

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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(top) Providence Baptist Church in Amory meets on the church property on Sunday, March 26. (bottom) Damage to the church building.

## BMA Church Damaged By Mississippi Tornado

Providence Baptist Church in Amory, Miss. sustained major

damage in the March 24 tornado outbreak and is reported to be a total loss. Even though they were not able to get inside the church building, they met outside on the church property and had church on Sunday, March 26. They plan to “rebuild and be stronger,” according to a post on their Facebook page.

### BMA Disaster Relief

Just The Crumbs (JTC) is responding to the tornadoes that destroyed so much property and took so many lives in Mississippi on March 24. JTC will first go to Amory, Miss. and work in the area there. They will set up at East Amory Baptist Church, one of our BMA churches. The JTC team will work as long as there is a need, then possibly move on to Rolling Fork, Miss. where there was so much devastation. Amory was hit hard, and JTC felt the need to help people in BMA churches first.

Donations are being accepted and volunteers are welcome. If you

See **TORNADO**, Page 3

## 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).

**Epic Church NWA** is seeking a bivocational pastor. Resumes can be sent to Epic Church NWA, 4305 Turner St., Springdale, Ark. 72764 or emailed to EpicChurch-NWA@gmail.com.



## It's Time for Mental Health to Be a Part Of Student Ministry

By **Scott Barkley**

(via *Baptist Press*) — Shane Pruitt's background in observing students is tough to top. Last year alone, he spoke at 117 events to more than 260,000 in attendance, recording more than 30,000 salvations and 1,500 called into the ministry. He also helped coach more than 6,200 collegiate and student leaders. Arguably, no one in Southern Baptist life has spent more time with students and their leaders in recent years. Over that time, a particular observation has arisen that Pruitt feels churches can no longer ignore.

In the fall of 2020, Barna released a study claiming that mental health is the new domain of ministry to the next generation. Shortly thereafter, Pruitt wrote his own column on the matter, saying the church in America had taken positive steps to address the issue before adding “but we still have a long way to go.”

A quick Google search shows the topic's proximity to discussions over social media, family constructs, gender identity and, of course, the COVID pandemic. Harmony Healthcare IT, a data management firm in the healthcare industry, reported in 2022 that 42% of Gen Z had a diagnosed mental health condition, with anxiety far and away the most-diagnosed condition.

Pruitt, National Next Gen  
See **HEALTH**, Page 8

**Summer 2023**

- June 5-8 Stand Firm Camp in West Texas\*\*
- June 14-17 GMA National Camp
- June 18-21 Combo Student Camp
- June 18-21 Combo Pre-Teen Camp
- July 9-12 Pre-Teen Camp
- July 16-19 Ark-La-Tex Camp
- July 23-26 Student Camp

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**DANIEL SPRINGS**

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## Daniel Springs Releases Summer Schedule

By **Jason Prewitt**, Camp Director

We are so excited about the summer camp schedule (see above) and all the great camps that are going to take place. Camp prices for camps held at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp (DSBC) in Gary, Texas have increased this year. Regular registration is \$165 per attendee and will include a DSBC t-shirt. Late registration is \$200 per attendee and does not include a t-shirt.

• **Stand Firm Camp** — The first camp of the summer (June 5-8) will not take place on the Daniel Springs campus. Instead, we will be taking our team to West Texas to staff the Stand Firm Camp.

• **GMA National Camp** will be June 14-17, Wednesday through  
See **SCHEDULE**, Page 3



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

By **Donny Parrish**, BMA Conference Director

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 or local officer to join them for lunch on April 26 at the BMA Global Missions Center (611 Locust Street). 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, they want to dialogue about how to maximize the impact your local association makes for the kingdom of God!

So leaders, make plans to share a meal with your Coordinating Council at the National Meeting and spend time dreaming 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 we can prepare! Please email Jennifer Harrell at [jennifer@lifeword.org](mailto:jennifer@lifeword.org), and simply say “I'm coming to lunch!”

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Terry Kimbrow  
President



**Memorial & Honor Gifts**

## Honor and Memorial Gifts

The following are honor and memorial contributions received since the last report by Central Baptist College. Some of the contributions are recurring gifts but are only listed once.

### In Memory Of

**Toni S. Bradford** by Bro. & Mrs. George L. Reddin; **Rufus Crawford** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Elizabeth Evans** by Mr. & Mrs. William P. Jackson; **Jill Suzanne Farley** by Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Farley; **Sandra K. Francis** by Brenda G. Linn; **Erma Harrell** by Mr. & Mrs. Phillip A. Ashworth; **Opie Hefner** by Mr. & Mrs. Jay L. Hefner; **Ruby S. Hefner** by Mr. & Mrs. Jay L. Hefner; **Rena Hoggard** by Shirley Q. McCone; **Dr. Ralph B. Hoshaw** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Byren Jones** by Mr. & Mrs. Terry A. Chrisope; **Lucile Jones** by Mr. & Mrs. Terry A. Chrisope; **Esther Layton** by Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Blackmore; **Lamar Lee** by Peggy Lee; **Jim Lindsey** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Marion Loftin** by Mary Ann Rand, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Hoffmann and Mr. & Mrs. Brian Hoffmann; **Donna "Micki" M. Mitchell** by Esther M. Kershner-Mitchell; **Dr. Ron Mitchell** by Esther M. Kershner-Mitchell; and **James R. Raines** by Ann Raines.

### In Honor Of

**Marieca G. Ashworth** by Mr. & Mrs. James F. Beard III; **Rodney Castleberry** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Joyce Nell Garrison** by Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Andrews, Betty Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Riddle, Bro. & Mrs. Walton D. Smith, & Beverly Sperry; **Faith Gray** by Holly Shaw; **Cade L. Griffith** by Casey Griffith; **Thomas Guthrie** by Bro. & Mrs. Walton D. Smith; **Cody R. Harrod** by Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Campbell; **Laura A. Harrod** by Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Campbell; **Autumn F. Herring** by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey W. Herring; **Bill Hoggard** by Shirley Q. McCone; **Dr. Martin Jameson** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Terry Kimbrow** by Bro. & Mrs. Gary L. Hughes; **Ben A. Kingston** by Betty Kingston; **Jake A. Steele** by Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Campbell; **Rachel E. Steele** by Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Campbell; and **Jimmy W. Thompson** by Gary D. Gipson.



**Sports News**  
By Erik Holth

### Men's Golf

• **West Point, Miss., March 21** — Entering the final round 12 shots off the lead, CBC teed off the final round of the Blue Mountain Spring Classic at the Mossy Oak Golf Course looking for their third straight tournament win. CBC improved their score by 8 strokes, closing with a 308 to finish with a 624 in a tie for fifth, 22 shots behind the champions, Missouri Baptist. Individually, **Jakub Slapal** and **Leopold Maes** both finished in a tie for ninth with an overall score of 154 after Slapal closed

with a 77 and Maes shot a final round 75. **Paul Gomez** shot a final round 78 to finish with a 156 while **Suraprat Pareepart** closed with a 78 for an overall score of 160 and **Kitsakon Jairak** shot a final round 82 to close with a 171.

### Women's Golf

• **West Point, Miss., March 21** — CBC teed off in the final round of the Blue Mountain Spring Classic. **Alyssa Hagewood** moved up three spots in the standings after closing with an 85 to finish with a 173 in a tie for 14<sup>th</sup>. **Abby Kirby** shot a final round 101 to finish at 207, and **Laney Crutchfield** closed with a 99 to finish with a 208.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 27**

— **Alyssa Hagewood** earned her second AMC athlete of the week recognition, having also won back in October. She placed in a tie for 14<sup>th</sup> at last week's Blue Mountain Spring Classic.

### Baseball

• **North Little Rock, March 25** — Playing an American Midwest Conference (AMC) opponent at home for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Scots of Lyon College (LC) at DeSalvo Memorial Stadium in a doubleheader. CBC (14-15, 3-2 AMC) split the day, losing game one (Lyon 6, CBC 2) before winning game two (CBC 6, Lyon 5) in walk-off fashion over LC (9-12, 4-1 AMC).

• **North Little Rock, March 26** — After splitting the first two games of their AMC series with the Lyon Scots, CBC hosted Lyon in a Sunday matinee at DeSalvo Memorial Stadium. CBC (14-16, 3-3 AMC) kept it close until the 9<sup>th</sup> when Lyon (10-12, 5-1 AMC) tacked on the decisive runs to hand the Mustangs a 12-3 defeat.

### Track & Field

• **Magnolia, March 25** — Competing in state for the third weekend in a row, CBC was at the Mulerider Athletic Complex for the Southern Arkansas University Dan Veach Invitational. **Isaiah Stiger** competed in the men's long jump and finished 6<sup>th</sup>, jumping a distance of 5.79 meters. **Ashleigh Gross-Mitchell** participated in three events, posting a time of 13.53 in the 100-meters, a distance of 4.26 meters in the long jump and a distance of 8.66 meters in the shot put, which was her first time ever participating in a throwing event. **Ally Swaim** finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.83.



CBC Softball Player Hannah Work, who threw a no-hitter in game one vs. HSSU on March 27.

### Softball

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 26** — Returning to the field for the first time in 22 days, CBC was at Stars Park to open their AMC schedule against the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP). CBC (9-13, 1-1 AMC) split the doubleheader with UHSP (2-5, 1-1 AMC), falling on a walk-off in game one 8-7 before winning game two 19-7.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 27** —



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## Readers are Leaders

I have said it before and I will say it again, "Readers are leaders." Now, that isn't the only characteristic of a great leader, but it is high on my list. A good leader is well informed and knowledgeable about what God wants to do and how He works in our world. We can turn on the television and see some of these things, but taking the time to thoughtfully work through a subject can shape our thinking in deeper ways. I know not all of us are readers, but for those that aren't, audio books provide a great alternative. Simply put, it is important for us to be lifelong learners as God uses us to lead His people, whether they are children, students or adults.

For those who have not made reading a part of their everyday life, there is often confusion on where to start. Let me encourage you to focus on three areas as you seek to be intentional in your learning process:

• **Read the Word.** It should go without saying that those of us in vocational ministry need to be reading the Word on a regular basis, not simply for teaching and preaching, but for personal growth. There are times we get so caught up in the "doing" of ministry that we forget to invest in the source of truth we share. There are a lot of reading plans out there, so find one. We need to know God better if we hope to serve, teach and lead faithfully.

• **Read about ministry.** If you work with students, ask your youth pastor friends what they have read. If you serve as a teacher in your Sunday School, ask other teachers or your pastor for suggestions. We want to be serving well, and biblically-minded authors can give us some great things to consider. If you are looking for a starting place, check out *Fulfill Your Student Ministry* by Samuel Bierig. It is a great foundational book as you seek to establish your student ministry. You might also consider books about corporate worship, evangelism, preaching and lay counseling. Find an area you want to grow in and seek out a book in that area.

• **Read about cultural trends and current events.** Now, this can be a bit more challenging. Our world seems to be full of biased news sources that slant the truth one direction or another. Look for a trusted source and read magazines, newspapers and blog articles. Take the time to understand what is happening in our world and see how God might be moving.

Our church (Calvary Baptist Church of Fayetteville) emphasizes the need for us to be readers. Our Faithful Men and Faithful Women groups spend about eight months a year reading through a book a month and studying Scripture to help our people grow in their relationship with Christ. You don't have to read a book a month to be a reader. You simply need to be intentional as you move forward. Read, learn and grow as you seek to minister to the people that are around you.

We would love to hear what you are reading. Join us at Facebook.com/Groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity to share or email me at info@StudentMinistryMatters.com.

**Allison Wagle** was named AMC softball player of the week for her performances on March 26 against UHSP. She combined to hit .625 in the two games with a double, a triple and two RBIs. This was the second athlete of the week award in her career.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 27** — Playing for the second time in as many days, CBC took on the

Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) in an AMC doubleheader at Stars Park. CBC (11-13, 3-1 AMC) pounded out 37 hits and 43 runs in a sweep of HSSU (4-15, 0-2 AMC), winning 26-2 and 17-2. **Hannah Work** threw a no-hitter in game one, **Averie Ayers** had five hits in game one and **Kori Truelove** had five hits and five RBIs in game two.



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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# PRIDE

## The Danger of Pride

The book of James reminds us of the God we serve and how He operates with those who seek to serve Him. "... *God resists the proud but gives grace (strength) to the humble*" (James 4:6 NKJV). In the world of the celebrity pastor today, the caution to remain humble is not determined by the size of your congregation but the size of your ego. Pride is not necessarily the outflow of success but, rather, the condition of the heart. God makes the warning clear that you should not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think. According to Philippians, Jesus (God in the flesh) did not consider His position to be something used for His own advantage.

Proverbs 29:23 (NASB) states clearly, "*A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.*" In *God-Initiated Leadership*, Bill Elliff states, "Pride lowers, humility exalts. A desire to be known will cause a man to be known for all the wrong reasons." What are you known for? Are you known for control, being in charge and always doing things your way? Or are you known for encouraging and equipping others by helping them to succeed? Are you ready to hear other ideas knowing that quite often, the ideas shared with you are much better than your own? God does not look favorably (in any way) upon anyone's pride.

Pride has a way of showing up in every area of our lives, including our attitudes and in our actions. It is always asking, what about me? How come I am not being noticed and recognized? Henry Blackaby spoke to this by stating: "When you complete the task God gave you and no one expresses thanks for what you have done, the Father's grace surrounds you, and He reminds you that you have a heavenly reward where everything you have done in the Lord's service will be remembered." By the way, it is not about you, and it is not about me and it is good to remind ourselves of that truth daily.

Pride shows up not only in our attitudes and emotions — having an occasional pity party — but it

also surfaces by believing you can handle the situation yourself. You begin believing (and it is a lie) you do not need to seek God's assistance or guidance. You begin to think you know what you are doing and how to do it. After you begin to "figure out" a few things in the ministry, if you are not very careful, you can give into the temptation of pride that you now know what you are doing. Blackaby continued, "Self-regard will seek to convince you that you can handle your dilemma through your wisdom, resources and hard work. Pride will also rob glory from God and seek to give it to you."

Pride amplifies how mistreated you believe you have been, causes you to think you can rely on your own skill set and causes you to overfocus on comparing your ministry and church to others. Comparison can be very unhealthy because no church or situation is the same. God desires to work uniquely through you in the unique situation where He has placed you. Blackaby also spoke to this: "At times, it is easier to diminish others' spiritual victories than to honestly confront your own failures." Are you prone to run others down to, hopefully, make it appear that you are a notch above or more spiritual than them? Are you able to rejoice when others see spiritual revival and awakening, and you don't?

In *God-Initiated Leadership*, Bill Elliff challenged us to take the "Diotrephes test." Why that test? Because the Bible says this in III John 9, "*Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them.*" His problem was a pride problem. He loved to have first place, yet he refused biblical truth. He criticized the leaders while not having a good testimony himself. Bill challenged us to ask ourselves these questions:

- Do I seek to be first?
  - Do I submit to biblical truth?
  - Do I criticize other good leaders?
  - Do I humbly submit to spiritual authority?
  - Do my actions match my words?
  - Do I have a good testimony?
- These are great questions to keep

## TORNADO

(Continued From Page 1)  
are available to volunteer, contact Lavon Haden at (601) 522-6055. Donations can be mailed to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033. Donations can also be given online at [bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org). Be sure to designate offerings to "Disaster Relief Fund" with "Mississippi Relief" in the memo. Contact JTC at 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Miss. 39482 or [justthecrumbs21@gmail.com](mailto:justthecrumbs21@gmail.com).

## SCHEDULE

(Continued From Page 1)

Saturday.

• **Combo Camp (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade-College)** — Two exciting camps the same week for preteens, ages 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades and students ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade to college will be June 18-21.

• **Pre-Teen Camp (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades)** — Preteen Camps are designed for boys and girls in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The music, Bible study, worship and recreation are geared toward helping preteens meet Christ and move forward in their spiritual journeys. This camp will be held July 9-12.

• **The Ark-La-Tex Camp** — Ark-La-Tex Camp is a camp with an emphasis focused on campers five years old and up. Campers have a great time learning, worshiping and playing together. This camp will be July 16-19.

• **Student Camp** — Student Camp is a week for junior high, high school and college campers to have a great time learning, worshiping and building relationships. Student camp is fast paced and high energy to match the pace and energy of this age group. This camp will be July 23-26.

If you have any questions, contact the office at (903) 685-2433 or [info@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:info@danielspringscamp.com). You can also find more information about each camp by visiting [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com) and clicking on the "Camp Schedule" link. We are looking forward to hosting your group and seeing how God is going to change lives.

us humble. You must remind yourself that if your goal is to be recognized, your focus is on you more than the glory of God. God will not share His glory with anyone, and when you see Him for who He really is, it quickly reminds you of who you are not. There are two things you can be 100% sure of — there is a God, and you are not Him.

If you truly understand His holiness, you will never enter His presence without a sense of holy awe. It humbles you as you begin to grasp the incredible price paid at Calvary for you. The ministry is not about making you successful, accomplished or happy. Our lives and ministry are meant to glorify God and Him alone.

The picture is clear in Isa. 6:5,



## Be an Influence

I was just thinking about days gone by. In particular, I was thinking about people who have been an influence in my life. There are three men who especially were powerful influences — my dad, Jesse Mitchell; my pastor, Paul Bearfield; and my coach, Dick Hays. What is remarkable is that each influenced me in his own unique way due to his own particular relationship with me.

### Who Influenced You?

As you think about your answer, I remind you that there are positive influences and certainly there are those that are negative. But think about those that are positive, character building, spiritually strengthening influences.

Was it a certain schoolteacher who impacted your life? Was it a pastor, or maybe a pastor's wife who introduced you to Christ and instructed you in your Christian walk? For many, I imagine it would be a parent or parents.

### The Impact of Parental Influence

Our influences can either make us or break us. Such can be true of parents. Sadly, in this journey called life, there are sometimes very poor parents. I am not speaking about financially lacking, but spiritually-bankrupt, morally-inept parents. While children don't choose their parents, they still have to face life in the families into which they were born. The relationship and the influence of bad parents can corrupt the child. That kind of influence has long lasting effects.

Paul wrote, "*Do not be misled. Bad company corrupts good character*" (I Cor. 15:33 NIV). How sad it is when that company is that of parents who negatively influence their children.

### Be a Positive Influence

My wife and I were both blessed with good parents. Their influences were good, moral, spiritual and very positive.

If you are in the business world, look around. There may be a coworker who needs your kindness, concern and spiritual influence. If you are a teacher or coach, pay attention to your students or athletes. They all need your influence, but maybe there is that one who needs it more.

If you are a parent, pay close attention to your children. No matter how tired or stressed you may be, your children need you... and your positive influence. Notice I have used the word "need." As I have said so often, ministry is meeting needs. Be a minister in your own home!

### Those Men are Gone, but Their Influence Remains

My dad, my pastor and my coach have each received his heavenly promotion. Yet, what they taught me — even if I didn't recognize it at the time — still remains a powerful influence on my life decades later. That will be true of each of us.

### Be an Influence that Glorifies Christ

"*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*" (Col. 3:17).

"*Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*" Seeing and seeking God's glory causes you to properly bow in His presence. Bill gave us great advice here: "Stay before God in the Word and in prayer long enough to rid yourself of the desire to be known." The way to safeguard against pride is to stay in His presence and allow trusted friends to have the liberty

to address any pride they see rising up in you. Listen to notice if you are talking more about you or more about Him.

Man was not made to be worshiped and when he is, he is not capable of handling it and it can be very destructive. Remain open to evaluating your motives and any pride that is trying to slip up and deceive you. Bill's wisdom points out the danger of pride, "A lifetime of humility can be undermined in a moment of unguarded pride."



## Arkansas Faith & Ethics Council Legislative Update

Larry Page, Executive Director

Monday, March 27, marked the start of the 11<sup>th</sup> week of this legislative session. The following is a compilation of some of the key bills and proposals with which we have been or 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.

You will notice that some bills that were covered in previous updates are not included in this one. Those bills were either passed and signed into law, defeated, withdrawn by the sponsor(s) or still in the hopper but are they are dormant, and may or may not become active again. If any of these dormant bills become active, we will add them back into these legislative alerts. We omit the bills in those four categories to prevent the updates from being too long.

• **House Bill 1631 (HB1631) and Senate Bill 411 (SB411)** — These identical bills will dramatically raise the limit of alcohol allowed in beer that is sold retail in grocery and convenience stores. Those stores sell cold beer — beer that is often consumed by motorists. A much higher alcohol concentration in the beers sold in those stores will undoubtedly lead to more impaired drivers, endangering themselves and others. These bills were recently filed and will begin making their way through both the Senate and House. Please email your senator and house representative or call the switchboards and leave a message requesting that they oppose and vote against HB1631 and SB411.

• **Senate Bill 66 (SB66)** — If it becomes law, Senate Bill 66 (SB66) will require that internet distributors of obscenity utilize reasonable age-verification methods to prevent minors from acquiring the obscenity. SB66 was approved recently in the House and is now pending in the Senate, where it should get overwhelming approval and, upon the Governor's signature, it will become the law of Arkansas.

• **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 Senate's Judiciary Com-

mittee. It looks as if it is headed for approval and soon-to-become law. It will be a proper outcome in further efforts to protect the sensibilities of children.

• **House Bill 1156 (HB1156)** — HB1156 will protect students at public schools and public charter schools from having to share sex-specific spaces such as locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms and changing areas where stages of undress are common with a member of the opposite biological sex. Accommodations, such as single-use facilities may be provided for those declaring a different gender identity than the sexual identity given at birth. The bill has been approved by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. It is now Act 317. This a good law that will be essential if we are to protect female students from having to undress and shower with biological males.

• **Senate Bill 270 (SB270)** — This bill will amend the laws regarding the criminal offenses of sexual indecency with children. Essentially, the bill will make it a crime for an adult to knowingly enter and remain in a public changing facility (bathroom, lock room or shower room) assigned to persons of the opposite sex while knowing a minor of the opposite sex is present in that facility. After being amended for the third time, the bill was approved by the Senate. Now it will go before the House, where, hopefully, it will be approved, and then signed into law by the Governor.

• **House Bill 1301 (HB1301), House Bill 1670 (HB1670) and House Bill 1684 (HB1684)** — These are three bad abortion bills — all aimed at creating exemptions in the law to increase the number of abortions performed in Arkansas. HB1301 would permit an abortion if doctor determines that the unborn child has a medical condition "incompatible with life," whatever that means; and it could mean whatever a pro-abortion, radical physician wanted it to mean. HB1670 would provide an exemption for incest that is reported; however, the bill does not require that the incest be confirmed in any way. HB1684 would allow an abortion to protect the "health" of the mother; an exception such as that

## HOMECOMINGS

Union, Rosston; May 28, 10:30 a.m.; Jim Moss, message; lunch to follow; Joe Brown, pastor.

could encompass everything from depression to irritability. None of these bills should receive any serious consideration. The intent of them all is to chip away at the protections recent Arkansas laws now provide to unborn children, the most innocent, defenseless and precious people among us.

• **House Bill 1615 (HB1615)** — This bill will strengthen the state's Religious Freedom Restoration law. It will do so by adding more detail to the kinds of protections of religious liberties afforded us and the procedures, standards and criteria for accomplishing those protections. This bill will be heard in relevant committees this week and the first week of April. If approved by the committees and passed by the two chambers, it will go to the Governor for her approval and signature. At that point, it will be the law of Arkansas and the state's residents will be able to practice their faith with less interference from the government, its agencies and bureaucrats.

To identify your state senator and get contact information for him or her, take the following steps:

- Go to [senate.arkansas.gov](http://senate.arkansas.gov);
- On the senate's home page, click on green box that says "Find My Senator";
- On the page it takes you to, type in your address and click on "Search"; and
- Your senator's name and contact information will appear.

To identify your state representative and get contact information for him or her, take the following steps:

- Go to [arkansashouse.org](http://arkansashouse.org);
- On the house's home page, click on "Find Your Representative";
- On the page it takes you to, type in your address and click on "Search"; and
- Your representative's name and contact information will appear in a box.

For an email address click on "Full profile" and on the page it takes you to, scroll to the bottom for the email address.

You can call the senate switchboard at (501) 682-2902 and the house of representatives at (501) 682-6211 during regular office hours and leave a message for your legislator, requesting support or opposition to a bill under deliberation. Please use the bill number when conveying this information or describe the issue sufficiently.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these issues, contact us at [llp@arfaith.org](mailto:llp@arfaith.org) or (501) 837-1688 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 known.



## Blessed to Preach

I was blessed with the opportunity to preach God's Word this past Sunday at Calvary Baptist Church in Conway. Of course, I also shared a brief update about the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. Please pray for this church as they are without a pastor at this time and seeking the Lord's will.

I would love to come and share with your church why I believe this ministry is so important to help keep the people of the BMA informed and also to strengthen our association in the process. Reach out to me at [editor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:editor@baptisttrumpet.com) or (501) 565-4601 so we can get a date scheduled soon.

### Special Emphasis Update

With this issue, we are closing out the first month of our time of Special Emphasis for 2023 (March & April), and we are over a third of the way to our goal! We are trusting God will continue to provide for the needs of this ministry. Will you please keep us in your prayers and also consider whether God would have you give during our time of Special Emphasis?

### 2023 Special Emphasis • Goal — \$30,000

Previously Reported	\$3,700
Immanuel, Greenbrier	\$300
Caney Valley, Plumerville	\$250
Friendship, Greenbrier	\$500
First, St. Charles	\$250
Mt. Nebo, Hope	\$500
Mountain View, Beaver	\$100
Shiloh, Waldo	\$100
Anonymous	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,700</b>

## BMAA Meeting • April 25-27 Antioch Baptist Church • Conway

For more information visit  
[BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2023](http://BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2023)

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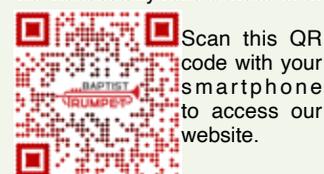
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## The Master's Builders At Daniel Springs Encampment

By Nelda Malone, Reporter

With 2023 well on its way, it was time for The Master's Builders to get back to work! The Builders began two weeks of work at Daniel Springs Encampment on March 6. As usual, our first job of the year is at the camp in Gary, Texas. This was job #180 for our group and our 13<sup>th</sup> time to have the privilege of helping out at the camp since The Master's Builders ministry began in 1991. Our first visit to the camp was in 1995 with the late James Speer as camp director. As always, our plan was to complete whatever tasks Camp Director Jason Prewitt had planned for us to do.

His list included, and work was completed, on the following:

- Build a 100-foot retaining wall,
- Build a storage building for the camp store,
- Remove the old canteen serving counter while preserving all the camp staff names inscribed over the years,
- Install a door in the camp store and office,
- Build three "carpet ball" tables and one new GaGa ball pit,
- Repair 50 chairs,
- Install side rail boards on the new camp dump trailer,
- Replace metal posts with wood posts on the dining hall,
- Remove cinderblock room from canteen area,
- Prepare the kitchen and canteen for spray foam insulation, and
- Remove and replace windows in the canteen for the new serving bar.

We had eight RVs parked at the Daniel Dorm and were excited to be able to hook directly up to the electricity and water outlets that were installed by our men last year. They are so nice! These are available to anyone with an RV when they use the event facilities at the Daniel Dorm. We also had two couples and two men that stayed in the camp worker's dorms down near the cafeteria. We welcomed two new members, Billy and Dawanna

Keys, from De Valls Bluff. What a blessing they are to our Master's Builders family already!

Each morning at 7, our men begin their workday with a devotional, prayer requests and "circle up" prayer. This year, they started a new tradition of singing "The Family of God" before they break up to begin their workday. The Spirit was truly moving in this time together each morning. What a way to start your day!

We thank Jason and Jessica Prewitt, and Morgan Sandifer, who work tirelessly at Daniel Springs. They are the best and took great care of us while we were there. Jason can even cook! Who knew a smoker could be so valuable? We were able to enjoy several group meals of smoked meats and even had a wiener roast one evening on the campfire pit. Such wonderful fellowship was enjoyed!

Thank you to our dear friend, and Jacksonville College alumni, Randy Decker. He came and worked with our men several days and brought the devotional on the first Wednesday night. Randy also led group singing two evenings in a row! On the second Wednesday night, Leo Sketo, from Midway Baptist Church in Mississippi, brought the devotional and Wayne Wimberly, from Old Center Baptist Church in Texas, led us in group singing once again. We certainly made a "joyful noise!" Those old *Heavenly Highway* hymnals that were donated to us were sure put to good use this trip!

Our ladies enjoyed our Bible study time each day. We had daily devotionals and continued our study from the book and video series, "More Women of the Bible." On Tuesdays, we enjoyed "Game Day" with our sisters from Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton, Texas.

There's no way we can report all that is done on our jobs, but our Facebook page is a great resource. Rose Bittner doesn't miss much in updating the work done each day



## DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

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

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

**Central Ark. Brotherhood**, April 10; 6:30 p.m.; Landmark, England.

**Southwest District WMA**, April 11; 10 a.m.; program-Candra Barnett; Spring Lake Baptist, Texarkana  
**Jonesboro District Brotherhood**, April 11; Immanuel, Jonesboro.

**Southwest District Brotherhood**, April 11; meal, 6 p.m., program, 7 p.m.; Ed Phillips, pastor.

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

**Central Ark. WMA**, April 15; Landmark, England.

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

**Greenbrier Men's Fellowship**, April 22; 8 a.m.; First, Damascus

**Jonesboro District Brotherhood**, May 9; Prospect, Jonesboro.

**Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood**, June 5, 6:30 p.m.; First, Caldwell.

## Revivals

**Landmark, England**, April 2-5; Sun. 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; David Inzer, pastor.

**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge**, April 16-18; Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tue. 6:30 p.m.; Danny Bradley, evangelist; John Durham, pastor.

**Charity, Ward**, April 16-19; Sun. 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Martin Jameson, evangelist; Keith Lewis, pastor.

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

**Faustina, Hampton**, May 15-17; 7 p.m. nightly; Terry Greenwood, evangelist; Gene Boyette, pastor.

**Union, Rosston**, May 29-31; 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Moss, evangelist; Joe Brown, pastor.

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

on our page. "Like" our page and "Follow" us on Facebook as we try to continue serving the Lord. Please pray for our men and pray for more workers to be brought to us.

If all goes as planned, we will begin work at Faith Chapel in Flippin on April 3. We will be building a new sanctuary and plan to be there three weeks. Come by and check in on us if you can or come work alongside us. We would love to meet you and fellowship with you.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders Ministry, contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877, David Axe at (903) 918-0720 or Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675.

# Spotlight On Missions

## Send offerings to BMA Missions

P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878  
501.455.4977 • [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org)



A group of teens meeting at the Agape church in Oradea.

## Bryan & Pam Risner • Romania

The whirlwind of craziness has continued into February. Our month was hectic with Bryan's 41<sup>st</sup> birthday, teen meetings twice a month and our first Sunday service in our new church building. Bryan spent the evening of his birthday with our youth group and ate delicious cake.

The church plant received exciting news about the building — it was finished almost two weeks ahead of schedule, and we had our first meeting in the church Sunday, Feb. 26 with nearly 70 in attendance, almost double the number of people from the last couple of weeks! Our team worked very hard to clean and set up for our first meeting in the new building, which included space for Candra to separate our kids' program into three groups based on age. It is the only church in the Grigorescu neighborhood, and we are excited to have a place of corporate worship.

In the last teen meeting of February, our Oradea teens invited our Satu Mare friends for a joint meeting. The ones from Satu Mare are mainly the friends we have made at church camp. We had over 20 guests, and we had to rent a small bus to drive them. They told us that even more teens would be coming with them for the next meeting.

**Santandrei (Roma/Gypsy) Ministry Update** — With spring coming into view, the Roma ministry is picking up again. Lavi has continued with the children's ministry. The children meet on Sunday at 5 p.m. They are learning new songs almost weekly. They have enjoyed Lavi telling the Bible stories with her felt board, and they love the "quiet game" at the conclusion of the service. Marius has continued to visit the adults in the village. He prays with them in their homes, shares the gospel and simply talks to them. With warmer weather here, the kids play outside more, and that will increase the weekly attendance.

**Brasov (Return Church) Ministry Update** — Cristian Martinez continues to lead the ministry in Brasov. They are continuing the partnership with the university and public school in the Roma community, as well as meeting weekly for corporate worship and discipleship. They have planted many gospel seeds and ask for prayer that those seeds will take root.

**Oradea (New Church Plant) Ministry Update** — The new church plant has been going well. We are continuing to raise support as we furnish the building. Several families have committed and several more praying hard about the right decisions for their families. We ask that you continue to pray for our ministry and the families joining it.

**Praise Reports** — Join us in praising God for the Oradea Church Plant, Agape, as it has outgrown homes and moved into the new building with classrooms for our kids' ministry; our financial supporters who helped us purchase 200 chairs; the Santandrei Property which now has a fence around it; our prayer and financial partners; and the opportunity to serve in Romania.

**Prayer Needs** — We ask that you join us in prayer for Agape, the Oradea Church Plant (tithing members, weekly worship meetings, weekly discipleship meetings), the Santandrei Roma Ministry (1:1 Bible studies, vandalism issues and peace among children for weekly Bible study), Brasov Ministry (additional families to join Sunday meetings), the kids' scholarships for college and for our language skills to increase.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Easter Sunrise Service**, April 9, 8 a.m.; breakfast to follow; all are welcome; Banks, Banks.

**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.

**Arkansas Galilean Camp**, July 28-30; Ponca Bible Camp.

**Student Ministry Matters Retreat**, Sept. 16; Central Baptist College, Conway.



## End Times is Bad Marketing

I have written and written about the details of the last days and the need to stand firm in those ultimate trials. I've shared one horrific thing after another from the deception and destruction of the Antichrist, the persecution and turning away of believers. All true. All scriptural.

When we read the prophets, they pronounce this pending doom and destruction. Jesus said there would be distress unlike there ever has been. The Book of Revelation foretells the judgments and tribulation through the seals, trumpets and bowls of wrath. Horrific things, but following those prophecies there are other prophecies — positive prophecies. Yes, positive prophecies are a thing.

Every prophet that spoke of the terror of the Day of the Lord followed it with a great promise of hope for the blessings that would follow. Jesus followed up the list of trials of the beginning of birth pains, the Great Tribulation and deception of the Antichrist with the promise of His appearing and gathering together of His people. The Book of Revelation closes with the return of Jesus, the defeat of the Antichrist, the bounding up of Satan, the beginning of the reign of Jesus in His Messianic Kingdom, the New Heavens, the New Earth, the New Jerusalem and the Father dwelling with us like He did in Eden with Adam and Eve.

In each case, the blessings that follow what we call the “end times” greatly eclipse even the immense terror of that time. If we read those prophetic books and passages, it becomes clear that the “end times” isn't the end of time for believers. Rather the “end times” for believers is the beginning of everything. Our eternal party is only just getting started in the last days.

The Bible uses terms like “last days” and the “end of the age,” but I believe the church has done a bad job of marketing that time as the “end times.” It is the end of time for nonbelievers to be saved. It is the end of time for Satan. It is the end of time for this corrupt world, but it is not the end times for believers.

For it is at the end of the age that we see the fulfillment of our salvation. It is when we receive our eternal bodies. It is at the end of **this** age that we will begin to reign with Jesus. It is at the end of **this** age that all things are made new.

Yes, “end times” is bad marketing. Though there is a horrific brief time for that final generation, it ushers in our blessed hope. We should instead market it as the triumphant return of Jesus. We should recapture the cry of the early church — “**Maranatha!**” — meaning, “Lord come!” Lord, come and vindicate Your Name and make everything right.

So, it is time we turn from the negative of the end of this age and focus on the positive. I will begin that in my next article as we look at a series — “Heaven is Better Than We Can Imagine.”

— *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)*



**Barney, Enola** witnessed one salvation and one by baptism; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

**Herman, Bono** added three by letter; Randy Stimach, pastor.

**Landmark, England** welcomed three new members; David Inzer, pastor.

**Russell, Russell** rejoices over one

profession of faith; Randy Zinn, pastor. **Spring Lake, Texarkana** gained two by baptism; Randy Shepherd, pastor.

**Summers, Summers** received one by letter; Paul Young, pastor.

**The Bridge, Mountain Home** witnessed four salvations and two baptisms since last report; Hershel Conley, pastor.

**Trenton, Marvell** added one by baptism; Mike Shelley, pastor.

**Union, Bodcaw** reports one by statement; Joe Brown, pastor.



## Bobby Hudgens Passes Away

Bobby Lloyd Hudgens, 74 of Benton, passed away on March 21 after battling Parkinson's Disease for six years and Lewy Body Dementia for three years. He was a member of Park Place Baptist Church in Bryant.

Bobby was born in Waldo and was the youngest of three children. He met his wife, Donna Ferguson, in January of 1972 during his last semester of his senior year at Southern State College in Magnolia, where they were both very active in the Association of Baptist Students. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 1, 2023.

His career started as a K-12 music teacher in Waldo and Taylor Public Schools. He served as a part-time music/youth director for Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope and First Baptist Church in Taylor during college. He also served in full-time ministry as music/education director at Trinity Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. While at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock (now South City Church), he served for 27 years through music, education and business administration.

He was involved in the International Student Ministry at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, was instrumental in the development and organization of the El Samaritano Medical Clinic that provided free medical/dental care for the growing Hispanic community in Little Rock and also served as a trustee and board chairman of the BMA Moral Action committee from 2005-2010.

After leaving Temple, he served at the Baptist Publishing House (DiscipleGuide) as the Director of Research and Development from 2004-2013, where God used him in updating and improving BMA literature. After his retirement from the BMA Publications Dept., he served as a part-time music director for the Mandeville First Baptist Church until moving back to Benton in 2013.



## I'll Take That Compliment

I received a funny compliment this past month. I have been teaching a series on Biblical manhood, womanhood and sexuality this semester. After teaching for a couple of weeks on the idea that men and women were created equal before God as persons yet distinct in manhood and womanhood, one of the young men from The Hedge and I were having a day-after conversation about the lesson from Tuesday night.

He said one of his apprehensions about modern Christianity is the rise of egalitarianism — the idea that men and women do not have distinct roles and responsibilities in life in general and in the church in particular. Then, he gave me the compliment — “And you are, by no means, egalitarian.”

He went on to explain that he didn't mean I was an egalitarian without cause. Based on what he had heard of my lessons on the subject so far, he did not think I was reading my personal understanding into the text. Instead, he thought I was allowing the text to shape my understanding of the view of manhood and woman — leading me to an opposing view of egalitarianism called “complementarianism.”

And that's the funny part — I was complimented for being complementarian! All joking aside, there are two things I've been thinking over as I reflect on this interaction:

• **I take joy in knowing that students are paying attention to these things.** This young man had already been thinking about this topic long before I was bringing lessons on the subject. Additionally, he was looking for leadership to exegete (or “draw out”) meaning from the texts that pertain to this topic instead of eisegete (or “draw in”) meaning to the texts. Sometimes I wonder if they are even listening, then God helps me realize they are doing so much more.

• **Those of us in positions to teach the upcoming generations must not shy away from relevant, although potentially divisive, passages.** When I started teaching about these subjects, I thought maybe in a few weeks I would have said some things that would drive students away from the messages. Praise God, they've done the opposite — they keep coming back! They have a hunger for the meat of God's Word for the thorny issues of our day! If you teach any generation below you (or even the ones above you), must not shy away from the relevant passages of Scripture.

Perhaps the biggest blessing of the interaction with this young man is that he went on to ask if Hanna and I would walk with him and his fiancé through pre-marital counseling. For us, this is a victory with eternal consequences. Praise God for His grace!

That's what I see when I look back on the last month at The Hedge.

P.S. — If you want to hear more of the lessons we are currently going through and some after conversations led by students, check out our new podcast — “Hearing from The Hedge” — by visiting [patreon.com/hearingfromthehedge](https://patreon.com/hearingfromthehedge).

Survivors include: his wife, Donna Ferguson Hudgens; three children, John (Kristy) Hudgens, Emily (Travis) Price and Rebekah (Nathan) Brown; a sister, Linda (Bill) Simpson; a brother, Terry (Retha) Hudgens; and six grandchildren.

Visitation and services were held at Smith-Benton Funeral Home (SmithFamilyCares.com) in Benton on March 29.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Missions Department of the Baptist Missionary Association, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033.



**Minta Janice Griswood McKnight**, 94 of Plumerville, passed away March 25. She was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

**Jeroline Cloud**, 91 of Waldo, passed away March 23. She was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church.

**Lunwood Edwards**, 74 of Magnolia, passed away March 7. He was a member of Antioch East Baptist Church.

**Mattie Louise Wolfe**, 94 of El Dorado, passed away March 2. She was a member of Banks Baptist Church in Banks.



**BMA OF ARKANSAS**  
**STATE MISSIONS**

### Missionaries

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 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
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## Prayer Request

BMA of Arkansas Hispanic Missions Coordinator Michael Hight is very ill and is currently undergoing treatments at UAMS. Please remember him and his family during this time.

## Spring Training

Spring training does not only refer to baseball but missionaries as well. Monday your state missionaries (except for Bro. Michael, of course) met together at StoneRidge Encampment located in Smithville. BMA of America Missions Department President Dr. John David Smith was our guest speaker/teacher. We had a great time working on our teamwork skills as well as gleaning from Dr. Smith's lectures. Once a missionary always a missionary. A special thanks to John David for taking time out of his busy schedule to join us in this year's spring training. Iron sharpens iron, and I am truly thankful for the cooperation that exists within all departments of our association. A special thanks to all those who pray and support this ministry.

## R and R

Tuesday afternoon marked the beginning of this year's R and R retreat 2023. This is a time set aside for pastors and preachers to fellowship, compete in fun activities and worship together. It is a great time to get to know others and to find men you can confide in and with. For those of you who missed it, all I can say it was your loss.

## From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Wednesday, Sayra flew to Honduras. She had a pleasant trip without mishaps. Upon meeting her father, she realized that his physical condition was more delicate than what they had told her. The church is praying for Don Miguel's health, especially for his spiritual health. We hope he can make his profession of faith very soon.

"Monday night, we went shopping at the supermarket and met Melvin, a young Honduran man who was looking for a church to join. We invited him to our meetings, and since Wednesday he has been meeting with us without miss-

ing any of the meetings we have had. He came to the youth meeting on Wednesday, then the Thursday House group, the Friday prayer meeting and the Sunday meeting. His desire to congregate is evident. Let us pray for the life of this young man and that the Lord will use us to make him His disciple.

"Saturday, we had a class for baptismal candidates and, at the Sunday meeting, Maylee and Yani were baptized. Yani received Christ as her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, March 15. Maylee turned 11 on Saturday. In her testimony, she told us that she made her profession of faith in the Vacation Bible School last year. She also told us she wants to take steps of obedience to God and serve Him on the worship team.



(L/R) Juan Carlos Posadas with Maylee and Yani holding their certificates of baptism.

Let us pray they will continue firm in the path of faith and that they will serve the Lord joyfully in the expansion of His kingdom."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "Last week, we had a meeting of the members of Ebenezer and we received three new members, ratified and renewed our leadership. It was a good time to report what God has been doing, but also where we are headed as a community.

"We thank God for this time. It was Spring Break week and, as a family, we took advantage of spending time together. From Wednesday through Saturday, we had a time of rest in Branson, Mo. We saw the play, "Queen Esther." It was good to remember that God protects His people in the midst of difficult circumstances.

"We had several absences last Sunday due to vacation time and other sickness. Pray for this time when pollen affects many. In many Latin countries it is rare that we have pollen allergies.

"This is the second week that a family from Guatemala is coming to Ebenezer. She is Mexican and he is from Guatemala. Mixed families are common cases here in the USA as new families are forming here. He has a son who is also from Guatemala and, for the second time, they have come to our congregation. I will visit them in their home to get to know them a little more and to know their spiritual needs. Pray that God will guide me in how to minister to them and have God's wisdom and grace for them. I know they have a thirst for God, and it is an answer to your prayers. Keep praying that God will bring to Ebenezer families with a thirst for His Word. God brought the Venezuelan family, now He brings this family to us. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, (3/19) "I'm late writing this, I had to go preach my sister's funeral yesterday. It was hard, and very sad, but I know where she is, and I will see her again. Thank you all for your prayers for our family!"

"We had a great service Sunday, with both return and first-time visitors. They all said they will come back. After two years and five months, we finished preaching through Acts. What a book! We all learned so much, especially me — not just about the early church, and what the Apostles did, or Paul's travels, but about how to

truly become disciples, and make disciples, and start and grow our church. During all that time and all those messages, there was not a single week that God's Word and His message was not relevant to the day and to our lives. His Word is amazing! I am praying now about where to go next, but I found out that I love preaching through a whole book. Thank You Tony Crocker, Larry Barker and Cliff Johnson for that advice.

"I'm writing this early Tuesday morning, and while I was gone to Little Rock yesterday, the concrete slab was finished, the power company installed poles and the septic field lines were finally backfilled and covered. You can't believe how much rock we have hit. Our member doing the excavation says that it is because I preached that we are going to build this church on the solid rock. It looks like we will be ready and waiting for The Master's Builders to come in April and begin framing our new building. Praise God! He is building His church in Flippin, and we will have a new building before long.

"We thank you all for your prayers and support! Please continue, they mean so much to us!"

(3/26) "What a beautiful spring day we had Sunday! We had return visitors, including last week's first-time visitors, and we had three first-time visitors this week. We had a great service and began a new series preaching through I Peter. Our first passage, I Peter 1:1-5, was incredible as it talked about our inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away and how we are kept by the power of God, not by our own power, but by His! If that doesn't cheer you up you need to get checked!"

"We made some progress on the building this week. The concrete slab was completed, the septic system is installed and covered, and two of the three power poles were set. They hit rock and are waiting for a different drill so they can get through it. Please pray that power will be completed this week in time for the Master's Builders to begin framing on Monday, April 3. God's timing has been perfect so far, and I believe He will meet our every need according to His riches in glory!"

"Thank you for your prayers and support. They mean so much to us."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes "Faith Journey enjoyed a BBQ fellowship with all the fixings this week! The warmer weather during Spring Break sure was a nice change, and we are happy about more sunshine as we move into springtime. We were able to slow down and spend some enjoyable time with our families this week for the break. It is always a great time to reconnect and relax with each other, which we don't always get to do on a daily basis.

## Opportunities For Service

**Beacon Baptist Church in Taylor,** Texas 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:deryl54@yahoo.com). He can also be reached at (318) 423-8540.

"We are starting to look forward to Easter in a couple of weeks. We are planning to get to share the Easter story with an Easter service at the local nursing facilities where we have our weekly Bible studies. Please be in prayer as we bring them the message of Christ's death and Resurrection. We hope we will be able to share with them and their families the hope we have because of Jesus' sacrifice for sins that He paid on the cross. It should be a joyous time to share with those residents, staff and families that will come out to be a part of these services."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We are very grateful to God for what He continues to do every day in Sovereign Grace. New people continue to be added to our Grace Groups. This week, an elderly lady who has just lost her husband of more than 45 years of life together was added to our Springdale Grace Group. She has just given her life to Christ and, despite passing the 70 years, we see the joy and the sweet love of God's presence in her life. Each meeting comes with a long list of questions since she was Catholic for more than 70 years. There are many questions and things the other members of the group have to learn to see her with so much love and joy with which she is available in each of the things that she proposes to participate in her first love. It has been a gift to see her arrive. Her name is Angels, and I ask you to pray that she may persevere in the ways of the Lord."

## HEALTH

(Continued From Page 1)

director for the North American Mission Board, says the pandemic didn't lead to an increase in anxiety among young people, but was significant in revealing it. "I think there are some healthy and unhealthy contributors to it," he said. "A healthy contributor is that the church is doing a better job shining a light on it. For many churches, mental and emotional health were those things they didn't really know how to treat. They might say to just read your Bible about it and pray more."

It would be unequivocally foolish to draw from the sentence that Pruitt doesn't believe in the Bible. He points to passages such as Matt. 6:33-34 in placing one's trust in God. His point is that churches have become wiser about seeking biblically based counseling for mental health issues they aren't equipped to handle properly. "The church has done a better job of teaching about mental health, highlighting it and saying this is a safe place to speak up and get the help you need," he said.

According to Pruitt, there are cases when students are struggling with mental health to the point that professional help is needed. However, it would be naïve not to assume some cases are more related to the normal moodiness associated with the teen years. "This is an unhealthy contributor," he said.

"Because there is so much focus on anxiety, it can create a bit of a social contagion where groups of teens are diagnosing each other." Confusion over sexual identity and gender also contribute, he said. "When God has designed you one way, but the culture is saying you'll be celebrated going another way, that will create a lot of unrest in you."

As a father of six, Pruitt noted how anxiety is by no means reserved for young people. Recent health issues for his son, who has cerebral palsy, reminded him of that. "Anxiety is worrying about what will happen, whether it does or not" he said. "It may happen, but even if it does the Lord is faithful; the Lord is with you."

He agrees with the premise of the Barna study that mental health is a significant ministry area for churches, to the point that he advocates churches have a staff member for it if the resources are available. "Of course, most of our churches aren't going to have the



### Bus for Sale

Emmaus Baptist in New Edinburg is selling their 2013 Ford E350 super-duty 15-passenger van with 81,000 miles. For more information, contact (870) 679-0350.

means to do that," he said. "Just don't wade into waters on your own where you don't have the training. You can find a Christian counseling center in your area and partner with them."

He urges parents to be proactive in talking with their children

about anxiety and mental health. "If it's not your child, it's a friend of theirs," he said. "Look for the signs. Some things work themselves out, but others require help. Find a Christian clinical psychologist and, if there is ever a crisis, you already have a plan."

Addressing mental health isn't just for the mind. It's a part of discipleship, he said. "Teach what the Bible says about it. When we allow our heart, or feelings, to dictate things," he added, "it never goes well. Equip people to understand the Word of God."



# JACKSONVILLE

COLLEGE

## Jacksonville College is Seeking Applicants for President

Jacksonville College, a vibrant, faith-based, liberal arts institution is accepting applications for the office of president. An earned Doctorate degree is preferred, with education or related disciplines also preferred. This confident, well-spoken leader must be a conservative, growing Christian with deep experience in institutional development, fundraising and administration. Pastoral ministry-related experience is a plus.

For consideration, please send a cover letter; a personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience and your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references to [gdoor85@gmail.com](mailto:gdoor85@gmail.com) and [wpratt@northsideconroe.com](mailto:wpratt@northsideconroe.com).

Jacksonville College is located in Jacksonville, Texas. It was founded in 1899, and is affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

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