

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## Special Emphasis Begins

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

I am honored to serve as the executive editor of the *Baptist Trumpet*. The months of March and April are set aside each year as a time of Special Emphasis for the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. Associate Editor Allan Eakin and I are relentlessly doing our best to produce a weekly paper that will be useful to all our readers in the most cost-effective way possible.

We have had to raise our subscription rate over the past two years to bring it in line with the actual expenses to produce and send out the paper each week. Our new Total Access Subscrip-

tion rate is \$39 per year (86¢ per issue) for individuals and \$36 per year (80¢ per issue) for church plan members. Since our new rate has gone into effect, it has allowed us to maintain an even keel regarding our finances, but we still have some extra expenses we must plan for over the next year.

The primary emphasis this year is raising funds to **replace our computers**. Our computer systems are showing some age and instances of being unreliable. This is not a good thing when working with deadlines to get the paper out each week. We are not there yet, but we are planning to raise the funds now so when it is time to move forward with the replacement, we will be ready (**\$10,000 for computer system replacements**).

We are also still trying to finalize our **software development** that was part of last year's Special Emphasis. Since we did not meet our goal last year to fully fund this project, we must make up those funds (**\$15,000 for software development**).

Finally, as we transition to this new system, it will provide us with the opportunity to expand the **resources we offer on our website**, but it will take an investment to make it a reality (**\$5,000 for website resource development**).

This makes our **Special Emphasis goal \$30,000**. As you consider the **Total Access** we offer through the *Baptist Trumpet*, please prayerfully consider how you and your church can help us meet this year's goal.

## 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](http://www.BaptistTrumpet.com).

The Association of Baptist Students (ABS) at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. is seeking an ABS Director. Send resumes and inquiries to Deryl Jones, 24205 Hwy. 371, Sarepta, La. 71071 or deryl54@yahoo.com. He can also be reached at (318) 423-8540.

I hope you are taking advantage of all we have to offer through our **Total Access Subscription**, which allows access to everything for one price! Our mission is to keep the people in our churches **informed** about what is happening in the BMA, not just in Arkansas but all around the world. We also do our best to keep you **educated** about issues you need to be aware of as a Christian. And finally, we share stories and articles meant to **inspire** you to live your life as a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

We are the only BMA paper that produces a paper weekly (45 issues each year). This means we can provide you with more information in a timely manner. We do this by providing a **printed paper** mailed to your home, a **digital version** of the paper (the *E-Trumpet*) sent to your inbox every Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. and also through our website, **Baptist-Trumpet.com**, which is updated each week with all the information you can find in the other forms of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

In each issue of the *Trumpet*, you will find **BMA news** from around the world, regular reports from each of our **state departments** (Central Baptist College, State Missions and the Youth Department — Student Ministry Matters), reports from our **state missionaries** and regular columns that address a variety of topics. One of my favorite columns is **Spotlight on Missions**, where we feature updates from our missionaries who are on the field all around the world.

Through our website, we also provide every subscriber with a **customer portal** that allows them to update their subscriber information, pay outstanding invoices

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## State Officers, Local Officers—You're Invited for Lunch!

By Donny Parrish, Executive Director • Lifeword

The Coordinating Council of the BMA of America invites everyone attending the BMA National Meeting that serves in the role of a state director or state officer to join them for lunch on April 26 at the BMA Global Missions Center. Your Coordinating Council has a burden and a heart to help our churches maximize the opportunities that having thriving local associations afford our association. They not only want to enjoy fellowship around lunch with you, but they want to dialogue about how to make your local associations count for the Kingdom!

So leaders, plan to share a meal with your Coordinating Council at the National Meeting and dream about what your local associations can accomplish for Christ! The lunch will be provided by BMA Global Missions and Lifeword, but we need to know if you are coming so that we can prepare. Please email Jennifer Harrell at [jennifer@lifeword.org](mailto:jennifer@lifeword.org) and simply say "I'm coming to lunch!"



## Asbury and the History Of American Revivals

By John Stonestreet and Dr. Glenn Sunshine

A few weeks ago, what started as a routine (and according to the preacher, "lackluster") chapel service at Asbury University became something remarkable. Instead of heading off to classes, students stayed to pray and worship. Services have continued ever since, with people traveling from near and far to join in prayer, repentance and song. What is being called a "revival" by some and an "awakening" by others has now spread to other Christian colleges.

The past few days echo the revivals that were experienced in the recent past on other Christian college campuses, including one at Wheaton College in 1995, and those at Asbury in 1970 and 1950. In each case, there were seemingly spontaneous expressions from students of prayer, confession and praise. The revivals of the past are an indelible part of Asbury's historical memory, and many who experienced the 1970 revival have prayed ever since for it to happen again.

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Terry Kimbrow  
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### Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 24** — **Braylon Steen's** jump shot with 1.5 seconds left ended a historic night in the American Midwest Conference (AMC) quarterfinals at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse against the Harris-Stowe State University Hornets. Steen's jumper put CBC (20-9) ahead 60-59, and his intentional missed free throw saw time run out on HSSU (8-16), ending the season for the Hornets. The win for CBC was their first win ever over Harris-Stowe State in the AMC Tournament, in four meetings, and puts them into the AMC semifinals for the sixth straight season. CBC outrebounded HSSU 33-30 and outscored the Hornets 24-0 off the bench, led by a game-high 13 from **Tajuan Johnson**. The only other Mustang in double figures was **Jalen Adams**, with 10.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24** — The AMC announced their all-conference selections in men's basketball and five players were selected. **Brevin Brimble** and **Gabe Johnson** were selected to the second team, **Braylon Steen** was selected to the third team, **James Moore** was selected to both the honorable mention team and the all-defensive team and **Devin Foster** was named to the All-Freshman Team.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 25** — Playing in the AMC tournament semifinals for the sixth straight season, CBC took on the Spartans of Missouri Baptist University (MBU) inside the Petty Student Resources **See SPORTS, Page 5**

show at CBC and her first time debuting as the lead, Belle.

• **A.J. Woodraska** is a senior Music major from Chicago, Ill. AJ has been involved in theater since he was a freshman in high school. This is his final appearance in a musical at CBC. AJ will be playing the role of Lumiere.

• **Allison Mantooth** is a senior Kinesiology major from San Antonio, Texas. Allison will be playing "Madam De La Grande Busch" (Wardrobe) in this year's performance.

• **Alejandro Mendoza** is a senior Music Education major from Seattle, Wash. He will be playing De-Lunes and participating in the ensemble.

• **Mike Woodrum** is a local resident of Conway. His voice may sound familiar, as he is the public address announcer for CBC's Men's and Women's basketball games. Mike will be playing the role of Maurice.

• **Lauren Hager** is a recent History graduate from Chicago, Ill. She has been involved in musical theater since 2013. Lauren is excited about this opportunity to direct her first show.



Dan Carson  
Director

## Student Ministry Matters

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## Just Months Until Goodbyes Begin

While we don't like to think about it, some of our students will be saying goodbye in just a few months. These are students you have invested years in and, in a blink of an eye, they will be moving onto the next phase of their lives. You can tell yourself this is just a part of student ministry, but it still hurts. We love these students, but for them to grow in their spiritual lives, they must take steps forward. So, what do we do to launch them well? Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

• **Celebrate their graduation.** This may seem like an obvious thing, but we can neglect this rite of passage. It is important that we recognize this change in our students' lives. You can do this in your student ministry group meeting or honor your student during the worship service. Either way, it is a way to signify the change that is happening in your students' lives.

Now, there is a question that seems to plague us all. Who do we recognize? Some of our students just barely show up. Others are there all the time. My recommendation is to allow the "worship service" recognition to be a time for all who want to participate. Put deadlines in place so you will know how many gifts to prepare and stick to those deadlines. For those that have been more faithful to the church, you may want to provide another opportunity to honor them. This is never an easy choice and may require some discussions with your lead pastor to determine the approach you want to take. Just be sure to not let this opportunity to celebrate with your students slip by.

• **Commission them for the next phase of life.** Beyond graduation, it is important that you commission your students for the next phase of life. If they are going off to college, your students should understand that their job is to carry Christ with them. You can have this as a part of your graduation service or leave to closer to the coming school year. At minimum, pray over them. You might consider providing them with a book. *Surviving Religion 101* by Michael Kruger is a great book to hand to your students as they head off to college. You could give them a Bible. You could put together a notebook of encouraging messages from your church members they can lean on when it gets hard. Whether they are leaving town, going to school locally or simply taking a job, it is important to encourage them to be missionaries in their new settings.

• **Help them connect to spiritual mentors for the next phase of their lives.** This can be done in a couple of ways. If your student is staying at home instead of heading off to college, work to find another adult that could serve as a mentor as they step through their young adult years as a believer. If they are moving off, you have a couple of choices. You can get in touch with college ministries like the Association of Baptist Students and let them know about your student's move to campus. Even better is if you can take a trip with your student and introduce them. The other thing you can do is research the churches in your student's destination and provide them with some suggestions. Too often, we just say, "Good luck!" We don't need to hold their hand in this transition but providing them with options will help them make some choices they may not even be aware of.

Graduation season will soon be upon us. It can be difficult to say goodbye to those we have spent the most time with, but it has to happen. Pray about how you can help them launch well. Be supportive and pray for your students as they go through this transition.

If you have suggestions or examples of how you honor your students, join us in our Facebook group to share those things. You can find us at Facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity.



## Central Baptist College Presents Beauty and the Beast

Join us on April 14 and 15, as Central Baptist College performs Beauty and the Beast. This year's production is under the direction of CBC Alumnus Lauren Hager. Donna Bradley, the adjunct instructor of music/interim director of bands, will be directing the orchestra. Assistant Professor of Fine Arts Suzanne Banister will serve as music director.

Beauty and the Beast will be presented at Central Baptist College on April 14 at 7 p.m. and April 15 at 2 p.m. If you would like to reserve tickets for the show, go to [cbc.edu/finearts](http://cbc.edu/finearts). The following are those that will be participating in this year's production:

• **Natalie Smith** is a senior high school student from Conway. She is currently taking courses through CBC's concurrent program. This will be her first true musical, making this her acting debut! Natalie will be a member of the ensemble.

• **Kailey Sullivan** is a freshman Communications major from Conway. She will be playing the role of Chip.

• **Amber Horton** is a sophomore psychology major from Vilonia. Beauty and the Beast will be Amber's first time on the stage at CBC. She will be a member of the ensemble.

• **Bryson Chambers** is a senior Music major from Farmington. He has been in multiple shows since becoming a student at CBC. In the upcoming musical, he will play Prince Adam and participate in the orchestra.

• **Katie Manary** is a sophomore Elementary Education major from Searcy. She is playing the role of Babette.

• **Ethan Smith** is a sophomore General Studies major from Greenbrier. This is Ethan's second show at CBC, having previously been in "The Music Man" as the "constable." During the show, he

will be playing the part of the ensemble as a "villager with a knife."

• **Cayce Harper** is a junior Business major from Oklahoma City, Okla. He first started his theater career in high school. Cayce will be playing the role of Cogsworth.

• **Jayla Kramer** is a junior Elementary Education major from Conway. She has been involved with musical theater since she was a sophomore in high school. Jayla will be a member of the ensemble.

• **Julian Lilley** is a junior Instrumental Music Education major from Dardanelle. This is his second time participating in musical theater productions on campus. Julian will be playing the role of Gaston.

• **Hannah Long** is a junior Biology major from Higden. This is her second show with CBC, having previously been in "The Music Man" where she had the pleasure of portraying Mrs. Paroo. Hannah will be playing the role of Mrs. Potts.

• **Grace Vandergriff** is a sophomore communication major from Lufkin, Texas. Beauty and the Beast is her second show with CBC. Grace will be playing the role of one of the Silly Girls.

• **Ashanti Williams** is a junior Elementary Education major from Jonesboro. She will be playing the role of one of the Silly Girls.

• **Caleb Allen** is a senior Music major from Rogers. He has been involved with musical theater since his sophomore year at CBC, but has grown up surrounded by music. Caleb will be playing the role of the Beast.

• **Kat Carson** is a senior from Springdale, majoring in Communication and Psychology and Social Services. Her role in this year's production is the Enchantress.

• **Ashleigh Daugherty** is a senior Psychology and Counseling major from Tupelo, Miss. "Beauty and the Beast" is Ashleigh's third



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## Reports from the Churches

**Bodcaw, Roston** witnessed one profession of faith; Ed Phillips, pastor. **Calvary, Warren** added one by baptism; Rocky Goodwin, pastor.

**Flat Rock, Quitman** welcomed one by letter; Myles Evans, pastor.

**Friendship, Greenbrier** rejoices over one by baptism; James Crews, pastor.

**Hermon, Bono** gained two by letter; Randy Stimach, pastor.

**North View, NLR** received one by statement; Mike Cantrell, pastor.

**Sand Springs, Damascus** reports one by letter; Gaylon King, pastor.

**Shiloh, Lamartine** added eight by letter and one by baptism; Michael Clark, pastor.

**Shiloh, McRae** welcomed two by baptism; Rodger Cole, pastor.

with God-given responsibilities that requires God-given resources. If you see the position of pastor as the visionary leader, that is only the tip of the iceberg. Lead by example as you serve your people and serve your community. The people you serve desire to see your heart for Jesus and your love for them far more than your knowledge, skill and education. Love God well, then love them well in your affections, attitudes and actions.

• **Develop a prayer culture in your church.** Be prepared for spontaneous outbreaks of prayer when asked to pray for an individual or a situation, and schedule intentional times of prayer. Choose three individuals to pray with regularly. If possible, schedule two or three additional groups that meet every other week to pray for one another, the church body and the community. Set up a prayer room for people to come and go as they please where their prayer requests can be displayed on a whiteboard. Incorporate more prayer into your services and ask God to give you, outside the church, a prayer partner to meet with you weekly.

• **You must learn to say, "no."** Regardless of what you believe, you are human and only have so much bandwidth. Everyone has limitations, and churches are guilty, at times, of placing unrealistic expectations on their pastor and pastors doing the same to themselves. It is far too easy to not only be the pastor but run the men's group, lead the worship, direct the children's ministry, oversee outreach, be the business administrator and take care of the building and grounds; not to mention counseling, visiting the hospitals and sermon preparation. You must equip and empower others to take over these ministries as quickly as possible.

Make sure that every step is God-initiated. Jesus said, in John 5, that He could do nothing on His own, and neither can you. Seek the Lord, seek the Lord and seek Him again.

## Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## Why Do We Pray?

I was just thinking about how blessed we mere humans are to have the privilege to pray to the Almighty, the Creator of all that exists. Which brings about the question, "Why do we pray?" Here are some of my thoughts on why we pray:

• **To respond to Christ's example.** Apparently, the apostles had not heard Jesus pray except maybe to bless a meal, but they knew He did. Their response was, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1 NIV). If Jesus prayed, we should as well.

• **To render praise to God for Who He is and what He does.** The pattern of prayer Jesus gave His followers was with the recognition of the holiness of the Father. Prayer should always include praise! "Father, hallowed be your name" (Luke 11:2).

• **To request provisions for our needs.** Petitioning the Lord is important. Jesus said that the apostles should say, "Give us each day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3). I remind you that He emphasized needs and not wants. Do we have to ask that our needs be met? No. But apparently, God desires that we do so. Here is a great truth. Jesus said we should not be like the babbling pagans. "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him," (Matt. 6:8). When we pray, we don't have to come before Him with flowery words, but humble hearts.

• **To remember that we sin.** We are eternally forgiven and rescued from sin's condemnation at the moment of our salvation. However, we still sin as long as we dwell in these earth suits. Christ said we should be reminded of such truth — especially when we tend to be unforgiving to our family and friends. He said we should pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us..." (Luke 11:4).

This causes us to realize the heavy responsibility that comes with bearing grudges. Believers who won't forgive others stand to be temporarily chastised by God, despite being eternally forgiven.

• **To reinforce our spiritual growth.** Prayer is communication with the God of creation and re-creation. When we are saved, we become newborns, spiritually speaking. We become children of God and, as with any father-child relationship, communication is of utmost importance. As believers pray, they reinforce their spiritual maturation. The Holy Spirit, who indwells each believer, enables them to do so!

• **To relay our concern for others.** One of the most important aspects of our privilege to pray is intercession. That is the act of intervening on behalf of others. There are so many reasons to intercede as we pray. Some may need our prayers for their salvation. Some may need comfort during grief. Others may need our intercession when doubts and fears assail them. Sometimes we need to intercede because a friend requests that we do so. Intercession for loved ones, church leaders, community and national leaders and even enemies is a mark of spiritual development in believers.

• **To reflect thanksgiving to God.** There are times when a believer may pray while driving to work (just don't close your eyes!). It can be done at the family dinner table. A believer can thank God in a prayer closet. And certainly, it can be in a worship service. Here's what the Word of God says as Paul wrote to his young protégé, Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Tim. 1:1-2).

• **To relish our relationship with the Lord.** I am reminded of a song written by Dottie Rambo that is rarely sung today. Some of the lyrics are: "I didn't come here to ask you for anything. I just came to talk with you Lord. You've answered a million prayers or more that I forgot to thank you for. I just came to talk with you, Lord."

Prayer is such a tremendous privilege. We lowly humans, because of what Jesus did for us on Calvary, have the honor, the opportunity and the relationship to speak to the Supreme One, Jehovah, the one true God. I urge you to relish that wonderful relationship.



## Fruitful, Lasting Ministry

The facts are in — the longer the tenure of the pastor the greater the potential for a more fruitful lasting impact. The enemy knows it and will throw up every obstacle he can to make sure it does not happen. There will be disappointments, discouragement and even some depression at times. In the tenure of a pastor, years 6-10 have been referred to as "the time of fruit and harvest." Studies and research point to this time period as when a church is "likely to experience some of its best years, by almost any metrics." The sad reality is that the majority of pastors never make it to year five, much less year seven.

In *The Solo Pastor*, Gary McIntosh stressed that it takes six to seven years of faithful preaching, teaching and modeling to have a congregation who shares your perspective on the future of the church. He stated, "There may be less formal power than they wish (the solo pastor), but they have more influence than they realize." There are two important elements here:

• People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care, and

• You can never accomplish as much as you would like in one year but you can almost always accomplish more than you thought in five years.

It struck me as not coincidental the importance of year six and beyond in a ministry and the biblical principle of sabbaths and sabbaticals. God knew that man needed rest and, because of that, developed regular rhythms of rest where even the land was to rest after year six. Sabbath is mentioned in the Scriptures more than 100 times. Sabbaticals are meant to refresh and restore the soul spiritually, physically, emotionally, intellectually and relationally. Consider developing rhythms in your life that will promote spiritual vitality, such as your daily disciplines and practicing a weekly sabbath. The small consistent habits make a big impact.

In our culture, sabbaticals began as an idea in our universities that were a part of the church. Charles

Dickson, in an article for *Lifeway*, stated, "The idea was that the university professors needed one year in every seven to become students again and to refresh their spiritual calling." He continued, "Too often, church leaders are reluctant to arrange periodic times when the pastor or staff member can become a student and worshiper for the purpose of refining and updating professional skills and refreshing the spiritual life and calling." Yet, it is in year six that many pastors become restless and begin to look for a different ministry.

Here are some guidelines to keeping your soul fresh, vibrant and alive:

• **Abide in Christ.** (This must be first and foremost.) If your soul is not healthy then those around you will most likely not be healthy either. Protecting your daily quiet time is crucial and must be non-negotiable. You cannot allow this time of silence and solitude to escape you and you must dogmatically protect this daily rhythm. In *Secrets of the Secret Place*, Bob Sorge stated, "I'm persuaded the power of Heaven is unlocked when we devote ourselves to the secret place of the Most High." The busyness of this present day will do everything it can to keep you from this.

• **Love your people well and lead by building strong relationships, realizing it takes time.** The values in many churches are love, care and acceptance. They see their church as one big happy family where they are all looking for safety, security and peace. In *Solo Pastor*, Gary clarifies that by quoting an unsuspecting pastor, "What you're saying is the people in my church honestly didn't call me to be their visionary leader but to be their caregiver and protector?" If they see a family and you see an army, there is bound to be tension and even friction moving forward with the vision God has given you as their pastor.

• **Preach and teach the Word consistently, correctly and compassionately while focusing on building upon the core values of the people God led you to lead.** Remember, it is a God-given role,

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## Legislative Update

We are now about to complete week seven of the current legislative session. 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.

Some bills covered in previous updates are not included in this one. Those bills were either passed and signed into law, defeated or withdrawn by the sponsor(s). We omitted those to prevent the updates from being too long.

• **Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SJR 13)** — This measure is a proposed state constitutional amendment. The legislature can refer up to three amendments to the voters of Arkansas in general elections. This amendment, if approved by both chambers of the legislature and wins passage in a general election, will legalize the recreational use of marijuana and will also allow Arkansas residents to grow their own marijuana. The measure is still pending in the Senate's State Agencies Committee. This is a bad bill we need to defeat.

• **House Joint Resolution 1008 (HJR1008)** — This may be the worst proposal filed thus far in this legislative session. We must defeat this measure and do so vigorously. In addition to many other things, this proposed amendment, if submitted to the voters and approved, would repeal the state's Unborn Child Amendment and create the fundamental right to abortion. Even a late-stage abortion could be performed if a doctor states it is necessary to protect the physical or mental health of the woman. Given that incredible authority, an unscrupulous doctor could easily greenlight an abortion that should be prohibited. This proposed amendment is waiting to be heard in the House's State Agencies Committee. We will work tirelessly to defeat this measure if it gains any traction. At this point, we don't think it will get much support, but we will monitor it closely and alert you should we need to bring

pressure to bear on the legislators.

• **Senate Bill 43 (SB43)** — 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 has been approved by both chambers of the legislature and, when signed by the governor, will become law. This victory represents a concrete move to protect our state's children from being exposed to indecent and sexually provocative displays.

• **Senate Bill 81 (SB81)** — This bill will amend the law concerning obscenity provided to a minor, including from a library. This bill was amended recently and is pending in the House's Judiciary Committee. It looks as if it is headed for approval and will soon be law; a proper outcome and further efforts to protect the sensibilities of children.

• **Senate Bill 66 (SB66)** — 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 passed the Senate, but ran into a speed bump in the House's Rules Committee where it failed to win approval. SB66 will get another hearing in the Rules Committee on Wednesday, March 1. We are optimistic that the members of that committee will see fit to let the bill get to the full House, where it can be vetted and hopefully approved. It would be very helpful if you would contact your state representative, asking them to support SB66, a good and much-needed law to provide protection for our children.

• **House Bill 1156 (HB1156)** — 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

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or renewals and, for church plan customers, maintain their church plan members. The portal, as well as the premium content, is accessed using your login credentials. We encourage everyone, even if they do not want to receive the *E-Trumpet*, to add their email to their subscriber information so they can benefit from all we offer through the Total Access Subscription. The same login credentials can be used to access the amazing history of the BMA in Arkansas and beyond found in the *Baptist Trumpet* archives that date back to 1939.

I would love to come and share with your people how God is working through the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. You can contact me by email at editor@baptisttrumpet.com or by calling the office at (501) 565-4601.

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 identity than the sexual identity given at birth. The bill has been approved by the House and by the Senate's Education Committee. If approved by the full Senate, it will go to the governor and, upon her signature, this will be a good law that will be essential if we are to protect female students from having to undress and shower with biological males.

• **House Bill 1301 (HB1301)** — This bill will 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 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.

• **House Bill 1151 (HB1151)** — HB1151 will increase the penalties for the crime of sexually grooming a child. This bill is waiting to be heard in the House's Judiciary Committee.

• **Senate Bill 270 (SB270)** — This bill will amend the laws regarding the criminal offenses of sexual indecency with children. The bill was assigned recently to the Senate's Judiciary Committee. It is a lengthy bill, and we will provide more of a description of the bill and what it may accomplish in our next update.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these issues, please contact us, and 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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Christ-centered since 1955

## 2023 Prayers and Goals For BMA Theological Seminary

By Dr. Charley Holmes, President

Exodus 35:30-33 mentions the names of two men God gifted with the technical skills necessary for building the tabernacle. An intriguing comment follows in verse 34. God also gave them the skill to teach others. We find this topic also referenced in II Tim. 2:2 as Paul tells Timothy to teach faithful men to teach more faithful men. It's easy to see how we can reason that if God has truly called men to preach, He also gifts them to teach others how to do the same. I am personally thankful for those men at BMA Seminary in the 1980s who gave their lives to teach those of my generation.

My prayers and goals for 2023 relate particularly to the gift of teaching others to teach:

• **Prayer 1** — That our professors at BMA Seminary remain committed not only to passing on the Baptist faith to the next generation but also to focusing on equipping another generation of teachers for the seminary.

• **Prayer 2** — That God would bless BMA Seminary with financial stability. Our teachers are obviously not motivated by greed. They have not received a cost-of-living raise in two years despite raging inflation. The seminary trustees will be recommending a 5% raise for the 2023-24 budget year. Continued generosity and good stewardship from our BMA family are a must for these raises to fit within our budget.

• **Prayer 3** — The past two years have witnessed an unprecedented number of pastors resigning or retiring. At the same time, there appears to be a corresponding drop in the number of young men surrendering to ministry. A prayer that all of us should be praying is that "the Lord of the harvest" will send more workers into the fields.

• **Prayer 4** — A generation ago, the typical seminary enrollment reflected 90% on-campus students and 10% correspondence students. During and following the COVID pandemic, these rates have been reversed — 90% of our students are currently online students. Pray that our administration will have the wisdom required to make the most efficient use of our campus resources to meet the needs of our post-COVID reality.

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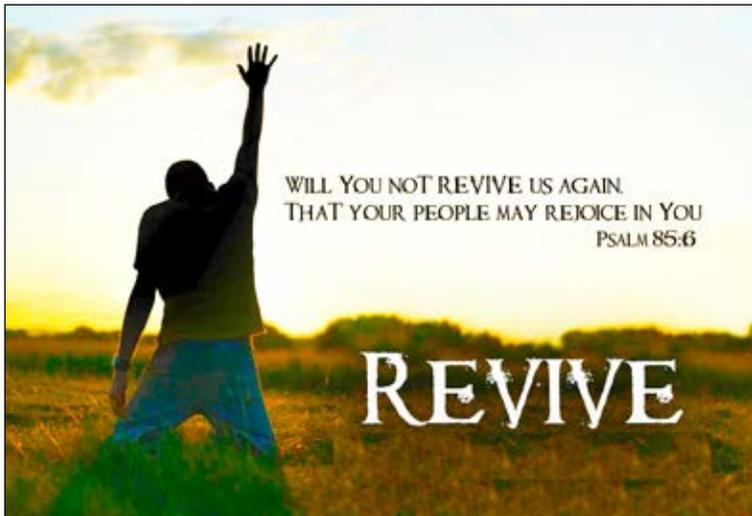


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## Leave it to Cleaver

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## Are You Ready for Revival?

"Will you not revive us again so that your people may rejoice in you?" (Psa. 85:6 CSB).

William Mackay wrote appropriate words to this verse two centuries ago: "Revive us again; Fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled, With fire from above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again."

The prophet Habakkuk, also many centuries ago, penned these glowing and longing words to God: "LORD, I have heard the report about you; LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these years; make it known in these years. In your wrath remember mercy!" (Hab. 3:2).

Often, we think of the tent revivals of years gone by. Notable evangelists have crossed our nation time and again with messages of revival to our people. Our minds go to the scenes of the Billy Graham crusades in cities around the world. Revival is a word used in Christian circles. It means things like resurgence, restoration, revitalization or recovery. Revival is simply God's people acting like God's people once again. It is Christianity being lived in the lives of Christians.

Solomon, the great king of Israel, also heard words of revival years and years ago in the very voice from Heaven. Plainly and completely, it told him what he must do to have revival as he led his nation. These words reach out to us to have revival now: "...I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple of sacrifice. If I shut the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on my people, and my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land" (II Chron. 7:12-14).

## HISTORY (Continued From Page 1)

Revivals have been, in fact, a consistent, distinct feature of American religious life since before our nation's founding. The First Great Awakening, in the early 1700s, was part of a larger, trans-Atlantic spiritual renewal centered on personal conversion, an emphasis that had a transformative effect on the emerging American consciousness. The idea that a genuinely converted, common plowboy was spiritually ahead of an unconverted bishop contributed to a growing anti-hierarchical attitude in the colonies. This, in time, contributed to a growing anti-monarchical mood, setting the stage for revolution.

The Second Great Awakening, which swept the nation decades later, coupled a similar focus on

conversion with postmillennial eschatology. Among the results was a drive for social reform. Abolitionism, temperance and efforts against prostitution became calling cards of what came to be known as evangelicalism.

Other revivals followed, and most included an added focus on foreign missions. The Prayer Meeting, or Businessman's Revival, of the 1850s, was followed by revivals in the camps of both armies during the Civil War, the urban efforts and revival preaching of D.L. Moody of the 1870s and 80s, and the theatrics of Billy Sunday's revivals of the turn of the century. Soon after came the Azusa Street Revival in California, which led to a massive growth of Pentecostalism and the charismatic movement worldwide, and then eventually led to the Jesus People of the 1970s.

And those are only the "big" ones. Simply put, revivalism, with

a focus on a personal faith with public implications, dramatically shaped American life and culture and is a major reason that America remained more religious than Europe for so long. At the same time, revivals and revivalism have always faced a good deal of criticism, including charges of excess, hyper-emotionalism, manufactured techniques and anti-intellectualism.

Jonathan Edwards, a major figure of the First Great Awakening, understood the dangers inherent to revivalist fervor, but he also believed in these unusual times when the Holy Spirit moved among a people. Perhaps America's greatest intellectual, Edwards prayed and worked towards revival, and he offered criteria for evaluating it. According to Edwards, a true work of the Holy Spirit elevates Christ, opposes sin and Satan, prizes the Bible, distinguishes truth from error and manifests love. He also understood that in the midst of such a movement, there would be things to oppose as well.

All of this is helpful as we try to grasp what has happened at Asbury, and now beyond, over these last few weeks. We'd do well to remember Jesus' warning that there will be tares among the wheat and that the remarkable times in which the power of God and goodness of Christ are made manifest are ways in which God graciously prepares us for life off of the mountaintops. Though like Peter and John, we may want to remain in such times and places, He will eventually have work for us to do elsewhere. Critics would do well to recall the history of God working through awakenings and revival, both in this nation and elsewhere, as well as the faithful who sincerely believe that God has answered their years of praying for revival to return to Asbury.

What we can all be sure of (and thankful for!) is that God is constantly at work in His world, sometimes in extraordinary but most often in "ordinary" ways. God is constantly speaking through His world, through His Word and, ultimately, in His Son. May we have the ears to hear Him. And may He grant us the hearts to pray that an awareness of sin and a passion for God and His people would grow in the hearts of these students, long after the mountaintop high of the revival has faded in their memory.

— John Stonestreet is President of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, and radio host of Break-Point, a daily national radio program providing thought-provoking commentaries on current events and life issues from a biblical worldview. John holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Ill.) and Bryan College (Tenn.) and is the co-author of Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview. Copyright 2023 by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Reprinted from Break-Point with permission.

## SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

Center. CBC (21-9) dominated MBU (17-13), trailing only once in the game and cruising to an 80-60 win to advance to their fourth AMC Championship game. **Gabe Johnson** led three Mustangs in double figures with 17 points, while **Tomas Mikyska** contributed 16 off the bench (including 14 in the first half) and **Braylon Steen** added 13. CBC outshot MBU 50.9% to 39.2% from the field and made 12 threes compared to only 6 for the Spartans.

### Women's Basketball

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24**—The AMC announced their 2022-23 women's basketball all-conference selections, and a pair of CBC Lady Mustangs were among the selections. **Caroline City** and **Diana Rivera** both earned honorable mention selections from the AMC.

### Softball

• **McKenzie, Tenn., Feb. 24**—Playing a doubleheader that was originally scheduled for Saturday, CBC was at Lady Wildcat field for a meeting with Bethel University (BU). CBC (5-10) dropped both games to BU (4-2) in walk-off fashion, falling 12-11 in eight innings in game one before losing 4-3 in game two.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 27**—For the first time this season, CBC has the AMC player of the week. **Allison Wagle** was selected by the AMC as the first player of the week since **Lauren Anderson** won it for the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> last year. Wagle had a great week, hitting safely in all four of CBC's games, including a 4-4 game against Bethel on Thursday. For the week, Wagle hit .538, with four runs scored, two home runs, a double and seven RBIs.

### Baseball

• **Waxahachie, Texas, Feb. 25**—After having to move their series from Conway, and shortening it by one game due to the weather, CBC was at SAGU Field for a doubleheader against the Lions of Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU). CBC (5-8) didn't muster much offense, falling to SAGU (12-5) 13-1 and 4-2.

## 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.

**East Foothills Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes, including references, may be e-mailed to eastfoothillsbc@gmail.com or mailed to Marilyn May, 13107 CR 431, Tyler, Texas 75706. For more information, contact Josh Richardson at (903) 316-3047.

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

## Deaths

**Chris Hurley**, 59 of Waldo, passed away Feb. 23. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Magnolia.

**Louis Gene Franklin**, 79 of Kingsland, passed away Feb. 18. He was a deacon at Kingsland Baptist Church.

**Anna Louise Grider**, 89 of Warren, passed away Feb. 17. She was a member of Farmville Baptist Church.

**Steve Robert Murphy**, 73 of Sheridan, passed away Feb. 16. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

## Revivals

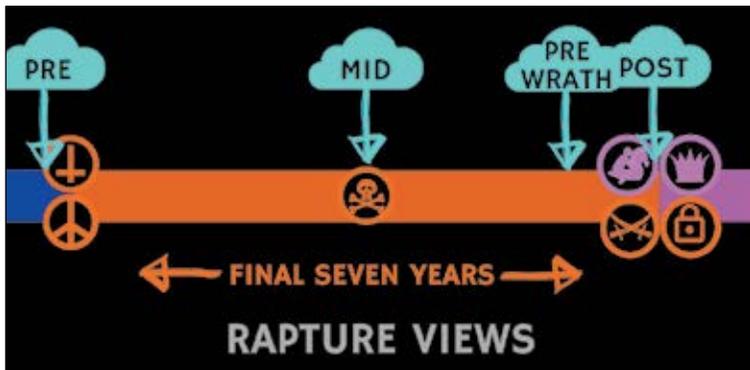
**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge**, April 16-18; Danny Bradley, evangelist; John Durham, pastor.

**Milligan Ridge, Manila**, April 17-21; 7 p.m. nightly; Mike Colvin, pastor.

**Fourth St., West Helena**, Oct. 1-4; Sun.-5 p.m., Mon.-Wed.-6:30 p.m.; Michael Hight, evangelist; Lance Madden, pastor.

**BMAA Meeting**  
**April 25-27**  
**Antioch Baptist Church • Conway**  
For more information visit [BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2023](http://BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2023)

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Enjoy reading about the history of the BMA through the pages of the Baptist Trumpet, dating back to 1939!



## End Time Views: Rapture Ruling on the Field

We've been walking through different views of events in the end times. In the previous article, we looked at the different views of the rapture, but I didn't have room to tackle the "ruling on the field" concerning the rapture timing views. By "ruling on the field" I mean we need to address interpreting the Bible and selecting our biblical positions like NFL and college replay officials. Of course, the purpose of replay reviews in football is to make sure the call is right. If the call impacts your team, you want it to be correct. That should be our same heart in interpreting the Bible — we should want to make sure we're rightly dividing the Word. When it comes to taking a biblical position, we want to make sure the view comes from the Word being rightly divided.

With football replay reviews, the rule is that the ruling made by the official on the field stands unless the replay footage shows clear and obvious evidence the call was incorrect. I believe we should apply the same rule to our interpretation of the Bible. With interpreting the Bible, the ruling on the field can be broken into two categories — textual context and historical context.

By textual context, the ruling on the field should be the plain reading of the Scripture in context. There should also be multiple witnesses to that plain reading within the Bible. For historical context, the ruling on the field is how the original audience understood the passage. For the New Testament, this original audience should begin with first-century Jews and then the first followers of Jesus — the early church.

Of the two rulings, the starting point should always be the textual context — what is the plain reading of the passage? In this discussion, I find it easier to start with the historical context. For the first time in this series, the predominant view in our churches is **not** on the side of the ruling on the field.

As challenging as that state-

ment is to digest, we should want to make sure we are biblically correct, no matter the cost. So, we must ask what is the ruling on the field, and is our "new" evidence enough to overturn it?

The predominant view today is the pretribulation view, which holds that the rapture will take place before the final seven years of this age. This is the view found in the *Left Behind* books and movies. Though prevalent today, the view does not appear in Christian teaching until the 1830s when it is introduced by John Nelson Darby. He is one of the first credited with teaching that the rapture would happen before the final seven years. His views were novel, but the idea of a rapture before tribulation wasn't new to him. He picked up on teachings done by Morgan Edwards, who publicized his views in a paper in 1742. Though Edwards did present a rapture before any tribulation, the timing of his view would be considered a Mid-Tribulation rapture. Until Darby, the tribulation time was only seen as the final three and a half years.

The acceptance of Darby's ideas would shock many famous theologians and pastors of the past because well-respected leaders in his day called him a heretic. One of the most notable was Charles H. Spurgeon. Well-respected Pastor George Mueller also spoke out against them. Spurgeon and Mueller were adamantly opposed to Darby's views. Though there was an outlash against these new views, Darby created groups called Plymouth Brethren who spread his teachings, and teacher William Kelly relentlessly promoted Darby's views.

For a taste of the resistance the pre-tribulation rapture view faced at first, here are some published quotes from Spurgeon and Mueller:

"Mr. Grant has done real service to the churches by his treatise on 'The heresies of the Plymouth Brethren,' which we trust he will publish in a separate form. It is almost impossible

for even his heavy hand to press too severely upon this malignant power, whose secret but rapid growth is among the darkest signs of the times." (C. H. Spurgeon)

"My brother, I am a constant reader of the Bible, and I soon found out that what I was taught to believe did not always agree with what my Bible said. I came to see I must either part company with John Darby or my precious Bible, and I chose to cling to my Bible and part from Mr. Darby." (George Muller)

These responses from such respected men like Spurgeon and Muller shocked me when I first dove into this topic a few years ago. No doubt they likely hit you the same. If Spurgeon, Muller and others had their way, Darby's views would have died then, but they were picked up in the study notes of the famous Scofield Bible and caught on like wildfire.

So, if the pre-tribulation view was new, what was the view of the first-century Jews and the early church?

Remember from the previous article that the rapture isn't an isolated event, rather it is just one part of a larger event that includes Jesus' appearing, the last trumpet, the resurrection, the rapture and the gathering. Within the Old Testament and with first-century Jews, we don't hear about the rapture, but the resurrection is at the forefront. One of the biggest debates in the Gospels is that the Sadducees don't believe in a bodily resurrection. The predominant view of first-century Jews was that at the appearing of the Messiah, there would be a resurrection into eternal bodies and the establishment of the Messiah's eternal kingdom. They saw the resurrection synonymous with the end of this age and the start of the next.

The early church view is often called today's classical premillennialism. They saw that the appearing of Jesus was the same event as His physical return. They saw that at the return of Jesus, the dead would be resurrected and those alive in Christ would be raptured, then immediately they would return with Him. Their view would fall into a late pre-wrath view or post-tribulation view of the rapture. This view was predominant until the fourth century. At that time the futurist view began to fall out of vogue.

I was reluctant to write about this "ruling on the field" because it challenges our modern-day view, but we should all want to get the "call" right. The historical context doesn't solve the question of the rapture timing alone, but it should cause us to pause and dive deeper into the biblical context. I will do that in the next article, but I encourage you to dive into the biblical evidence of the view you have.

— 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](http://standfirmministries.com))



## Are You Ready for the Rapture?

By Mike McEuen, Pastor  
New Beginnings Baptist Church • Ferris, Texas

*"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (I Thess. 4:16-17).

We have described here what is commonly called the Rapture. The word "rapture" never appears in the Bible, but it certainly does have a clear Biblical basis. The New Testament was written in Greek, which was translated into Latin. The Latin word for "caught up," used in verse 17 here, is "rapturo," from which we get our English word "rapture." The word rapture literally means "to catch away," and that is exactly what is going to happen when Jesus Christ comes again. One day, right in the midst of all of our ongoing, daily activities, Jesus Christ will come again. And all believers will be caught away from the earth to be with Him forever!

Let's put this truth together right here. When a Christian dies, he or she goes immediately to Heaven. *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"* (II Cor. 5:8). Our saved loved ones are alive with Jesus Christ right now and for all eternity! But there is coming a day when Jesus is going to leave heaven, and He is bringing with Him all the saved who are in Heaven. They are going to come with Him in the air, and instantaneously they will receive a glorified and eternal body. At the same time, believers who are living at the time of the Rapture will be instantaneously changed and receive our eternal, glorified bodies.

*"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"* (I John 3:2).

*"(Jesus Christ) shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"* (Phil. 3:21).

Then all believers will return to Heaven with Jesus, *"And so shall we ever be with the Lord."* Jesus is coming! At any moment, at any time! Are you ready to meet Him?

## God's Free Gift of Salvation

By Mike McEuen, Pastor  
New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23).

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked, *"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* (Luke 18:18). He wanted to know for sure that he had eternal life, but he wanted Jesus to measure and grade his qualifications, or at least to give him some task he could do to assure him of eternity. This rich young ruler had great possessions and pride that he had to overcome and, unfortunately, the Bible tells us that he did not overcome them.

Bystanders asked, *"Who then can be saved?"* Jesus answered, *"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God"* (Luke 18:26-27). You see, we must realize that salvation cannot be earned or bought — it is God's unspeakable gift!

There was a woman who came to Jacob's well outside the city of Sychar. She was interested in Jesus' message because she thought it would make her life easier, but if that were the case people would accept Jesus only to make their lives easier, healthier or wealthier.

Instead, Jesus' message changes us on the inside. He does not take away challenges. Rather, Jesus helps us deal with them from a proper perspective.

We read about Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus — as sincere and serious as anybody ever has been — falling on his face before Jesus and recognizing that all of his works were like filthy rags. We must face the fact that no matter how hard or diligently we work, we can never work our way into salvation.

Whether we were raised in a set of circumstances that makes it difficult for us, or whether we come from "the wrong side of the tracks," whatever we must overcome can only be overcome by the grace of God that is offered to lost and dying mankind. Jesus draws us to Himself. Any obstacles can be overcome when God offers us His unspeakable gift!

Now I have said nothing to you about the church, baptism or service. As important as each of these things are, I want to emphasize Jesus and Jesus alone as the only hope we have for salvation. Our experience can be based on nothing else. No one else except Jesus Christ in us — God's unspeakable gift!



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**STATE MISSIONS**

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## Missions is Our Middle Name

For the record, people in the Lord's work are not in competition. We desire the success of all those with whom we are privileged to serve. God has given us many areas in which we can be personally involved. While places and faces may vary, our purpose is one.

We are blessed to be a part of such a mission-minded association of churches. God has, and is and will continue to do far beyond what we think or ask when we pull together for the cause of spreading His precious gospel. On every level, be it world, regional, state or a local association, God's people are striving to get the message of God's love out in all areas. Never has the phrase, "there is strength in numbers," been more visible than it is through the faithfulness of those of like faith joining hand-in-hand through prayer and giving to accomplish reaching people both far and near.

A perfect illustration of what I am talking about was experienced just this past Sunday. February 26 was set aside as a special time to support the efforts of our BMA family all around the world as it was designated World Mission Sunday. It is my prayer that the National Missions office received their greatest ingathering to date.

With local associations reaching out in their own neighborhoods, coupled with state associations and their missions departments reaching into the regions around them and national and foreign missions spanning from coast to coast and across oceans, the BMA of America is alive and well. May God add His blessing to our efforts.

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "We are happy for the privilege our congregation has by participating in cross-cultural missions. The emphasis of this month has been a great blessing for us. In our Sunday meeting, Cristian Martinez, a missionary in Romania, told us about his call and updated us on the progress of the work.

"We are delighted to know that a new church is being planted west of Romania. At the same time, the work at Barashov continues, using Cristian and Vanessa in evangelism and discipleship. In addition to listening to Cristian, the congregation delivered their envelopes with offerings for missions. We also talked about the promises of faith to support for the work in Romania with Martinez and the work in Mexico City with Germán Galindo. We had a good prayer time using the prayer guide provided by the Missions Department, and we also prayed for the works in Romania and Mexico.

"We are very enthusiastic and looking forward to the work we will carry out by sending missionaries from our congregation. We pray God will guide us in the steps to take to achieve His will.

"This Sunday gathering was also special because Ariana, age 8, debuted as a singer. She is the daughter of Oscar Gomez, the brother who leads the songs in the service. It was beautiful that this beloved little sister led the congregation during

one song. Eight years ago, I had the privilege of dedicating her to the Lord and now she was serving in the worship team. I praise God for this great blessing."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "Thank God, our Sunday service was inspiring. The testimonies expressed about what God is doing was motivating. We continued studying the three types of people Paul teaches in I Corinthians 2-3. It was a good time to pray for missions and raise an offering.

"The month of February is over, and our minds are already on March. Next Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Next month, we will have our member's meeting where we will make important decisions regarding areas of services. Pray for it to be a time of God.

"Also in the month of March, we will start the workshop on 'Evangelism, Discipleship and Gospel Movements.' Brethren, we live in a time of spiritual and cultural battle. Lately, the inclusive expression 'Latinex' is more used in Hispanic news and Hispanic applications. Satan has his agenda and believers have God on their side. For years, the Hispanic culture had been of conservative values, but the last 20 years it has been bombarded by media with contrary values. More frequently, I see groups of people using 'inclusive language' like the word Latinex instead of the word Latino. Every time someone uses it, I say 'That word excludes me, it does not represent me!' Brothers, let

us pray because we are planting new works in a world walking toward evil. More than ever, we need your prayer and support. May God be glorified!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a warm, beautiful day Sunday and a wonderful time of worship. Our numbers were up a little, but it seems like a different family is sick every week. There are a lot of different bugs going around, mostly like a bad cold right now. But the weather is warming, the days are getting longer, the jonquils are blooming, the trees are budding and spring is fixin' to bust out all over. Praise God! Winter sure does make me appreciate spring!"

"We had 22 loads of gravel delivered this week and are filling the foundation and spreading on parking areas. We will need more, but that is enough for this week. The plumber and concrete man should be back this week, so it is all taking shape. The Master's Builders are scheduled to be here to begin framing on April 3, and there is much work to do before then.

"Our four-year-old niece was up at the building site yesterday and said, 'I can see our new church being built.' She is excited, and so are the rest of us. We thank you all for your prayers and support. We could not do this without you — the mission or the building. Please continue praying for us, for Flippin, for those we are trying to reach here and for our building. God is answering them!"

**The Table, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "Back-to-back busy weeks! I popped down to Fort Smith to look at the potential for a future church plant. It was a great time of prayer and discovery. I am amazed at what God is already doing in laying the groundwork ahead of me. I will be going back to Fort Smith in a few weeks, and Darrin Smith will be showing me around.

"On Monday, DeAnna invited a few of the ladies from the church and two from the community to come and do puzzles with her. They had such a great time of fellowship and conversation. It is always amazing how God uses these times to drive the conversations to the spiritual.

"Tuesday and Wednesday, I did a quick trip down to Fort Smith and also had several discipling moments. We are prepping a leadership meeting for next week and are looking forward to being able to hand off the reins of several ministries to their rightful leaders. God is multiplying our leadership,

and we are laying the infrastructure for The Table to expand. We are praying toward Siloam Springs.

"Thursday, I had several morning meetings, and I headed to Drew's house for one of our community outreach meetups. We had two visitors and are excited to see where these relationships will go.

"Friday, we went to the movies as a church. It was amazing to see how many of our church folks attended this event. After the movie, we prayed in the lobby of the theater. Several other people that were walking by joined in our prayer time. God is moving in our midst.

"Saturday, I headed to a tournament hosted by another church. It was great to be able to encourage them and their ministry. I talked with several new contacts and am hopeful to see where these conversations go. DeAnna and I hosted two of our couples for a fellowship/game night at our house. We are working at connecting our church family to each other. We get so easily fragmented in this fast-paced world, and these connective moments help bind the church together.

"The service was great Sunday. We had a visitor to the service, someone who may become a regular attendee. Keep this person in your prayers. This week is already set to be another busy and fast-paced ministry week with leadership meetings, Bible studies, Around the Table and weekend activities."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes "The Lord's presence was evident at Faith Journey this week. We have been in prayer for God to move and work in the lives of our church families and He answered those prayers. We have been learning how to share the gospel with others. For some, that is an easy conversation to have with people, but a lot of us struggle about how to get the conversation started. So, this week we paired off and went through different scenarios of how to share our testimonies with others and share the gospel that may help lead a person to Christ. It is a great way to get comfortable and help connect to others. We were able to really see God working during this time through a couple that was first-time visitors with us. One of our families had been praying for this young lady for a while to come

to know Christ and she was able to ask Jesus into her heart during our service. Praise be to God and His perfect timing! Please pray with us for this young couple as they see God begin to work in their lives."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "This week, even though I was sick, the Lord in His grace allowed us to have two groups of discipleship. There are 10 people who are teaching and encouraging with the glorious gospel, guided by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our mission which is to make disciples. Through each lesson and interaction with us, we pray they will not only understand the gospel but see it in the life of Patty and me and they can apply the truths in their lives so that they become disciples who make disciples.

"We are so grateful that in these two discipleship meetings, one on Friday and one on Sunday, there was so much interest that the time we had planned of one hour was extended each day to two hours. We give glory to God when we can notice that the gospel arouses the interest of people. Although we are not much, and I remind you that the services began in November, having 10 people who are being disciplined week after week is a great potential that we have as a church."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "The magic of multiplication — in one week, we went from 16 to 25. Not just an additional nine visitors, but nine who are committed to being disciplined!"

"Since launching, Amanda and I have been pouring into four households who are committed to reaching others and launching their own missional home group, Connection Group. This week, one of those coach couples launched a new home group and had nine on their first night. All 9 were new to our Connection Groups, and all of them committed to participate in the 10-week discipleship primer. Three of the families attending that group have been circled in prayer for years.

"Along with launching the new group, I was able to meet over 20 who are interested in getting started. That's great news! Keep that new group in prayer and pray for the zoning to pass for the home we're purchasing for the mission."



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## Do You Have a Financial Plan?

By Taylor Shouse, MRS Staff Writer

With 2023 already upon us, there are many New Year “resolutions” being pursued (and many with good reason). It goes without saying that many of these resolutions involve physical, spiritual, and/or emotional growth. Financial goal setting may not always get the attention it deserves within our community. As managers of the resources God has placed upon us, taking account of those resources is a huge step in the direction of true stewardship.

For some people, simply taking the first step of surveying their financial situation may be the primary barrier to them being good stewards. The anxiety that

comes from not really knowing where we stand financially can delay progress for far too long and rob us of peace and energy along the way. If this sounds familiar, I would highly encourage you to make this a goal and take the short amount of time necessary to get a good account of your debts, savings, budget, etc. The peace from knowing where you truly stand will far outweigh the lingering anxiety you may carry from not knowing. *Proverbs 13:12 (NIV) says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”*

Maybe you do know where you stand financially. We can still achieve growth in our stewarding

abilities with new goal setting. Writing measurable goals for generosity can help us be more intentional with our tithes and other charitable giving. Deciding to dedicate specific times of prayer to address our finances and resources may give us the wisdom to avoid a potential mistake and serve as a steady reminder of who truly owns our possessions.

As believers focused on sharing our faith, it’s easy to overlook all the references to financial management in God’s Word. Spiritual and physical goals are definitely beneficial, but it’s also important to not overlook our financial well-being.

Ministers Resource Services was created over 50 years ago by the BMAA to serve the BMAA. Simply put, it is our mission to serve you and your church staff. **How do we do it?**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Bible Intensive Retreat** featuring Steve & Katie Burchett; March 3-4: [fbccavesprings.com/bibleintensive/](http://fbccavesprings.com/bibleintensive/); First, Cave Springs.

**Gospel Singing** featuring the Haley Creek Boys, March 5; 6 p.m.; Kingsland, Kingsland.

**Bluegrass Gospel Singing** featuring Lindley Creek (Greer Family), March 19; 5 p.m.; Union, Rosston.

**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.

**Hot Dogs and Hot Rods Car Show**, June 3; benefits Water for Christ; Lifesong; Greenbrier.

**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.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

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

**Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest**, March 20, 6:30 p.m.; Fourth St., West Helena.

**Mt. Vernon WMA**, April 1, 10 a.m.; Harmony, West Helena.

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

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

**Southwest District Brotherhood**, April 11; meal – 6 p.m., program-7 p.m.; Bodcaw, Rosston.

**Greenbrier District WMA**, April 13; 10 a.m.; lunch to follow; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

**Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest**, April 17, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.



## Free Piano

Sterling piano free to a church or mission. Contact Central Baptist Church in Hughes at (870) 768-5544.

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