

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

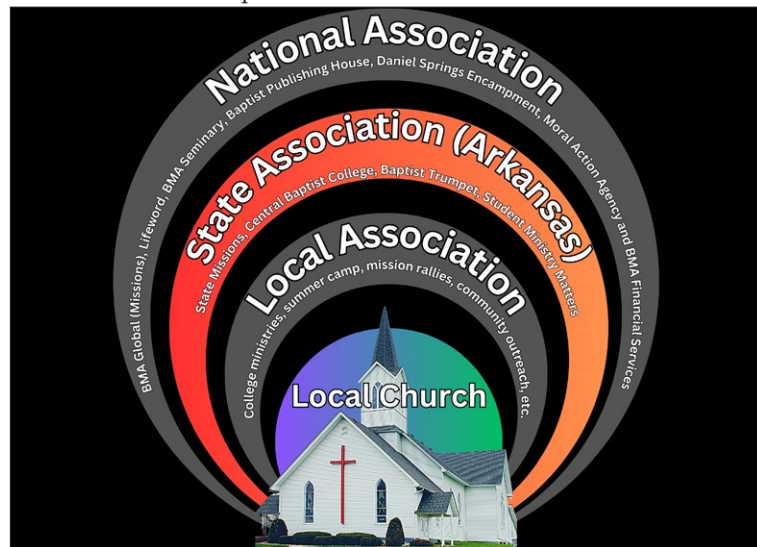
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How Do We Associate? (Part 2)

Executive Editor's Note: The "Moving the Conversation Forward" article by Associate Editor Allan Eakin in the Dec. 20 issue introduced a series of articles — **How Do We Associate? Series** — we would be featuring at the beginning of the new year. The first of these articles appeared in the Jan. 10 issue — "How Do We Associate?" In this issue, we will begin to share the stories of the ministries that are made possible because of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association, starting with the departments of the state of Arkansas. In this issue, we will share from the two oldest departments of the BMA of Arkansas — State Missions and the *Baptist Trumpet*.



By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

The *Baptist Trumpet* (newspaper), one of the departments of the BMA of Arkansas, is designed to inspire and inform our readers. Each issue includes up-to-date news articles about matters that pertain to the religious community as a whole and inspirational articles and stories related to our churches. We include regular reports about the activities of the other three departments of the BMA of Arkansas (Central Baptist College, State Missions and the Youth Department) and the various departments of the BMA of America.

The beginning of the *Baptist Trumpet* actually predates the formation of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA). In 1939, W.J. Burgess, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock,

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STATE MISSIONS
By Paul White, Executive Director

Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of Arkansas Missions is an extension of the ministry of the churches of the BMA of Arkansas. We partner with individuals, churches and associations, primarily of the BMA of Arkansas, to send out spirit-filled men to plant local churches wherever needed and fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was during the association's organizational meeting on Nov. 14, 1950 at Temple Baptist in Little Rock that the State Missions Program was launched and Abner R. (A.R.) Reddin from Ashdown was elected as our first Arkansas secretary of missions. During this meeting the messengers also elected six missionaries — J.C. Crain, Cris Barham, C.N. King, G.L. Richardson, C.W. Ferguson and Branson

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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.

Drew Tiner is the new worship pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Plumerville. He has been serving at the church as a worship intern the last few years.



No King But Christ

By Dr. Clif Johnson, President • BMA of America

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) recently called the performance of Arkansas' Lake Hamilton High's Marching Band unconstitutional since the school's performance was "showing favoritism toward or coercing belief or participation in religion." The performance in question was entitled "Revival" and included banners of crosses, fiery images and signs that said, "Sinners Beware." According to the Lake Hamilton School District Director of Communications and Public Relations, the program drew inspiration from the Great Depression era, when revivals were common.

At the heart of this ongoing controversy in America is the belief that the public sphere should be a place of neutrality where there is freedom from religion. But this cannot be. You cannot have freedom or separation from religion at all. Religion is a "set of beliefs regarding the cause, nature and purpose of the universe... often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs." It is true that "religion" is most often associated

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Online Registration Available For BMA National Meeting

Pastors and messengers attending the 2024 BMA National Meeting in Branson, Mo., will have the opportunity this year to register and pay their minute/conference donation online and book hotel reservations from the same site — bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. There is also an online registration form for ministries wanting to secure their spot to display at the National Meeting.

The BMA National Meeting will be held April 16-18 at the Chateau on the Lake Hotel and Convention Center in Branson, Mo. In addition to taking care of the vital business of the association, there will be inspiring worship services and ministry investment opportunities designed to help your church. Two highlights of the event will be a gospel concert by Point of Grace and teaching by Mac Lake, founder and CEO of Multiply Group, where they seek to "help churches multiply their impact, multiply their leaders and multiply churches." Messages will be presented by BMA President Dr. Clif Johnson, James Schoenrock and Kirk Shelton.

Once registered, attendees will simply proceed to the registration table in the hotel lobby to receive their ballots for voting. (Executive Editor's Note: Visit BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024 for the latest information.)



Terry Kimbrow
President



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Sports News

By Erik Holth

Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 9** — Playing their first American Midwest Conference (AMC) contest at home this season, CBC hosted the Eagles of Williams Baptist University (WBU) at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (11-4, 2-0 AMC) led by 15 at halftime and cruised to an 87-67 win over WBU (7-4, 0-2 AMC). **Hykeem Hancock** led the way in scoring off the bench, while **Sage Borbon** and **Jonas Carlisle** also finished in double figures and Carlisle finished with the first double-double of his career as he led the way in rebounding. CBC dominated on the glass and played outstanding defense, holding WBU to just 6 made field goals and 22% shooting from the floor in the first half.

• **Conway, Jan. 11** — Coming off an emotional rivalry win on Tuesday night, CBC was back inside the confines of A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse for an AMC clash with Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU). CBC (12-4, 3-0 AMC) led by 1 at halftime and used a strong second half to power past HLGU (4-8, 0-3 AMC) 76-55. **Sage Borbon** and **Devin Foster** both finished in double figures scoring, and **Christian White** paced the Mustangs on the glass. CBC got to the free throw line 20 more times than HLGU did and forced 17 turnovers.

• **Conway, Jan. 13** — Looking for their fourth straight victory, CBC hosted the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) in an AMC tilt for homecoming inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (13-4, 4-0 AMC) trailed only once and made over half their shots, putting up a season-high 54 first half points to win 95-49 over HSSU (5-14, 0-4 AMC). **Kyle Harding**, **Deshawn Corpnew** and **Devin Foster** all finished in double figures scoring for the Mustangs, who tied a season-high for made threes. CBC was +8 on the glass and outscored the HSSU reserves 57-14.

Women's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 9** — Playing at home for the first time since Dec. 12, CBC hosted the Eagles of Williams Baptist University (WBU) in an AMC contest inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (1-7, 0-3 AMC) kept it close in the first half, but got outscored 27-8 in the third quarter, falling 89-58 to WBU (9-3, 2-1 AMC). **Lydia York** led the way in scoring with 16



Dan Carson
Director

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Reaching Out to Others

Student ministries can be pretty segregated. I don't think we mean for it to happen, but it does. We reach out to those who are like us. As a high school musician and "big 'ole nerd," it has always been much easier for me to speak a certain language to the students I have come across. Even now, I can talk about the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and gaming with the best of them.

The problem is that if we only reach out to those like us, we are missing the point of the gospel. God has called us to reach out to all nations. That means people of all races, backgrounds, clubs, interests, etc. Think about it: what does your group look like? Does it reflect your community? If it doesn't, what should we do to make that change? How do we reach out to those who aren't like us? Here are some ways to start:

• **Fully embrace what God says through His Word.** *"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him"* (Rom. 10:12 ESV). God calls us to share the gospel with all men and women of every background. The gospel is the great unifier. We all need a solution to our sin problem, and Jesus is the answer. We can't let the trivial differences of color, background and interests stand in the way of sharing that message with those around us.

• **Look for common ground.** Even when students are different than us, there are some basic things we can all relate to. Many of our students experience public school. Most students have families they may not understand all the time. All you have to do is think back to when you were a teenager. Times have changed, but many things have remained the same.

• **Pray for an open heart.** There can be times when we struggle to love those who are different than us. Whether it is learned behavior of the past or attitudes we have allowed to grow in our hearts, God can transform us. We need Him to work in big ways if these are our issues.

• **Be intentional as you move forward.** Look for opportunities to bridge cultural gaps. Learn a language if that will help. Think missionally rather than just caring for your own. We need to have a Great Commission mindset as we seek to love the students in our community.

God has called us to reach the world with the gospel. There is no time or place for prejudices that prevent us from sharing the gospel or being restrictive with our love and concern. Join us at facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity and share how you break barriers to reach students who are different from you.

points off the bench, while **Olivia Lambriigtsen** joined her in double figures with 13. Lambriigtsen and Tamara Christmas were the co-leading rebounders with 6 apiece.

• **Conway, Jan. 11** — Playing at home for the second time in three nights, CBC hosted the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) in an AMC game inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (2-7, 1-2 AMC) used strong defense and dominant rebounding to crush

HLGU (4-7, 0-4 AMC) 74-35. **Caroline Citty** led three Mustangs in double figures scoring, joined in that category by **Lydia York** and **Olivia Lambriigtsen**. CBC used their defense, which held HLGU to single digits in three of the four quarters, to run away early and never look back.

• **Conway, Jan. 13** — Wrapping up their three-game AMC home-stand, CBC hosted the Hornets

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Homecoming Queen Crowned

The 2024 Central Baptist College Homecoming Court was presented between the women's and men's game in the A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse on Saturday, Jan. 13. **Ashanti Williams** was crowned the 2024 Homecoming Queen by President Terry Kimbrow and 2021 Homecoming Queen Madelyn Krisell.

Ashanti Williams is a senior Elementary Education major, with a minor in Mathematics, from Jonesboro. She is a member of the CBC Band, Choir, and Tower Media. Ashanti is the daughter of Antonio and Antionette Reid and attends City Church in Conway. She was escorted by her brother, Aaron Williams, and Trey Tippin. Trey is the son of Larry and Alisa Tippin from Sherwood.



Other members of the Homecoming Court and their escorts were:

• **Rylie Brissette**, a freshman Elementary Education major from Greenbrier, was escorted by Ethan Blalock, youth pastor at Crosspoint Baptist Church in Greenbrier, and Zack Birmingham. Zach is the son of Teresa and Derreck Birmingham from Greers Ferry.

• **Natalie Smith**, a freshman Secondary Social Studies major from Greenbrier, was escorted by her father, J.L. Smith, and Cameron Burroughs. Cameron is the son of Billie and Stephanie Burroughs from Greenbrier.

• **Audrey Johnson**, a sophomore Elementary Education major from Jacksonville, Texas, was escorted by her brother, Abram Johnson, and her fiancé, Austen Krisell. Austen is the son of Scott and Becky Krisell from Greenbrier.

• **Kailey Sullivan**, a sophomore Communications major from Conway, was escorted by her father, Bobby Sullivan, and Dalton Leutwyler. Dalton is the son of Dustin and Diana Leutwyler from Cushing, Texas.

• **Caroline Skinner**, a junior Psychology and Counseling major from Bryant, was escorted by her father, Jaime Skinner, and Kane Harrell. Kane is the son of Jennifer Harrell from Conway.

• **Abby Wilson**, a junior Elementary Education major from Lufkin, Texas, was escorted by her father, Aaron Wilson, and Parker Thomas. Parker is the son of Patrick and Danielle Thomas from Shreveport, La.

• **Sierra Dodson**, a senior Psychology and Forensics major from Quitman, was escorted by her mother, Heather Burrow, and her husband, Nathan Dodson. Nathan is the son of Jon and Robyn Dodson from Damascus.

• **Hannah Varnado**, a senior Psychology and Counseling major from Franklinton, La., was escorted by Ryan Anderson, college pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway and Dillon Hall. Dillon is the son of Wesley and Ledawn Hall from Damascus.

A special thanks to Lisa Padgett and Mallory Guyton for organizing the presentation of the Homecoming Court.



(L/R) CBC Homecoming Court — Riley Brissette, Audrey Johnson, Caroline Skinner, Sierra Dodson, Ashanti Williams, Hannah Varnado, Abby Wilson, Kailey Sullivan and Natalie Smith — with Jonah Cofer and Anna Claire Faulkner.



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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First of All...

START
HERE

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Building a Prayer Culture

Healthy churches are praying churches. I Tim. 2:1 says, *"Exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men."* Prayer is to be a priority. The challenge in prayer is to live with intentionality and not just good intentions. Have a scheduled plan for a time and place to pray, but also live a life of unceasing prayer. As you study Jesus' life, you immediately notice that He did not allow anything to interfere or distract Him from intimate fellowship with the Father. There is no substitute for disciplining ourselves to seek Him in prayer and allowing Him to teach us how to pray.

Tom Landry, Hall of Fame NFL coach of the Dallas Cowboys, was asked how he was able to develop a winning team out of a group of such unique individuals. He replied, "My job is to get people to do what they don't want to do in order to achieve what they have always wanted to achieve." If the goal for your church is to glorify God, experience revival and live with a renewed commitment to Great Commission ministry, the pathway requires disciplined, intentional and unceasing prayer. Charles Swindoll states, "Achieving anything requires discipline—determined, deliberate, definable actions with a clear goal in mind."

In *So You Want to Be Like Christ?*, Swindoll continued, "God will never adjust His agenda to fit ours. He will not speed His pace to catch up with ours; we need to slow our pace in order to recover our walk with Him." Churches need to listen closely to the seven letters in Revelation 2-3, because of the emphasis on corporate repentance being stressed, if our goal is to be His church carrying out His agenda. The key is determined prayer that seeks the Father's will and heart no matter how long it

takes. It is through prayer that you will receive God's perspective and plans for your ministry. There is no other way, and there are no shortcuts.

In *Experiencing Prayer with Jesus*, Henry and Norman Blackaby remind us, "Once Jesus heard from the Father in prayer, He lived out His life with a determined purpose to obey everything set before Him... Prayer in our lives is purposed by God to change and shape us to His will and purpose so He can accomplish His redemptive will through us." Our goal is to pray like Jesus prayed, and the quicker you move from your will to His will, the quicker God will show you what you need to know. Dr. Charles Stanley stated well, "It is on our knees that the greatest good is done, and it is on our knees that we will face the greatest assaults."

Building a prayer culture begins with you. Oh, you mean the pastor or the deacons, or the church leaders, right? No, it means you, whoever you are. The goal is intimacy with Christ, and the means to reach that goal is the discipline of prayer. Consider going on a 24-hour prayer retreat to recommit your time and energy to deliberately seeking and pursuing God. A prayer retreat has been defined as, "A time you set aside to go away to be alone with God." Plan your retreat and utilize this time to draw back closer to the Lord and seek His plan as you willingly adjust your will to His. Email us (larry@bmaam.com or heidi@bmaam.com) and request our materials on having a prayer retreat.

Next, have a prayer weekend with your church leaders. Invite someone in to teach on building a prayer culture. Gary Rohrmayer describes this type of event as "a focused time of passionate teaching on prayer, consulting with church leadership in the area of prayer, coaching prayer team leaders on how to expand the prayer

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began publishing a paper called the *Temple Trumpet* to keep his people connected and informed about each other and the work of the association. It grew, and the reach expanded beyond just the local church membership. W.J. Burgess continued as editor until 1951, when he was elected secretary of missions for the national association. E.T. Burgess, who had served as assistant editor for many

ministry and engaging the whole church in the act of prayer." Train your people in leading your church through a prayer initiative such as *21 Days of Courageous Prayer*, *21 Days of Dangerous Prayers*, *21 Days of Victorious Prayers*, all by Rohrmayer, or Bill Elliff's *Prayer With No Intermission: 40 Days of Unceasing Prayer*.

Develop triads where three men or women meet regularly to pray for one another and hold one another spiritually accountable. These triads should always be gender specific for caution's sake, but they focus on praying for one another and being willing to spend the time and energy needed to get God's attention. Consider not only intentionally organizing these triads in your church family but also meeting and praying with pastors from other churches in your community and area. There is nothing more beautiful than seeing pastors gather together for a focused time of prayer for one another, their churches and their communities.

We have prayer resources to help you personally and your church. One of our goals is to provide you and your church resources to help you be spiritually healthy. Check out this free prayer resource at AllAmerica.org/resources. This ministry has a burden to make sure every individual in our circles of influence is being prayed for. They have PDFs of a leader guide, community guide, church guide, small group guide and more. All America's strategy is to be "a comprehensive framework that helps you plan strategically to see the Great Commission fulfilled in your area with tools, expertise and resources that help you."

Paul, in I Tim. 2:1 reminds us of the priority of prayer by saying "first!" Charles Swindoll shares this: "First, before you slide out of bed. First, before you take a shower to start your day. First, before you make your way to work. First, before any appointment. **First of all, pray, pray, pray.**" It has been stated very well, "Prayer should not be our last resort but should always be our first response!" If there is something we can pray with you about or for you, please let us know!

years, continued the work of producing the weekly paper along with W.L. Burgess. Beginning with the Feb. 13, 1952 issue, the name was changed to the *Baptist Trumpet* to better reflect the expansion of the paper's reach beyond just the local church. In November 1954, the Arkansas State Association formed the Publications Committee and adopted the *Baptist Trumpet* as an official department of the association.

Other editors after W.J. (1939-1951) and E.T. (1951-1953; 1955-1958) were Wassell Burgess (1953-1954), A.R. Reddin (1954), J.E. Cobb (1954), Gordon Reddin (1958-1961), C.C. Bishop (1961-1969), David Tidwell (1969-2002), Bobby Bowman (2002-2005) and Editor Emeritus Diane Spriggs (2005-2020).

Under the leadership of the longest-serving editor, the late David Tidwell, the circulation (subscribers) of the paper grew to over 14,000. Editor Emeritus Diane Spriggs (the second longest serving editor) ensured the history found in the pages of the *Baptist Trumpet* would be available for future generations with the development of the digital *Trumpet* Archives that can be accessed at BaptistTrumpet.com. There are currently over 3,700 issues dating back to 1939 that are available to search and read (the last 90 days of issues are restricted to current subscribers). I encourage you to check them out. If you want to know more about what was going on with the association at a particular time, find the issues around that time and see what the leaders of the association had to share.

I have been with the *Baptist Trumpet* since joining the team as assistant editor on May 20, 2019. When Editor Diane Spriggs retired, the BMA of Arkansas elected me to serve as executive editor on Nov. 5, 2020. Allan Eakin, pastor of Celebration Baptist Church in Haskell, has been associate editor since Oct. 1, 2019. Our offices are located at 10712 I-30 in Little Rock.

Allan and I are doing our best to prepare not only for the current ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet* but also for the future ministry. We have no plans to stop producing a printed paper to be mailed to our subscribers' homes, but we realize we must also plan for the future of this ministry. We continue to develop the digital side of the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. Besides the *E-Trumpet* available via email, you can find all the information included in the print and digital versions of the paper at BaptistTrumpet.com since March

2022. Our goal is for our website to be the "go-to" place for all information important to BMA Baptists!

We are the only weekly paper in the BMA, and this is one of the great strengths of the *Trumpet*. I strongly believe a weekly paper is needed to connect our readers with all that is happening in the BMA on the local, state, national and international levels. I rarely have trouble finding enough important information to fill the *Trumpet* each week, and most of the time, it is just the opposite! This ministry of our association exists to help connect the people in our churches to the work of the BMA, and it is vitally important. I believe more churches would be involved in our associational work if their people stayed connected to the different ministries by receiving the *Trumpet* weekly.

We are always looking for those who would be interested in submitting articles to publish in the paper. We have many that contribute regularly and some that do so every now and then. We never guarantee something submitted will be published, but we welcome any submission that would benefit our readers. You can send them to me at editor@baptisttrumpet.com.

We could not continue this ministry without the faithful support of many churches and individuals who give regular offerings to help offset the cost of producing and sending out the paper each week. Our goal is to keep our subscription rates as low as possible and ensure they are adequate to offset all costs so that we do not operate in the red. The funds brought in with our subscription fees, plus the regular offerings, help keep things going every week.

Our Total Access Subscription is \$39 per year (about 87¢ per issue) and includes print, digital and access to all the premium content on our website. For churches, we offer a "church plan" that provides the same benefits for each family they enroll at a reduced rate of 80¢ per issue (\$36 per year) billed to the church monthly.

The best way you can help this ministry is by being a subscriber and an ambassador for the *Trumpet* by encouraging others to subscribe. I mentioned earlier that during Bro. Tidwell's time, the circulation grew to around 14,000, but that is not the case now. We currently have about 7,000 subscribers. As our subscriber base goes down, the cost per subscriber to produce and send out the *Trumpet* increases. The easiest way to make this ministry sustainable for the foreseeable future

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Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions

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Siripong & Jessie Yaebeang • Thailand



Christmas Celebration

Greetings to you all from Thailand! We hope you had a blessed Christmas and are enjoying the new year with your friends and family. Here are a few recent updates about life and ministry here in Bangkok, Thailand.

• **Christmas Celebration** — It is always a great joy to come together each Sunday for corporate worship, especially when we celebrate Christmas. I proclaimed the good news to all who were present from Luke 2:11 when the angel told the shepherds, “For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (NASB). After the service, we all ate lunch together. Then we had different stations for the kids to play games and win prizes, while the adults visited or helped with the games. We also asked each member to bring one or two gifts to give away. We gave some gifts to the workers at the hotel where we meet, and we also drove to a community in our area to give the rest of the gifts to the kids there. We made sure to let them know we did this because of Jesus Christ, who is the reason why we are celebrating what we know as “Christmas.”

• **New Visitor(s)** — The Lord brought a few visitors to our church recently, but I want to introduce to you a man name “C” (probably an initial from his first name). He has come to our church a few times now. It’s a neat story how he knew about us. Right now, he’s between jobs, so he decided to be an Uber driver. One day he drove a Christian couple to the airport. The couple told him if he ever wanted to visit a church, please go to “North Bangkok Church” and showed him some of our teaching videos that are available online. Then he decided come to our church. We are excited to get to know him more and see how the Lord will use him here. Please pray for C.

• **New Writing Project** — Over the past several years, during my

doctoral studies, I didn’t have time to work on writing any books. But now that I’m done, I have some time to get back to writing again. The first project I have been working on is a book on the issue of speaking in tongues. (I actually started on a different project and got interrupted by this one because it’s more urgent and shorter.) As you may know, the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement dominates most Thai churches. Thus, a topic that has been greatly abused and misunderstood is the gift of tongues. In this book, I will be presenting what the Bible teaches about the gift of tongues and compare it to what is actually taking place today, specifically among Thai churches. Please pray that the Lord will give me wisdom as I seek to clearly communicate this topic to my people.

• **Ms. Lek at Church** — We have mentioned to you about our friend “Lek” before. After we (especially the boys) invited her to church many times, she finally took off work and came to church with us one Sunday! She then came and spent the rest of Sunday with us. We have shared the gospel with her personally before, but it’s special to see her take the initiative to come hear the gospel being preached and witness our church worshiping God. She’s off work only once a week and she still voluntarily comes and spends the whole day with us every week.

Please pray that God will save her!

• **Practicing Preaching** — There are a few men at our church that have expressed an interest in preaching. In the past, we have slowly let them serve at church in different ways, such as doing Scripture reading, praying during the service and leading Sunday School lessons. But now these men will have the opportunity to preach on Sunday for the first time at our church. I gave them some guidelines and will try to help them with their preparation. The first guy preached recently from Col. 1:21-23! I am thankful for these men who are willing to learn and serve. Please be praying for the other guys who are getting ready for their turn.

• **New Year Gathering** — A few days ago, we hosted our annual New Year’s party at our house. About 20 adults and 10 little kids were packed in our small living room. We ate and enjoyed fellowship, then we ended the night with exchanging some gifts. It was good to see and spend some time with everyone before a long weekend holiday when most people usually leave Bangkok to go home.

We were so glad to see some of the students we met while we volunteered at a university several years ago. They have all moved to different locations and started their careers. I was thrilled to hear that one of the students told me she is attending a church in her area and recently got baptized! She said she always tell people that she first learned about God from us. She still uses the Bible we gave her years ago. Before she left, I gave her a couple of books that might be helpful for her. After she left, I Cor. 3:6-7 came to my mind when Paul said, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing

the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth” (NASB).

• **Latest and Biggest Update About My Father’s Health** — After my dad did the chemotherapy many times, the doctor recently told him that it’s not helping cure the cancer at all. The cancer has spread to different organs, and he was informed that the chemo he received last month would be the last one. Basically, there is nothing the doctor can do at this point. This past year or so has been the hardest and most painful time for him. Last month, we took a week-long trip to go see him. (He lives in the northern part of Thailand, about nine hours away from Bangkok.) We could immediately tell that he is not the same physically, and it was not easy for us to see him like that. We don’t know how much time he has left now, but we hope to see him and spend time with him more often. Please pray for him.

• **Next Church Planting Location/Update** — We shared with you before about our plan to plant a second church in a different part of Thailand where it is really needed.

The way it will work is that our friends, Brandon Lingle and his family, will be relocating to the new location. My family and I will continue to serve in North Bangkok Church and do whatever we can to support them. As for the location, our friends at first considered going to a particular province with a brother that has been interning with us, but they changed their minds and decided they would not go with this brother. Instead, they decided to go with a different brother (and his family) from our church. The new location is a province in the North Eastern part of Thailand. Lord willing, they will potentially move to the area around April. It will be an adjustment for all of us, but it’s an exciting step of faith. Please pray for us.

• **Thank you for another year of your faithful support** — As we are closing out this year, we want to express our gratitude to all of you again who stood by us yet another year! Thank you for your faithful support through your prayers, giving and encouragement. We are constantly reminding ourselves (as well as our kids) that our lives and ministry every day is possible because of God’s grace through you.

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New Year Gathering

mission:world

NEWS

ONE LOCAL CHURCH'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS

By Adam Thomas
Pastor of Wyatt Baptist Church
El Dorado, Arkansas

I wish I could say that as a pastor I always expect God to do the impossible. But if I am honest I find myself constantly surprised by a God who does so much more than I ever expect him to do. Wyatt Baptist Church is an average-sized church tucked away in South Arkansas, an hour away from the nearest interstate. And yet over the last couple of decades, I've seen God privilege our church time and time again with a global reach for his kingdom. This all started and is sustained by our short-term mission efforts. I want to take a few moments to talk about how our church has embraced short-term missions, which has led to a long-term impact globally.

First, we teach our people to go. Over the years we have provided our people with opportunities to learn about missions. We have had mission conferences that promote God's heart for the nations. We try to work missionaries and our mission directors into our Sunday services frequently. In preparation for mission trips, we require team members to attend a missions boot camp where they learn how to travel as well as why they are going. We also take frequent opportunities to preach on missions. We have made Urgency in Global Gospel Missions one of the core values of our church, and it is important to help our people understand why we value it like we do.

Second, we plan for our people to go. Our church has a long history of financially supporting missions. We also have a long history of being a friend to missionaries. However, it was always easy for our people to feel a little distant from the missionary efforts we supported. But in 2005 something happened that would change that. In 2005 our church planned our first short-term mission trip to put our people's boots on the ground in another culture in Nicaragua. Then in 2006, we added a trip to Ukraine, and then in 2007 we added interstate trips. This emphasis on short-term missions has continued until today. If your church lacks the resources to plan such trips you can contact BMA Global and promote their medical and VSM trips to your people.

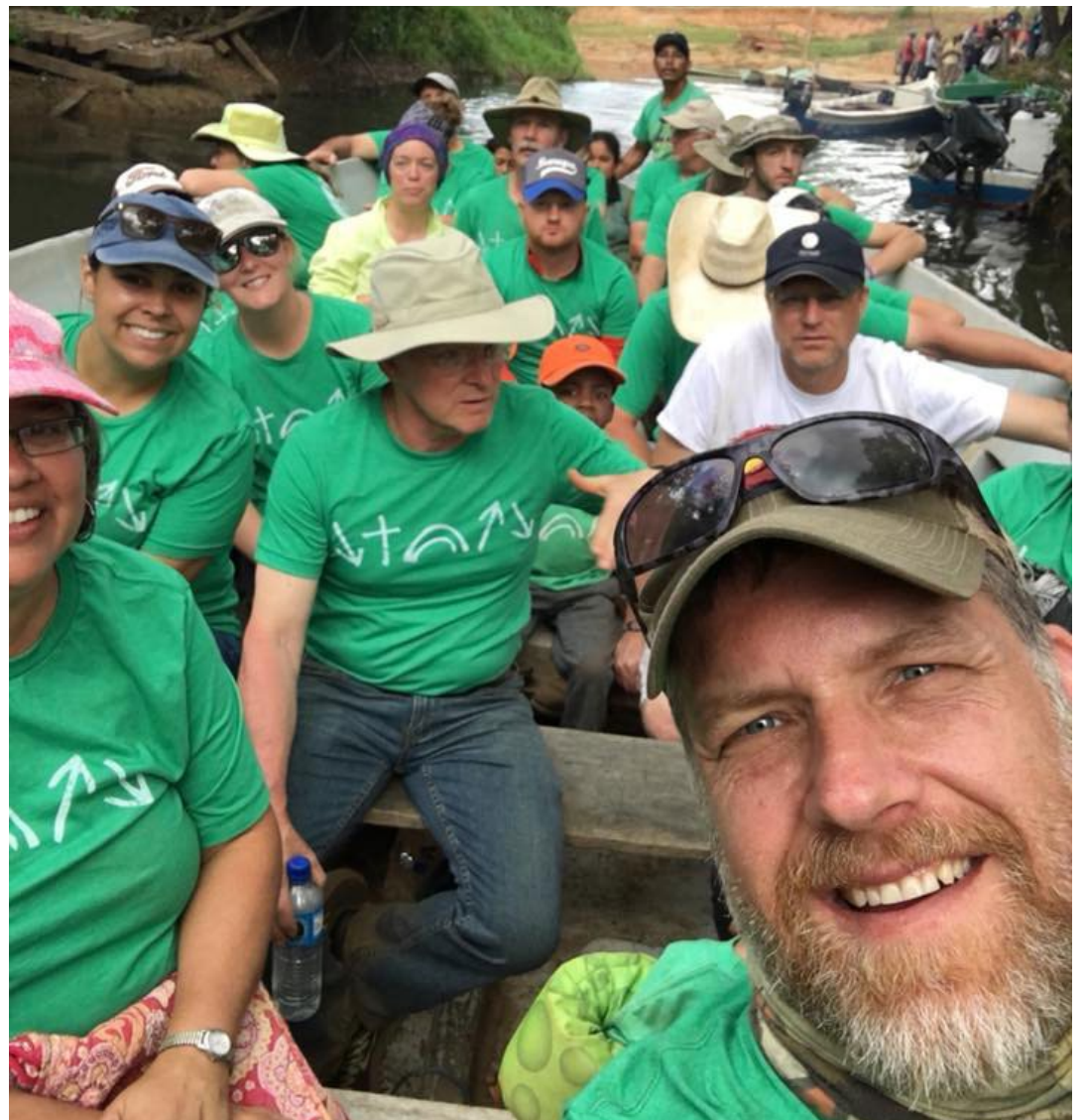
Third, we help our people to afford to go. We have established a scholarship called the Go! Scholarship which exists to help people afford to go. Travel can be expensive and we want to remove as many obstacles as possible for people to get on the mission field. Our goal every year for the Go! Scholarship is for anyone going on their first trip to have their plane ticket fully paid for. We know that if we can get someone on their first trip the chances are likely that it will awaken a missionary heart within them that will last a lifetime. Others who apply for the scholarship will usually have half of their trip paid for. This scholarship serves a twofold purpose. Those that go have help in getting there and those who don't go have the opportunity to send someone. This allows more people to participate in our short-term mission efforts.

Fourth, we encourage long-term mission endeavors. Early on in our short-term missionary endeavors, we had John David Smith speak at one of our boot camps. A phrase he shared was one that has governed our efforts in short-term missions. He told us to make sure that our short-term efforts had a long-term goal. We tend to go to the same places over and over again. Why? Because our goal isn't to provide new and exciting places for our people to travel to, but rather to present to them long-term partnerships that have long-term impacts. Our financial and prayer support goes far beyond our week-long trips. When it comes to these partnerships our people step up to support time and time again.

After almost 20 years of short-term missions, I can say without a doubt that the places we go have had more of an impact on us than we have had on them. Something happens to your church when a majority of your church puts their boots on the ground to take the gospel to another culture. Missions has always been a part of our church, but

over the last 20 years, it has become the heartbeat of our church. Our short-term mission trips have led to all kinds of mission ministries. We have had people on these trips go on the field long term. We have seen our church welcome internationals from the college down the road which led to their conversion. One man on one of our first trips came home and set out to learn Spanish so he could establish a Spanish ministry here in our church. Most recently we have had one member launch a ministry of missionary care.

If you encourage your people to go and participate and see for themselves what God is doing globally, you will see God do through your church what you never thought possible.



mission:world

NEWS

LEAST LIKELY

By Danny Ballard

BMA Missionary to the Philippines

bmaglobal.org

Scripture is filled with examples of how the Lord will use the weak, the unlikely, and those whom you would never foresee Him using to accomplish His will and purpose in the world. I would like to begin my story by saying I am one of those examples.

As a young teenager, my dream was to become an archeologist. I love history and trying to understand things from the past. I pursued that dream until one day I found out that part of the requirements of being an archeologist was to be a teacher. My dreams were crushed at the time for one simple reason: I was afraid to speak in front of anyone. I had a fear of public speaking. That fear literally gripped me to the point that I would stutter, lose all train of thought, and shake all over.

Little did I know at that time that God had a special plan for me and my life that would bring me to do the one thing I feared the most. The lesson to be learned was that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

My family attended Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, MS. I loved helping with the youth and was always volunteering to help, never leading, always just a helper. One day, our youth director came to me and asked me if I would be willing to be the Awana Commander at our church because we were implementing the program for the first time. She told me that I would just be the figurehead and she would take care of everything. I thought about it and prayed about it for several weeks and again was reassured that I would basically be the figurehead as commander, so I said yes. Little did I know that was the beginning of God's plan for my ministry and the beginning of my story that led me to be a missionary to the Philippines.

You can already imagine that I was not just the figurehead, but actually, I was the leader, the commander of the Awana program. Mrs. Robbie later told me that she saw something in me that no one else had seen and how the Lord laid it on her heart to ask me and convince me to be the commander. I worked with several youth pastors during my seven years as the Awana commander. I always loved working with the youth and helped however I could. The current youth pastor had resigned, and the church had been searching for a replacement for months. Each candidate would come in view of a call, preach before the church, and, one by one, the church always voted not to call them.

One particular Sunday evening, another candidate had just come in view of a call, and that night, the church voted; again, it was a no. I was up in the church's balcony, kneeling on the floor, leaning against the rail and praying, asking, "Lord, why won't you give us a youth pastor?" At that moment, as I prayed, something happened that would alter my life forever. It felt like the Lord had placed His hand on my shoulder, leaned over, and spoke into my ear, "Because I want you to do it."

At that moment, I turned around to see who was behind me, but no one was there. I remember it just like it was yesterday. I said, "Lord, you know I can't do that. You know I can't speak in front of people. You know I am not smart enough to be the youth pastor." I was scared to death, to be honest, but I began to pray about it for many weeks and then asked our pastor to pray as well. I knew the Lord was calling me, but I was afraid to say yes. Then I finally prayed, "Lord, you know I can't speak in front of a crowd. You know I am a very shy person at heart, but I am willing to surrender. You will have to do the work in me and give me the ability to speak in front of people."

As I began my journey as the youth/missions pastor, my idea of missions was to give money. But all that was soon to change. I volunteered to lead a VSM mission team one year. I was assigned to co-lead a team to China. The trip to China was the beginning of the Lord calling me to full-time mission work. I knew at that time, while I was in China, that one day, I would be back in Asia somewhere doing some kind of mission work. Over the next several years, I would lead teams from our church on mission trips in the states and globally. Year after year, God was working on my heart, but at that time, I was unsure if I should continue doing what I was doing or surrender to being a full-time missionary, but I would soon find out.



One day, our pastor, Eugene Anderson, was going to the missions office for some training they were offering. Several missionaries were going through the same training at that time. He asked me if I would come along to help with the driving and keep him company. I agreed to go and asked if I could go through the training also. God was busily working all along in all of this to get me there to the training. Robert Murphy, a missionary to the Philippines, was at the training. This was the first time I had met him, and it was like our spirits were drawn together. We would sit up until 2-3 a.m. just talking about the ministry and people of the Philippines. I was a sponge, and his words were a vast amount of water I was soaking up and could not get enough of. The burden continually grew and grew.

The following summer, I had planned three different mission trips. One was to Trinidad and Tobago, one was to Nicaragua, and the last one was to the Philippines. I begin to pray to the Lord, "God, please give me an answer to the question, 'Do I stay where I am and keep doing what I am doing, or do I surrender to full-time missions?' Please give me an answer before the Nicaragua mission trip is over." The first trip came and went. It was a great trip, and God blessed me very much, but no answer. Then came the trip to Nicaragua. God was working and blessing in so many ways again. There were just two days left of our two-week trip, and there was still no answer from the Lord. I was laying in my bed that night begging the Lord to answer me before that trip was finished because I already felt that if He were calling me to the mission field full-time, it would be to the Philippines.

When I woke up the next morning, I began my daily devotions. I used the Charles Stanley Life Principles Daily Bible for my devotional. It breaks down the Bible to where you read the Old Testament, Psalms/Proverbs, and the New Testament daily. Normally, on mission trips, things are so hectic that it is easy to fall behind on your reading, but that morning, I was ahead by two days. As I sat down, I prayed again, "Lord, please speak to me and answer my prayer about the direction You have for me." Keep in mind I was ahead two days as I began to read. When I got to the New Testament Scripture for that day, it was Romans 10:13-15: *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how*

continued on next page

mission:world

NEWS

SAVED PEOPLE ARE SENT PEOPLE

By John Meriweather
VP of Global Operations
bmaglobal.org

In a world inundated with noise and distractions, the profound truth that those saved by Christ are also sent to share his message often gets lost in the shuffle of daily life. The essence of Christianity lies not merely in personal salvation but in the transformative journey from redemption to responsibility, from being rescued to becoming a rescuer. Consider the words of Jesus to his disciple after his resurrection and before he ascended to heaven:

- John 20:21 “...As the Father has sent me, I AM SENDING YOU.”
- Matthew 28:19 “Therefore, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”
- Acts 1:8 “...YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus has not only **saved** us but he has **sent** us to serve his mission by proclaiming his glory and salvation to all people!

God’s mission is not a suggestion to consider but a command to obey.

Saved individuals are not mere recipients of a divine rescue mission but are integral participants in the ongoing narrative of God’s redemptive plan. In exhorting his followers to take up his mission, Jesus was not offering suggestions for us to consider but commands for us to obey. God chose, equipped, and commanded his followers to fulfill his purpose.

God’s mission is an interwoven theme throughout all scripture.

The entire narrative of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is God making himself and his mission known to man.

- As he chose Abraham to establish a new nation through whom “all the people on earth will be blessed.”
- As he spoke through the Psalmist to “declare his glory among the nations.”
- As we’ve seen through the redemptive work of Jesus who proclaimed his mission to his followers.
- As we read in the apostle’s letters to the churches that we “have been given the ministry of reconciliation.”
- As we see in Revelation 7:9, it culminates when one day “every nation, tribe, people, and

language” will stand before the Lamb!

God’s mission is not just something we do; it is who we are.

In Christ we have a new identity aligned to a new purpose. Our identity is not based on what we do, it is based on who we are in Christ. In Christ our identity is tied to our purpose. Therefore, God’s mission cannot be relegated to a budget line item, a program, or an event. We are sent to live out our purpose every day, in all we do, in whatever way we are called, and wherever we are sent.



God’s mission was not given to a mission’s agency but to local churches and disciples.

I am proud to work for BMA Global where we exist to fulfill God’s mission to all nations. However, we do not do this in isolation but in partnership and on behalf of local churches. Local churches are both the source and goal of missions. It’s from, in, and through local churches that disciples and missionaries are sent, supported, prayed for, and served.

Saved people are sent people—sent to go, sent to give, sent to pray, sent to love, sent to share, sent to serve—all people – everywhere. In February 2024 the churches of the BMA will celebrate world missions and give to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering. May God use this time to renew our hearts with a passion for his mission to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Least Likely continued

shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

At that moment, I knew the answer to my prayer. I began to weep tears of joy, but at the same time, I was scared. This was something totally new for me. I prayed and thanked the Lord for his answer and told Him, “Ok, Lord, I am willing to go, but like I prayed when You called me into the ministry as the youth/missions pastor, it is You that has to lead me, guide me, and give me the strength to do what You have called me to do.

My wife, Rita, had been praying with me the entire time for God to answer me. I shared with her how the Lord had answered our prayers; it was one of the happiest moments in her life. Rita had felt a call to the mission field when she was a teenager, but she had to wait until the Lord trained me and brought me through everything He did to get me to the place where I would be ready also.

People often say that others can see things about people that the person can’t see themselves. When we returned from the trip, I spoke with our pastor and told him that the Lord had called me to be a full-time missionary, and his words to me and the entire church were, “I know! I have seen it coming for a long time.” Others saw what God was doing, but it just took me a little longer to catch up.

My family and friends would ask me, “Are you crazy? You are moving to the other side of the globe, away from all your family and friends. Are you not worried that something will happen to you?” My reply was simple. I told them, “I am more afraid to stay here out of God’s will than to go to the other side of the globe and be in God’s perfect will.”

God worked in so many ways, with so many small things and using so many people to accomplish His task of calling a man who gave up on his dream of being an archeologist because he was afraid to speak in front of people, to become a missionary to the Philippines. Rita and I are going on eleven years of ministry here in the Philippines. We should never doubt what the Lord can do with someone with a willing heart.

Let me end by saying if you have never been on a mission trip, go! It will open your eyes to our vast world and the great need to reach the masses for the Lord. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life and the Lord to use you to do great and mighty things for His kingdom.

He accepts the least likely people to do His work and ministry. The Lord can do this for you when you surrender to His calling!

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).



REACHING THE NATIONS IN THEIR OWN CULTURAL LANGUAGES

By Heather Harrison

Lifeword
lifeword.org

Since its beginning, Lifeword has been committed to sharing the gospel worldwide. Telling just one person about Jesus is a privilege; proclaiming the Good News to the multitudes is an overwhelming honor... and what an honor we've been given, now talking to millions via the Lifeword Cloud and social media platforms.

Whether installing radio transmitters so listeners can hear the gospel in remote areas, sharing about Jesus on Facebook, or broadcasting gospel messages via the Lifeword Cloud, Lifeword team members constantly seek ways to reach the unreached in every culture. While the numerical reach God has achieved through Lifeword is astounding, our focus is not simply utilizing these methods but also working in, within, and through culture and various contexts.

A person's culture, way of life, characteristics, beliefs, social norms, customs, and religion affect how they see the world, themselves, and most importantly, God. In essence, one's culture becomes the lens through which one sees everything. This is why Lifeword seeks to share Christ in such a way that people not only hear but understand and respond. Language is one part of this, but we don't simply share in an understood language; rather, we share in the cultural and heart language of the listener—many living or moving into our backyards.

There are countless cultures, even within a small geographic area, and knowing the surrounding culture is important when sharing the message of Christ. The Garifuna living in Honduras have a different set of needs than the Garifuna living in New York, but they both need the gospel in their cultural language. The Venezuelans living in Arkansas or the Nigerians in Houston, away from their native country, face challenges that open doors to sharing the gospel in their context and Lifeword is helping with that.

Sociologists classify cultures in three ways: guilt, shame, and fear. The Good News is for all cultures, teaching that Christ took our guilt and shame and erases the need to fear. To the guilty, He imputes His righteousness; to the shameful, He restores honor; to the fearful, He proves faithful. Knowing the surrounding culture gives the messenger insight into the unspoken worldviews, motivations, and deepest questions. Lifeword is poised to help local churches reach those of different cultures around them.

The apostle Paul understood cultural languages. Lifeword is learning from these biblical examples. To the Jews, he quoted what they were familiar with - the Old Testament. However, to the Gentiles, he met them where they were and quoted their philosophers but pointed them to the creator God and the work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. The

same truth was presented but in the context of their cultural language.

Lifeword intends to continue taking the gospel in more languages but focused on doing so in the cultural language of the viewer, like the Czechs, Ukrainians, and Spanish speakers in the USA from various cultural backgrounds.

One of the beautiful truths of the gospel is that even though its history was set in a specific time, place, and people, its message is for people in all times and places. While some may think coming to Christ includes assimilating into a specific culture, the differences among believers highlight the creativity of God in creation and the power of God to unite such diversity.

We read in Revelation 7:9-10 "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Can you imagine it? The beautiful tapestry of His creation—all nations, tribes, people, and languages worshiping our God together. What an honor. What a privilege. Lifeword is perfectly positioned to partner with your church in reaching everyone in their cultural language and context.



Spinning My Gears

a young pastor's perspective

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United District WMA 2024 Officers (L-R): President Donna Gray; 2nd Vice President Carolyn Colvert; Treasurer Brenda Carnahan; Secretary Nina Ponder; 1st Vice President Jessica Haden; Sunbeam Promoter Sherry Laminack; Pianist/Song Leader Judy Biggers.

The Power of Working Together: Reflections on the BMA and Church

I recently had the privilege of attending the United District Women's Mission Auxiliary's (WMA) quarterly meeting to present the message. The meeting was held at Denver Street Baptist Church in Greenwood on Saturday, Jan. 6. The group elected officers for the new year, heard reports, worshiped God, received an offering for Central Baptist College and shared a meal. As I reflected on their meeting and this group's effectiveness in supporting various ministries, I realized yet another thing that gets my gears spinning — our ability to work together.

I know spending time around church people and doing church things has insulated most readers of this column from experiencing people who can be bitter, gossiping, insincere, guarded or unwelcoming. I'm glad people who fit that bill don't spend any time at church. (Of course, this is only my delusion.) The Philadelphia Baptist Confession of Faith states that "the purest churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error." The reality that all persons on this side of glory have personality and character flaws is an unavoidable truth. Nevertheless, we can work together!

Looking at our history, culture and foundations, the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) churches have accomplished astoundingly great things for the glory of God because of this simple fact — we can work together. The secret to our past and future success is the healthy balance of doctrinal fidelity between churches.

When I surveyed some different confessions of faith, I noticed they are different lengths:

- The Philadelphia Baptist Confession (1742) is 14,871 words long.
- The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) is 4,058 words long.
- The New Hampshire Confes-

sion (1833) is 2,449 words long.

- The BMA Doctrinal Statement is 2,159 words long.

Our associational Doctrinal Statement is on the short side. It is, after all, intended to keep our various churches doctrinally united with the explicit purpose of working together. Our Doctrinal Statement is not a complete list of beliefs. If we tried to include every nuance of belief in an association, we would limit who we could work with more than necessary. A Doctrinal Statement that exhausted every belief we hold at the local church level would exclude who we could work with, and that is why having a true and balanced Doctrinal Statement is important.

Interestingly, if we looked at each section of the BMAA Doctrinal Statement, we would find that we have given disproportionately more attention to a single section. The average length for each section is only 163 words, but Article X — The Church has nearly 3.5 times that amount. Our historical focus on believing the right things about the church is the key to our past success. The church is God's plan for accomplishing his mission on Earth. Our God doesn't have a plan B. His single and sufficient plan for making disciples of all nations is the church. Understanding this is the secret sauce to success in ministry, and it is why we can work together.

Despite different attitudes, temperaments, backgrounds, preferences, traditions and sinfulness, churches can work together when we understand what the Bible teaches about the church's nature, function and purpose. Unfortunately, our American culture of individualism has gotten in the way of our work in the past 20 years. John Stott wrote in *The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society*: "One of our chief evangelical blind spots has been to overlook the central

DISTRICT CALENDAR

CANCELED — Will be rescheduled — Greenbrier Dist. Men's Fellowship, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

Greenbrier Dist. WMA, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest, Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.

Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood, Feb. 13; Nueva Esperanza Mission, Jonesboro.

Central Ark. WMA, April 13, 10 a.m.; Park Place, Bryant.

importance of the church. We tend to proclaim individual salvation without moving on to the saved community. We emphasize that Christ died for us 'to redeem us from all iniquity' rather than 'to purify for Himself a people of His own.' We think of ourselves more as 'Christians' than as 'churchmen,' and our message is more good news of a new life than of a new society."

I want us to realize that our doctrinal position on the church is not just a pet doctrine from our Landmark heritage but an integral part of our success. Stott points out how our understanding of the church relates to the purpose of salvation. How can we compellingly proclaim the gospel if we cannot answer what we have been saved **from** or **to**? What is it that was damaged when sin entered the world? What about humanity makes us different from the rest of creation? We are different because we were created in the image of God. Sin damaged that image, but it couldn't destroy it. The image of God is best explained by our ability to have relationships. We have a relationship with our Creator, His creation and each other. Sin damages all these relational areas. Sin causes separation from God. Sin made the ground hard so that man needed to work the land to live off it after the fall. And sin is the reason people are hard to get along with.

There are a lot of professing Christians who imagine Heaven to be an open field of isolation. Country folk, get ready because Christians will live in the city on the other side of eternity (Rev. 21:2). I agree with why you prefer the country. I love bringing up my family in Greenwood. I have a list of reasons why I like it here more than I did when I lived in the metropolis of Northwest Arkansas. All those complaints are dismissed when sin is removed. The reason Christians aren't beamed up to Heaven at the moment of conversion is that while we are granted time on Earth, we can work together.

MEETING

(Continued From Page 1)

with those who believe in God, but those who do not believe in God are just as religious. They live their lives according to a set of beliefs that stem from their understanding of the cause, nature and purpose of the world. In other words, they have a distinct worldview that shapes their lives, and that worldview is not "neutral" concerning God. It is godless.

The idea that an educational institution could somehow be neutral when it comes to the cause, nature and purpose of the world is naive. Schools are to teach Science and Math, English and History, all of which are deeply influenced by what one believes as to the cause, nature and purpose of the world. One simply cannot avoid these consequences. There is no neutrality in any realm of life. It matters in every part of life whether you are a believer in God or anti-God.

Let's take the topic at hand — performances of marching bands and the songs they play. Many marching bands are known for playing pop songs. Believe it or not, pop songs have messages that are based on either a God-ward worldview or a god-less one. Each of them is religious. Each of them is teaching a certain way to view the nature and purpose of the world and humanity. For instance, if a band decided to play the song "So Much for Stardust" by the group Fall Out Boy, would anyone object on religious grounds or on the basis of the song's message influencing or showing favoritism toward one particular religion? I doubt it, because the common mindset is that messages in pop culture are non-theistic. Therefore, they cannot be deemed religious or showing favoritism toward one particular religion. Yet, the song "So Much for Stardust" contemplates and promotes a nihilistic philosophy (everything is meaningless, including life). Whether you call it a philosophy or religion makes little difference. They both communicate a particular view of life.

Someone might suggest, then, that this particular song, and other songs that communicate similar philosophies or religions, need not be played by marching bands. But that is just it — all media communicates a message and there really is no neutrality.

What's the point of all of this? The point is to understand that there is no neutral place on earth. You are constantly being asked to believe someone's religion (or philosophy). You cannot escape it, not in politics, not in school, not

Opportunities For Service

Ronnie Johnson is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads within a driving range of Stuttgart, preferably on Sunday mornings. He has been pastoring churches for 21 years. Contact him at (870) 659-7774 or his wife, Barbara at (870) 659-7274.

County Line Baptist Church in Marvell is seeking a full-time pastor. Inquiries may be made to Tommie Shackelford at (870) 338-2873.

East Amory, Amory, Miss. is seeking a youth pastor. Send resumes to East Amory Baptist Church, 905 Hatley Road, Amory, Miss. 38821. For more information, contact Brandon Johnson at (662) 640-2348 or Pastor Roger Akers at (662) 231-4025.

Franklin Street Baptist Church in Farmerville, La. is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to Danny Eddy, 2511 Cedar Creek Drive, Ruston, La. 71270.

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

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 1)

Munford.

Moving forward, your State Missions' office is now located at 10712 I-30, just off Baseline Road in the southern part of Little Rock, where it has been since 1970. In the early 70s, this building was constructed by the churches of our state to house both the *Baptist Trumpet* and Arkansas State Missions. The property was originally part of Temple Baptist Church, who sold it to the BMA of Arkansas Revolving Loan Fund, Inc. for the use of these two departments of our state work. We have been blessed with many outstanding leaders who have faithfully served our association.

In the fall of 2009, then Executive **See MISSIONS, Page 11**

anywhere. So, you have to ask yourself, "Who do I serve as my true King?" Along with the question, "Whose kingdom is attempting to sneak into my mind and heart, and the minds and hearts of my family?" As churches, we have to ask similar questions, "Who is the King of our church? What kingdom is being proclaimed?"

The Lordship of Christ in every area of life is a challenge that lies before us as churches. How we answer this from our pulpits will greatly affect how families will answer it from their kitchen tables. So, join us at this year's BMAA National Conference as we tackle the theme of "No King But Christ."



The Epic Story of Truth: Part 4 Sin Again, Judgment and Restart

In this retelling of the epic story of truth — the narrative of the Bible — we keep bouncing from the beginning to the end. We started at Creation in the first of Genesis, then jumped to the New Creation at the end of Revelation. In the Creation account, a clue pointed to that New Creation and what brought it about. That clue is the promise of the skull crusher in Gen. 3:15. Then, we went back to Genesis in Part 3 to see how the sin of the Garden continued. God warned, but there wasn't a repentance of the majority, so God sent the judgment of the flood. Following this judgment, Creation started over with the faithful remnant. In the account of that first apocalyptic judgment during the days of Noah, a hint was dropped of a future one. That "easter egg" compels us to flip to the end of the Bible again to read more about that coming judgment.

Not only does the foreshadowing in historical events point to the mastery of the Author of Life and Scripture, so does His poetic nature. The Old Testament is full of Hebrew poetry. When we think of the poetry of the English language, rhyme is the key trait. Hebrew poetry is different. The key trait within Hebrew poetry is parallelism. Parallelism is when alternate lines of a poem have a related thought. There are diverse ways in which parallelism appears, but one way is what I refer to as bookending. I'm sure there's a more technical name, but I like mine.

This type of parallelism is when a passage, or even a book, has lines that parallel each other in a descending and ascending way. It would look like this:

"A" Statement...

"B" Statement...

"C" Statement...

"B" Statement...

"A" Statement...

In this case, the central statement is often the focal point. Not only is

this how the poetry appears in the Old Testament, but it also seems to be how God masterfully designed reality. Just as this age begins with Creation, it closes with a new creation, and so on. That is why we're alternating from the beginning of the biblical story to the end.

So just as in the early parts of this age, sin continues until reaching a fever pitch with the Lord that leads to His judgment, His salvation of the faithful remnant and His restarting of Creation. This age closes in the same way.

The New Testament prophecies that this age's sin will increase and reach that fever pitch. In those prophecies, we see direct comparison to the "Days of Noah." There's also the comparison to the "Days of Lot," which was the localized apocalyptic judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jesus warned of this increase in sin: *"At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other... Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold... As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man"* (Matt. 24:10, 12, 37-39 NIV).

The Apostle Paul shared even greater details of this parallel to the days of Noah: *"... There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power..."* (II Tim. 3:1-5).

In God's promise to Noah after

the flood judgment, God strangely doesn't promise never to destroy the earth again, but rather only not to destroy it by water. So, anyone who fears a global flood due to all the melting of polar ice caps can lay that fear aside. Again, it would be more comforting if God had promised instead never to destroy the world at all, but God knew what was ahead. He knew how the epic story of truth would bookend.

In the New Testament, through the Apostle Peter, we get the details of the future judgment of the continued sin that will come. Peter's prophetic words also show how the faithful remnant will be preserved as Noah's family was saved: *"Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of Creation.' But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."* (II Peter 3:3-10).

These verses parallel the judgment of the flood with this future judgment of fire. It also points to God's grace of giving the world chances to repent. It also expresses that, like Noah and his family, some will be saved.

Passages we've already read in Revelation 21 and 22 tell how, just after the flood, the faithful remnant was used to restart the world, and after the destruction of fire, a New Heaven and New Earth will be created. Unlike the restart after the flood, mankind's lives will not be shortened, but in this future New Creation, the world resets to that of the Garden of Gethsemane.

Dive into the Epic Story yourself by reading Matthew 24, II Timothy 3, II Peter 3 and Revelation 21-22.

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

TRUMPET (Continued From Page 3)

is to add more subscribers so the cost is spread out and the cost per subscriber stays as low as possible. This also means more people would stay informed about everything happening with the BMA.

As mentioned, we depend on regular support from churches and individuals who send regular offerings to keep the subscription costs as low as possible. Will you encourage your church to add the *Trumpet* to the ministries they support with regular offerings, or can you support us financially?

Each year, we also have a time of Special Emphasis. The state association has designated March and April as the months that we can actively seek donations to meet the needs of this ministry. Our goal is for our subscription rates and regular offerings to cover the production and post-production costs so that this time is used for special projects and needs that help further the ministry.

In the following year, we are discussing a few new projects to help further the reach of the *Trumpet*. We have discussed sponsoring a podcast to expand on some of the information we share in the *Trumpet*, especially the associational involvement. We want to continue to encourage more conversation about how to make the most of being a part of an association of churches so we can do more together than we could ever do alone. We have also discussed the possibility of going to a 12-page weekly paper because there always seems to be more we could include each week, but we simply don't have room.

If we can help you or your church in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. We will also be glad to set you up with a free two-month trial for your church members so everyone can see what we have to offer. Just reach out to me (editor@baptisttrumpet.com) or Allan (associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com) and we will get you started.

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For more information visit
BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Concert featuring Destined to Glory; Feb. 11, 5 p.m.; New Liberty, Emmett.

World Missions Sunday, Feb. 25.

CBC Gala, March 1; featuring Dr. Jack Graham; Antioch, Conway.

BMA of America Annual Mtg., April 16-18, 2024; Chateau on the Lake, Branson.

SOAR 2024, July 3-5; Live! By Loews Convention Center; Arlington, Texas.

Student Ministry Workers Retreat; Sept. 14; Central Baptist College; Conway.

BMA of Arkansas Mtg., Nov. 7-8; Central Baptist College, Conway.



Celebration, Haskell added two by baptism; Allan Eakin, pastor.

Prospect, Jonesboro gained three by letter; Mike Book, pastor.

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)
of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) on homecoming in A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-7, 2-3 AMC) never trailed, scoring 43 seconds into the game and cruising to a 72-46 win over HSSU (3-7, 1-3 AMC). **Olivia Lambrigtsen** led four Mustangs in double figures, which also included **Aliya Grotjohn**, **Lydia York** and **Caroline Citty**. The Lady Mustangs were +8 on the glass and forced 19 HSSU turnovers which they converted into 25 points.

Wrestling

• **Bartlesville, Okla., Jan. 11** — Competing for the first time in 2024, CBC was back on the mat at Oklahoma Wesleyan University today for the Green Country Duals. CBC dropped both duals, 48-3 to Saint Mary's and 34-8 to Oklahoma Wesleyan, but did get three individual wins. **David Corretjer**, who wrestled at 133 pounds, earned a 4-1 sudden victory in the Saint Mary dual and followed that up with a 19-3 technical fall win in the dual against Oklahoma Wesleyan. **Alejandro Mas** got a win in the Oklahoma Wesleyan dual by a 9-8 decision at 149 pounds.



Missionaries

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 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.; (936) 202-7988
 Jake McCandless, Epic Life, Pea Ridge; (501) 472-9079
 Michael Hight, El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville; (501) 326-0198
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Faithful Servants

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts" (Psalm 145:3-4).

What does it mean to be a faithful servant of God? A servant is not free to do what he wants when he wants to do it but must always do the will of his master or face the consequences. The Christian willingly puts himself at God's disposal instead of his own. He longs to do God's will, no matter the cost. He lives his life attentive to the voice and desires of His master. Perhaps this is what Paul was referring to when he mentioned being a bondservant.

When faithful servants are found, they will have some distinctive characteristics that cannot go unnoticed. With humility and readiness, they will persevere. A servant expects to suffer, not just emotionally but also physically. Again, Paul said, *"I bear in my body the marks."* Yet does God reward His faithful servants? According to I Cor. 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* Hebrews 6:10 (ESV) says: *"Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart."*

There is a lesson to be learned throughout the Bible about the importance of passing the baton from one generation to another — Moses to Joshua, David to Solomon, Elijah to Elisha, Jesus to His disciples and Paul to Timothy. It is not enough to just run the race. We must pass our mission — our work — to the next generation. No generation stands independent of its predecessors or those that follow for generations overlap. Every generation is indebted to those that went before.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Sergio, a seven-year-old boy, stood out during the opportunities we had to bring Christmas carols to some homes and during the Christmas gathering on Dec. 24. He sang with great enthusiasm, and you could see in his face how much he enjoyed doing it. His mother, Rosa told us how he and his little sister, Melani rehearsed at home. Then Sergio started looking for the Christmas carols in a piano application and quickly learned to play them. When he arrived at church, he quickly looked for a piano to play the Christmas carols. Mrs. Sayra had the initiative to motivate some brothers and sisters from the church to buy a keyboard and give it to him. After the Sunday meeting, Sergio was given the keyboard and went to his house very excitedly. At night, his mother sent us a video with Sergio playing the song we usually sing when we celebrate a birthday. The results we can have are impressive when we take individual care of our children and encourage them

to develop their skills and gifts.

"On Saturday, we had a day to review our strategic planning. Twelve congregation members met and had a very profitable meeting. We did not manage to finish the review of the plan, so we will continue next Saturday. These meetings are key to transmitting our mission of bringing the gospel and discipleship in obedience to the Great Commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples. Please pray that each member of our congregation will understand our mission as a church and commit to the Lord to fulfill it."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "This week, due to the intense cold, we had several cancellations. We had to cancel our Grace Group in Pea Ridge on Tuesday. On Wednesday, we met in Rogers, although with some absences; and on Thursday, we had our group in Springdale. We were talking about the current condition of man and how he is living away from God in need of His grace.

"On Wednesday, Ashley, a young woman from our church, asked me about baptism since she wants to be baptized. We already

have two candidates for our next baptism service we plan to do in April. Yesterday, after praying, asking the Lord for directions and seeing some news from the area, we had to cancel our service due to the intense cold and snowfall."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "Last week, our Garfield Connection Group started back with a bang! This week, our Woodbridge Connection Group started with a bang — we were at full strength. The Kings, who typically host the Woodbridge Group, have been out for the past couple of months with the birth of a baby girl. This week was their first week back, and it was like an amazing reunion. We celebrated Baby Twyla's first Connection Group. She probably got the most attention of any first-time guest. Our Prayer Collective also met back this week for the first time since Christmas. This really is the powerhouse of what we're doing in Pea Ridge.

Unfortunately, the winter weather on Friday kept our Garfield group from meeting, and the snow on Sunday kept us from having our January Collective Gathering. That's disappointing, but that's life. The winter weather didn't prevent Amanda and me from traveling to Bryant for training with South City's City Group leaders. This was such a godsend for us. It was the very training I had experienced in Kansas City with the KC Underground that laid the basis for our work in Pea Ridge. It was wonderful that Amanda had the chance to hear it as well. It was also refreshing to hear this again with more humble ears as I know the challenges first-hand.

The biggest blessing of the training was the encouragement that we are on the right track and are really ahead of schedule. This method can seem so tedious and slow, but the depth it builds is incredible. We especially enjoyed having dinner with Lawrence and Jesslynn Hale, city group leaders at South City Church. Again, it is a godsend to 'talk shop' with others utilizing the disciple-making movement ministry model."

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 3)

Director I.V. Hight's health began to fail, and he deemed it necessary that he retire. In the spring of 2010, there was a called Missionary Committee meeting at Park Place Baptist Church (located in their old building) to consider Bro. Hight's replacement. It was at that meeting, having been nominated by Kenneth Bobo, that I was elected executive director and began serving in July 2010. Prior to being elected, I served as a pastor and then as a church planter through this department.

I still serve as executive director, Michael Hight serves as Hispanic coordinator and Donna Webb has recently completed her 11th year as my administrative assistant. We have seven men currently serving as church planters across Arkansas: Juan Carlos Posadas (North Little Rock), Ruben Isturiz (West Little Rock), Johnny Shew (Flippin), Bryan Clay (Benton), Roberto Marcelletti (Northwest Arkansas), Jake McCandless (Pea Ridge) and Michael Hight (Cabot/Jacksonville). Some of these works are nearing maturity while others are just beginning.

Through the Arkansas State Missions Department, thousands of souls have come to Christ through the work of faithful men and women. Many of our churches today stand as visual testimonies of both those who have supported and those who have served. We work together with our churches and other mission efforts to make sure the gospel is being shared. We do not want to appear as though missions on any level are in competition. Being diverse is a positive in that it allows an individual church to participate in all the areas of the Great Commission and allows us greater opportunities. Like the Sunday School class, when it is divided, both will generally experience growth.

Some would say, "We have more than enough churches already. Why do we need to plant more?" At this time, BMA churches are closing faster than we can plant them. Also, not every place that calls itself a church is doctrinally sound. In fact, more are not. It is for this reason those churches who possess the truth need to share it with all.

Getting involved in State Missions is not only easy but also rewarding. There are several ways you can get involved. You can go yourself and answer God's call, provide financial support so others can go, suggest to your church leadership that they place BMA of Arkansas Missions in the church budget or give personally by setting aside a birthday or Christmas gift each

year or simply donate anything of value, including stocks. When gifting stocks, you pay no taxes; when we sell the stock, we pay no taxes. It is a win-win method. Ask your accountant for more information.

Another way to become more involved, and most importantly, you can pray for those who are on the field. Nearly all missionaries start out needing everything, so don't hesitate to contact them. Just imagine that long after you are gone, people will still hear the precious gospel because of your love for lost souls. Fellow believers, it just does not get any better.

Stay informed by receiving our state paper, the *Baptist Trumpet*, where our missionaries share what God is doing in their corner of the world every week. Also in the *Baptist Trumpet*, go to the header of the State Missions reports, find the missionaries' contact information, and invite them to come to your church so you can get to know them in a more personal way. Think of them as adopted families into your church body. After all, they are a part of us.

Visit our website at BMAARmissions.com and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ArkansasMissions](https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasMissions). Sign up to receive our Missions Email Newsletter, which is sent every other month, and read the State Missions reports in the "Arkansas: Transformed" special insert that is printed every other month in the *Baptist Trumpet*.

If I were asked, what State Missions' greatest need is, I would say it is for God-called men to answer the call to be a church planter — men who will take it on as their heartfelt passion to establish a church. In fact, we tell our missionaries that you have not completed your task unless there is a church at the end of your ministry at your location.

For the future, we would like to see one or two new church planters added each year. We long to see our current works mature and be able to organize soon.

We ask you to pray for a multitude of souls to come to Christ through the efforts of your State Missions.

We encourage our churches to participate in our Special Emphasis, which the state association dedicated as the months of May-June-July, with the last Sunday in July set aside for Special Emphasis offering for State Missions.

Pray with me that God will raise up a person, family or Christian business to become a catalyst in mission fundraising by challenging others to give with a promise of matching their efforts, doubling its effectiveness. For more information, contact me at (501) 859-3329 or arstamis@comcast.net.



SENT To The Nations

Jerry Kidd Missions Offering 2024

By Holly Meriweather

The holidays are over, but for those who serve at BMA Global, the busiest and most important season of the year has begun. The Jerry Kidd Missions Offering is in full swing! Many pastors had requested guest speakers for their church well before Christmas, so our leaders will be on the road speaking in churches, giving updates and helping congregations understand more about our missionaries.

But it's not too late to request a speaker for your church!

Our theme this year is "Sent to the Nations." We are sent to love, serve, make disciples and plant churches — a mission given to every follower of Jesus and every local church... your local church. We invite our BMA family of churches to celebrate world missions and give to the annual Jerry Kidd Missions Offering that pro-

vides funds to partner with church planters all over the world — 450 of them in 65 countries!

BMA Global's busy season is an opportunity for your church to invest in our ChangeMakers — church planters around the world you'll likely never see.



Changemakers Jay and Ty

Multiplication is always the goal of BMA Global — planting churches that plant churches. Missionaries to Thailand Brandon and Brittney Lingle have been discipling a young couple, Jay and Ty, who are planting a church seven hours from the

capital city of Bangkok where they live. They have a baby daughter and family in the Kantharalak province and they have built relationships in this rural area of Thailand. Jay is currently interning and receiving training to prepare and help with the new church, and the Lingle family will relocate to the area this spring.

The Lingles have served in Thailand 10 years, the average time it takes to plant a church there. After building relationships with both Christians and non-Christians, it can be a long road to evangelism and discipleship, and even longer to start a church then reach the goal of multiplication. But God is their guide on this journey, and our missionaries and ChangeMakers "count it all joy."

The Jerry Kidd Missions offering supports these sacrificial servants, and on Sunday, Feb. 25, you can be part of that multiplication goal. Please consider leading your church in sacrificial giving to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering and go to BMAGlobal.org for resources that can help you on that day or any day you choose to celebrate global missions. At BMAGlobal.org, you can also register to receive free resources, request a speaker, download our promo video and receive a free BMA Global polo shirt.



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Free Refresh Training

By Heidi Sorrells

Pastors, church leaders and spouses, we see you juggling family life, ministry and careers and want to extend a special invitation to a Saturday training we hope will fit your schedule. Healthy Church Solutions is providing a **free** training with Larry Barker at Central Baptist College in Conway, on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Training materials, snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring \$9 to enjoy a freshly prepared lunch in the CBC cafeteria. Let's start the new

year refreshed and strengthened as we interact together and learn about:

- Personal Revitalization
- Traps to Avoid
- Maintaining Your Passion
- Leading Revitalization
- Time Management
- Importance of Healthy Systems

Don't Hesitate! Register today by emailing heidi@bmaglobal.org. Registration will close on Wednesday, Jan. 24. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, February 25 is World Missions Day

BMA GLOBAL

JERRY KIDD MISSIONS OFFERING 2024

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Celebrate BMA Global's growing church planting ministry and God's global mission.

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SENT

To The Nations

On Sunday, February 25, pray for our missionaries and lead your church in giving to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering. We value your partnership!