens go to the same church camp as us, so it was wonderful to see them again.

• **Santandrei (Roma/Gypsy) Ministry Update:** — Winter is probably the slowest time for this ministry. The colder weather keeps the children inside their homes, unlike summer, when they play outside all day. Lavi and Marius have had to change how they do things to keep the kids' attention and make them want to come back weekly. Marius has kept his part busy going to their homes and sharing verses. Prayers are always appreciated as we learn new ways of keeping the kid's attention and for Marius as he works with the adults.

• **Brasov (Return Church) Ministry Update**—January 8 was

our last church service with Return Church. We enjoyed our time with them last year. They surprised us by praying over us and our ministry and leaving us cute notes. Continue to pray as God works through that church in significant ways.



(L/R) Dani Bagoasi and Bryan Risner at a new church plant meeting.

• **Oradea (New Church Plant) Ministry Update** — The new church plant has been going great. Several families have joined and several are still praying about it. Prayers are appreciated as we work out details for the new church plant and create a strong core group. We started Sunday meetings on Jan. 29 with songs, prayers and sermons. Candra has begun to lead the children's program, with over 18 children starting out.

Prayer Requests

We ask that you join us in prayer for the following:

• **Santandrei Roma Ministry** (1:1 Bible studies, vandalism issues, fence for property, children's behavior and Carina's walk with Christ);

• **Brasov Ministry** (college ministry with Roma community, weekly discipleship meetings, Sunday meeting location and evangelism opportunities);

• **Our new ministry opportunity in Oradea;**

• **The kids' scholarships for college;** and for

• **Our language skills to increase.**

(risnersinromania@gmail.com/risnersinromania.com)

ASBURY

(Continued From Page 4)
ible. Truly, God works unhurriedly." (Marie Monsen, missionary nurse to north China, describing how she came to pray for the revival that burned there from 1927-1932)

You don't have to come to Kentucky to experience revival and awakening. "The kingdom of God is here," Jesus said, and He has gladly chosen to give us the kingdom.

As I spoke to the hotel receptionist, she told me they were sold out of rooms. "We were not prepared for revival," she said. May that not be true of us.

Pray for Asbury... and pray for your church and the churches and people of your city. Cry out as never before, pleading with our reviving God to be merciful to us. Seek revival personally and fervently. Ask God to search your heart and remove anything that is quenching the flow of His Spirit. Ask God to break through your church this Sunday with a Wind that will not stop.

Pray that God would send revival to His church and then a mighty awakening to the lost. Ask Him to manifest Himself in power so that millions can be brought to Christ and the church can rise again into its missionary calling. Pray for the acceleration and rapid expansion of the gospel... for His kingdom to come.

Coming out of Hughes auditorium, with its love, grace and humility, and reading the words of some critics on social media was revealing. The pride of their words was apparent when seen against the backdrop of the presence of God. The spirit of such judgments came through the page and was glaring in its self-righteousness. It's wise to examine things carefully but foolish to make swift judgments without close examination and real knowledge.

If you are tempted to criticize this movement flippantly, it might be wise to heed the counsel of Gamaliel when his religious colleagues criticized the early disciples: "So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God" (Acts 5:38-39 NASB).

— Bill Elliff is the Founding and National Engage Pastor of The Summit Church in North Little Rock. His passion is to see both genuine revival and methodological renewal in the church — both new wine and new wineskins. He is a frequent conference speaker, writer and consultant to churches drawing from his 50+ years of pastoring and revival ministry. Bill is also the pastor/church director for OneCry! A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening and the author of 12 books and booklets and numerous articles. He lives to faithfully and effectively communicate the whole counsel of God to as many people as possible through preaching, writing, church

PRAYER

(Continued From Page 1)
churches, and the devil's number one priority is to stop the Lord's church from moving forward and advancing His kingdom. Honestly, have you ever known anyone who said they prayed too much?

Unfortunately, we talk about prayer, say we believe in prayer and challenge people to pray, but do we pray? God has called us to live a supernatural life that requires His supernatural presence. He has called us to a supernatural work that requires supernatural power, the Holy Spirit. This requires praying without ceasing for a divine invasion of God's presence in your life and in your church. Are you willing to submit to this constant, ruthless evaluation of your life and your church: Is God present? I Thessalonians 5:17 is an imperative command and reminds us of how much God desires our prayers.

It is easy to focus so much on what to pray that we forget to focus on how to enter His presence in order to pray. Bill did a wonderful job of showing us out of Matthew 6 (see his book *Simply Prayer*) how to enter in, because prayer is such an unnatural lane for us. The best classroom for prayer is praying and before Jesus tells us what to say He shows us the essential, preparatory elements:

• **Enter in with sincerity (Matt. 6:5).** Jesus makes it very clear that pride must not be in our hearts. Bill stated, "He (God) actively stands in opposition to those who approach Him in arrogance."

• **We must enter in seclusion (Matt. 6:6).** Our sole desire must be to commune with Him, and that requires a singular focus on Him, whether you are in your prayer closet or a crowded sanctuary. Every time you pray, you should imagine stepping into God's throne room. Your total focus is on Him, just like the prophet's was in Isa. 6:1-5. Bill said, "As you enter, the Greatest One is before you, and He's the only audience you need. As you enter, God is waiting for you on His throne and longing to reward you in His presence." Approach His presence with sincerity and the seclusion of a singular focus on Him.

• **Enter with simplicity (Matt. 6:7).** Rosalind Rinker defines prayer as, "...the expression of the human heart in conversation with God. The more natural the prayer, the

development and personal equipping that they may become intimate, reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ. Bill has been married to his wife, Holly, for over 48 years. Holly is a frequent women's ministry speaker and leader who has been featured on many "Revive Our Hearts" Conferences and radio programs with Nancy DeMoss Wogelmuth. Bill and Holly have eight children, all married and all serving the Lord. They have 25 grandchildren at present... and counting!

more real He becomes. Simply put: Prayer is a conversation between two persons who love each other." Bill describes a very ordinary, normal exchange where you are aware of each other and take turns talking and listening. Your conversation stays on subject as you give full attention to the topic at hand. God is certainly concerned and attentive to what you have to say as you strive to pause in His presence and listen to Him.

• **Enter in with simple faith (Matt. 6:8).** Bill said, "As you enter, God hears you, and you don't have to impress Him. Pray in faith, for God already knows your needs and has perfect provisions prepared." In faith, we should pray the conditional promises of God, and there are many. Don't allow the things God was willing to change go unchanged because you refused to meet Him in a private place and ask. There are things God plans to do through no other means but prayer. James 4:2 makes it clear, "You do not have because you do not ask." Ask in faith believing that He is able.

• **Enter as sons and daughters (Matt. 6:9).** You enter His presence through sincerity, seclusion, simplicity, simple faith and as sons and daughters. We are instructed to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven." He is our provider, protector and promise keeper. You enter into His presence because of relationship, then His presence because of His rule: "Your kingdom come, your will be done." As His child, you gladly submit to His rule in your life and allow His standards to govern your life. Entering His presence is all about relational communication with Him and intimacy, not a long-distance, occasional interaction.

Colossians 4:2 says we are to be devoted to prayer. That means to be ceaselessly active and to be courageously persistent. Remember, God believes we need to pray with no intermission. I Thessalonians calls us to pray without ceasing. The challenge is to never stop praying but to be continually in fellowship and communication with Him. Praying should become as natural to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives.

Maybe your next step should be to order Bill's book, *Simply Prayer*, and begin the journey of more prayer to the God of the universe and His Son who love you unconditionally.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

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

Jonesboro District Brotherhood, 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.



End Time Event or Not?

It's really easy when you begin studying Bible prophecy to start identifying everything that happens in the world that seems end-times as just that. It's easy to do and dangerous at the same time. I've done it, and I'm trying not to do so moving forward. We all need to get to a point where we realize that the shoe is going to drop and the foretold events are going to happen, but we also need to get to the point where we're slow to make those conclusions. I've learned the hard way.

I was given an awesome writing opportunity right out of the gate when I finally committed to writing. I was writing for a conservative news site with some big names and was getting over eight million hits a month. It was an incredible opportunity. My column connected current news to Bible prophecy. In my zeal, I churned out some good-sounding articles, but they were likely wrong. I had to learn to chill out. Something I'm still learning. When I was pinned down to write about a political event that I did not have a peace in calling a fulfillment of prophecy, I quit. Now seven years removed, I made the right call.

With that warning stated, how should we look at the earthquake this past week in Turkey? At the moment of writing, there are over 20,000 listed as dead (now it is over 36,000). Thousands of buildings were leveled. It's a huge disaster. So, is it end-times related? Reports out of Turkey from those in the crosshairs felt the quake was the wrath of God. Tweets and comments claimed it must have been the end times. Most articles mention that the scene looks apocalyptic. So, is it end-times related?

As you're aware, one of the listed signs of the end of the age given by Jesus is that there will be earthquakes. He lists them during the "beginning of the birth pains" which is recorded in Matthew 24. And if you've been following along in these articles, I've written how one of the

first things to happen in the last days will be the beginning of birth pains. Of course, the name gives that away. This earthquake would seem to be a dead ringer, right?

Well, I'd encourage anyone to pump the brakes who would say it is a definitive sign we're in the last days. It could be, but if it is, there will be more obvious signs to follow. There have been earthquakes before — from the very moment Jesus listed it as a sign. Maybe, this type of approach — realizing that end-time events will happen for some generation, but to be careful jumping to conclusions — is what Jesus meant in telling His followers to be watchful.

If you've followed any of these articles, Turkey should grab your attention. I've written extensively about how there is tons of Biblical support of the Antichrist coming out of Turkey and a revived Ottoman Empire being the empire of the Antichrist. Does that have anything to do with an earthquake? No, it doesn't have anything to do with it at all, but one of the next lines of prophetic events to be fulfilled is possibly found in Daniel 8.

I believe Daniel 8 should be considered to be all futuristic. If it is, it lays out a pattern for the rise of the Antichrist. To be fair, I'm in the minority that views Daniel 8 as all happening in the future. The common view is that it tells about Alexander the Great's rise to power and defeat of Persia, and then at the end of the chapter, it gives a brief glimpse of the Antichrist. Though I see those past events in the chapter, I feel like the language points to it all being fulfilled in the rise of the Antichrist.

This possible interpretation of all of Daniel 8 describing future events states that the land of the Medes and Persians (modern-day Iran) will spread out power, then a prominent leader will arise in Javan (modern-day Turkey). This

ASIA

(Continued From Page 1)

spread the gospel.

• In India, we have mission work in both the north and the south. While the government is moving toward a more radical Hindu faction, the gospel continues to advance. In the next two years, we will be planning a new effort in a different state.

Thank you for being our CO:MISSIONED partner in Southeast Asia. We have exciting new opportunities in every country with a new country just around the corner. I am asking for your financial and prayerful support on World Missions Day. Specifically, I ask you to pray for the following:

- Protection as our missionaries share the gospel,
- The people of these countries — that God would soften their hearts and open their ears to hear his message,
- The physical and financial needs of our existing churches,
- New mission fields we are pursuing in each country as we seek to multiply,
- Local leaders to rise up in these countries to pastor new churches and
- More missionaries (maybe you!) to respond to God's call to go to these and other countries that desperately need the gospel.

How long would I be willing to plow? How much perseverance would I have with little harvest? For our missionary teams across Southeast Asia that answer has been given — **as long as it takes!**

prominent leader will begin to expand Turkey and eventually go to war with Iran. Turkey's victory would then start the creation of the Antichrist's empire.

In addition to my heart being broken for the Turks and Syrians, I'm watching to see how the nation recovers. Could this be a catalyst for that prominent leader to rise? Their current leader already has a vision of restoring the former Ottoman Empire and wanted to do so by 2023 — the centennial anniversary of the dissolving of the Ottoman Empire.

Who knows if this event could be a catalyst for those promised Daniel 8 events? It doesn't have to be, but I feel it's important to point out the possibility. As believers, we have the amazing opportunity in the most difficult times to know God is in control. The world isn't spiraling out of control, rather it is unfolding according to God's plan. The fulfillment of last days prophecies points to this ultimate hope and it should be something that gives that last generation hope in even the most perilous of times.

— 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)



Juxtaposition Again

Juxtaposition is the act of placing two objects side by side. In the case of this article, it has to do with two advertisements placed side by side on one billboard. This duo of billboard advertisements is on the highway I travel when



I go to our town. I saw the dueling messages yesterday morning. I almost stopped but rather quickly took the next turn-around to go back to take another look.

One side of the billboard reads: "Got a dog that needs training?" It is in very large letters with a nice picture of an obedient hound at the feet of his master. The other part of the sign right next to it reads "Trust Jesus." It is in large red letters with some Scripture verse mentioned in small print at the bottom. So, glancing at the sign at highway speed (that is about 70 mph on this highway — most of the time it is more) the message reads: "If your dog needs training, trust Jesus." It may be true in some cases, with some dogs, that only a miracle from the Lord will get this dog trained!

It seems our nation is in the juxtaposition business with Christian virtues and honor, reverence and obedience due God placed alongside the world's standards that emphasize promotion of self, accumulation of wealth and self-satisfaction. Even we, as Christians, place disparate things side by side in our lives. Seeing this mix of positioning at break-neck speed, the media, social perception and opinion see only a blur. The message is confused. What do we, as Christians, really need to demonstrate in our lives? The truth of the matter is there is only one message when it comes to what the Lord of Armies requires of us. The prophet Micah (6:8) has that simple word: "Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Juxtaposition involves two things normally placed side by side. "For my people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves — cracked cisterns that cannot hold water. (Jer. 2:13).



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.



Robert (Bob) Winston Wright, 91 of Jonesboro passed away Feb. 7. He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Raymond Allen Kimbell, 85 of Magnolia, passed away Feb. 6. He was a member of Antioch East Baptist Church.

Leon (L.B.) Pavatt, 78 of Damascus, passed away Feb. 5. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Diane (Cox) Sweeney, 62 of Rose Bud, passed away Feb. 5. She was a member of Marcus Hill Baptist Church in Enola.

Kirk (Corky) Forest Murphy, 80 of Quitman, passed away Feb. 2. He was a member of Marcus Hill Baptist Church in Enola.

BMAA Meeting
Antioch Baptist Church • Conway
April 25-27
For more information visit
BaptistTrumpet.com/bmaa2023

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Why Do I Need to Be Saved?

Note: The following is a compilation of information taken from two articles published at compellingtruth.org/need-to-be-saved and cui.edu/aboutcui/heritage/grace-alone-faith-alone.

Ever since Adam and Eve first sinned, our default status when we are born is that of a sinner. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23 NIV). None of us is righteous on our own (Rom. 3:10-12). There are consequences for sin and there is also provision made for our salvation.

What does being born sinful mean for us? It means we are spiritually dead, ruled by sin rather than ruled by God. Jesus said that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin (John 8:34). Those who are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:7-8).

But God made provision for our salvation by sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth (John 3:16). Jesus lived a perfect life with no sin. He was crucified, bearing the weight of the entire world's sins upon Himself. He was raised from the dead three days later (Mark 15-16). When Jesus was crucified, He took the punishment for our sins so we wouldn't have to (II Cor. 17:21). Jesus' sacrifice made it possible for us to be forgiven and to be children of God: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12 ESV). In His grace and mercy, God has made a way for us to be saved; all we must do is turn to Him (called repentance for having sinned against Him) and receive that grace by faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

Jesus is the only way to God: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me..." (John 14:6 NIV). Before salvation, we are spiritually dead, and through Jesus, we become spiritually alive. This is called being born again (John 3:3-15). Instead of being **condemned**, we are **forgiven**: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned" (John 3:17-18 ESV). "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1 ESV). This is the miracle of salvation!

So, one more time. God's Word says we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works (Eph. 2:8-9). Grace alone through faith alone. Grace alone means that God loves, forgives and saves us, not because of who we are or what we do, but because of the work of Christ. Our best efforts can never be good enough to earn salvation, but God declares us righteous for Christ's sake. We receive that grace through faith alone. We are not saved by obeying a list of dos and don'ts, but by grace through faith in Christ. Our salvation is in God's hands. That's good news and is what we call the gospel.

Free from sin (not free to sin!), we are invited to live out our faith with thankful hearts, eager to share the gospel with others. God wants you involved — and there is plenty to involve you in your Christian walk. From worship, Bible studies, nursery workers, greeters, security, maintenance and teachers to missions and witnessing, (and on and on the list could go) all give expression and authenticity to your faith.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "As part of the celebration of the month of missions, Sunday School teachers invited Jose Carlos so the children could interview him about his experience of being part of a missionary family. They asked him what had cost him the most, what was strangest from his past, if he is ashamed to be in front playing in the church band and if he felt pressured to always do things well since the eyes of the congregation were more attentive to him because he was the son of the pastor. Jose Carlos,

among other answers, told them they were asking good questions and it was an excellent exercise since they could be part of a missionary family. When God calls, we should all obey. It is interesting how Sunday School can prepare the minds and hearts of future missionaries. Congratulations to the teachers for their emphasis on missions!

"After the meeting, we enjoyed a time of communion and shared different dishes of food, desserts and traditional drinks from our countries. We thank God for the cultural richness produced by a congregation made up of people from different Central American countries."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock:

Ruben Isturiz writes, "We had a good worship service at Ebenezer. We had a good opportunity on Sunday to celebrate a special service. The message of the Word was focused on the true love and friendship we find in Jesus. The sisters decorated the tables in a special way, and we were able to share the food with everyone. It has been one of our best attended services this year. It was a very good opportunity to meet people who normally do not come to church.

"In the afternoon, we went to the Rodriguez family's home to watch the Super Bowl and fellowship with unchurched people. Both in the morning and in the afternoon, I was able to share with people I would not normally meet, either in the Berean Groups (cell groups) or in our regular worship services. I ask you to pray for each of these contacts as only God can draw them to His Word. We are building bridges of friendship with each of them. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "What a beautiful day we had Sunday, and what a wonderful time of worship! After an abundance of snow, then ice, then rain and sickness, for several weeks, most of us were able to return and it was great. All our families with children were back, and it sure is a different place with children.

"We observed the Lord's Supper Sunday night, with many tears of remembrance, joy and thankfulness.

"I was surprised to see the full-page article on Faith Chapel in the *Trumpet* this week. It has been a little while since I wrote it, so let me give you an update. We have now baptized 16 on their profession of faith, and we now have 46 members. Praise God!

"The concrete contractor came on Monday, and they were able to dig, prepare and pour the footings in one day. We have a foundation! Oh my, you can't even imagine how exciting it is to us to know we will soon have our own building. The community has noticed, too. We thank all of you for your support and prayers. We could not be doing this if not for your willingness and faithfulness to support God's work through this association of churches to plant new churches according to His Great Commission. We are looking forward to the day we can do the same. Thank you again, especially for your prayers, they mean so much to us!"



National Brotherhood to Meet

By Mark Jones, President

The BMA of America Brotherhood will meet at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway on April 26 at 9 a.m. Our speaker will be Scott Small, the camp director at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville.

We need the men of the BMA to attend this meeting to strengthen our men's ministry. We also need men who are willing to stand up and be an officer. Several men stepped down, and a couple more are stepping down as we speak, so we encourage other men to step up and be the leaders God has called them to be.

Our theme this year will be "Faithful Men," II Tim. 2:1-2: "You then my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what have you heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men..." (ESV).

Let's encourage one another to do as the Scripture says in our churches and communities.

United District WMA Meets

By Becky Tollison, Reporter

The United District WMA met Saturday, Jan. 14 at Grace Baptist Church in Russellville with about 20 in attendance. We formed a committee to bring back information on items for each church to send to the National WMA meeting. We elected new officers and voted for our new treasurer to open a bank account and get a tax ID number. We also chose our goal for the present and next meeting, the Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment. Our meeting concluded with a program by Diane Spriggs which, as always, was very good. We then had a great meal provided by the host church and a great time of fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on April 1 in Hattiesville and then on the first Saturday of each quarter. (Note: the meeting date has changed from the second to the first Saturday of each quarter.)

The Table, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "Valentine vacations and Super Bowl parties caused us to be down this week. It was crazy to see what we consider a down service, which used to be a big service over a year ago. Just amazing to see how God has caused us to grow.

"We are so thankful to be doing the work we are involved in, but as always, there are growing pains. Continue to pray for the unity of the church. There is nothing Satan wants more than to cause bitterness or set in some rivalry among the leaders we are growing.

"I am scouting out new territory for the next church plant. Be in prayer for DeAnna and me as we consider the next steps of ministry.

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes "This week at Faith Journey we are starting to see the bigger mission ahead for us. We are in the beginning process of seeking out a property to plant Faith Journey mission. We think it is amazing to know that God already knows where and what it will look like, and we just have to be patient while He unveils His plans.

"I was able to come alongside our sending church, Celebration at Haskell, one day this week helping sheetrock their new building. Men of

all stages of life came together, put in hard work and had great fellowship. It was so inspiring to see these men of God coming together in this type of setting to further God's kingdom."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We were finally able to start our small group in Rogers again on Friday. Our small group in Springdale continues to pray about a place to meet. Last year, it was at the home of the Fernandez family, but Sister Maria's husband is hospitalized. We continue to pray for him.

"Our Sunday service followed the series fundamentals of a biblical church, and we were in Matt. 7:13-23 — the narrow door, the narrow way. As a new church we are talking about salvation, and the goal is to be sure if the profession of faith you made was real. We ended up in a call to reflection based on verse 23 — Does Jesus know you? Does your life show the fruit of your entering through the narrow gate and the narrow way? At the end of the service, we asked if there were people who wanted to be baptized, since next Sunday we would begin classes for candidates for baptism and for the glory of God. Seven said they wanted to be baptized."

Calling All Young Men
(ages 9-18)



Find out more at
Galileans.com




Speaker
Chris Vines

Calling All Young Men

By Dan Williams, Galilean Promoter

I would like to extend a special invitation to all young men (even if you do not have a Galilean ministry in your church), ages 9-18, to fellowship with the Arkansas Galileans on March 3-4 at Central Baptist College. The plans for the overnight retreat and basketball tournament, including the schedule, can be downloaded at galileans.com.

We are excited to have Chris Vines, the visionary leader for the SOAR Student Conference and pastor of discipleship at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope, as our speaker for the Friday evening of worship and praise that begins at 8:30 p.m. After the session, we will enjoy some pizza before the traditional Galileans (young men) vs. Sponsors basketball game. You don't want to miss it!

Even if you only want to come for the benefit basketball tournament that begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, you are still invited! (Please arrive by 8 a.m. so we can get everyone organized for the tournament.) There is a \$5 charge for each boy who plays in the tournament to fund the Arkansas Galilean CBC Nixon/Hornaday Endowed Scholarship at CBC.

The tournament will be a 3-on-3 format, and the teams will be formed before the tournament starts to include boys from different churches on each team. The tournament will have two age divisions, one for boys 9-13 and another for boys 14-18.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (501) 336-4586 or dwilltwelve@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Pastor's R & R, March 28-30; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

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 Retreat, Sept. 16; Central Baptist College, Conway.

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

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

Revivals

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.

World Missions Day is February 26, 2023

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