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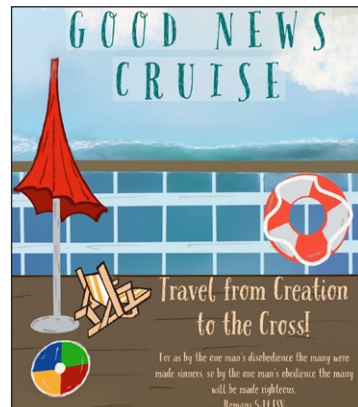
EIM Offers Free VBS Literature

By Mike Goodwin, President • EIM

Are you looking for gospel-centered Vacation Bible School literature for 2024? We believe we have something you may be interested in. Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) has been conducting children's Bible schools around the world for the past 15 years. With a desire for something that was completely gospel-centered, our volunteers began writing and developing our own curriculum. EIM has now formatted all our material so it can be used here in the U.S. by local churches.

Take your students on a Gospel Cruise this summer. Your students will enjoy sailing aboard the S.S. Gospel Voyage. Each day, for four days, the S.S. Gospel Voyage will make a port of call at a very important place:

- On the first day, your port of call is at the **Garden of Eden**. In



the garden, you will discover God's creation and man's fall.

- The second day, your port of call will be at **Bethlehem**, where you will discover God's plan to bring sinful man back into fellowship with Himself.

- The port of call on the third day will be at **Galilee**, and it's there that you will hear Jesus' teaching about who He is by looking at the seven "I Am" statements He made.

- The last day's port of call will be at **Gethsemane**. It's here at the cross that your student will see God's incredible love and grace. It's here that they will see the wrath of God poured out on His own Son.

In our VBS package, you will have everything necessary to conduct a four-day VBS. The package includes a Teacher Guide and a Student Guide for each age group. Also included are crafts, games, skits and posters to go along with each day's lesson. All of this was done by EIM's volunteer staff of mothers, who are passionate about God's Word, the gospel and children. Each lesson is intentional in pointing students to the fact that they are sinners in need of a Savior.

I have seen these lessons taught by seasoned teachers as well as those who are teaching for the first time. In each case, I have seen 100s, if not 1,000s, of boys, girls and, yes,

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How Do We Associate? Series (Part 4)

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 we would feature at the beginning of the new year. The first of these articles — "How Do We Associate?" — appeared in the Jan. 10 issue.

In the Jan. 17 issue, we shared the stories of two of the ministries that are made possible because of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas. We will return to the ministries from the state of Arkansas in a future issue.

In the Jan. 24 issue, we shared the stories of the two largest ministries — BMA Global (Missions) and Lifeword — that are made possible because of the national association of churches — Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA).

In this issue, we will share about the two other ministries that help maintain the identity of our association through education and training — BMA Theological Seminary and Baptist Publishing House. (*All articles in this series are being made available and accessible to everyone at BaptistTrumpet.com. Look for the "Why An Association of Churches?" series graphic.*)



By Jordan Tew,
Executive Director

Baptist Publishing House (BPH) is the publications ministry of the BMA of America. BPH is responsible for writing and publishing Bible studies (i.e., Sunday School curriculum) and other literature for the churches of the BMA. Our offices are located on the BMA Seminary campus in Jacksonville, See BPH, Page 4



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.

George Harvey has accepted the pastorate at Immanuel Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

Paul Outlaw has accepted the pastorate at Dickinson Baptist Church in Harrell.

Park View Baptist Church in North Little Rock is seeking candidates for a bi-vocational children's and youth pastor. Submit resumes to bdsheppard@gmail.com or call (501) 803-8508.

Why An Association of Churches?



By Dr. Charley Holmes, President and Dr. Philip Attebery, Dean

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary (BMATS) is located in Jacksonville, Texas. First classes began on Sept. 8, 1957, with 57 students from 6 states. Dr. G.D. Kellar served as the first president of the seminary. BMATS is currently under the leadership of President Dr. Charley Holmes (since May 18, 1999) and Dr. Philip Attebery who serves as dean, registrar and professor of church ministries.

The purpose of the seminary is multi-faceted. It seeks to provide accredited theological education, equip individuals for Christ-centered service and leadership, meet the educational needs of BMA churches and ministries (along with others who are committed to the authority of

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Will You Help Swing the Rope?

By Theresa Reus, Project Promotion Chairman • National WMA

Lydia Dunlap went on a mission trip to South America last year, and she wrote about the experience for Mission World News. (*Find it at bmamissions.org/delivering-christmas-shoeboxes-receiving-a-lasting-blessing*.) In the article, she talked about giving out shoeboxes and being asked to teach some of the local kids how to jump rope. After showing them how to swing the rope for themselves, she teamed up with a young mom to swing a longer rope so they could take turns jumping. She went on in her article to describe her feelings on realizing the young mom was actually her age and seeing the differences in their lives because of the cultures in which they were raised.

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CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President

JOIN US FOR HOMESCHOOL

Stampede Preview Day

March 6

GO TO
CBC.EDU/VISIT
TO REGISTER

Homeschool Preview Day

Central Baptist College Stampede Preview Days give prospective students an opportunity to personally experience campus life. Join us on March 6 for our Homeschool Stampede Preview Day. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. The event will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. During the event, you will do the following:

- Receive a guided campus tour
- Eat lunch in the dining hall
- Observe one of our classes
- Attend a chapel service
- Visit with current students
- Meet professors and other faculty members
- Audition for our Music Department (*by appointment*)
- Meet with an Athletic Department representative (*by appointment*)
- Have a chance to win CBC door prizes

Visit cbc.edu/stampede for more details and to register. Contact our Admissions office at admissions@cbc.edu or (501) 329-6873 with any questions.

Upcoming Registration Deadlines

Working adults looking for a convenient and flexible college option have another opportunity to enroll in the second five-week course of the spring semester. Courses are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option. The deadline for new student applications for the second enrollment period of the spring semester is Monday, Feb. 5.

With eight enrollment periods per year and five-week courses, you always have an opportunity to get started. Take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church, the Ministry Tuition Grant or the Veterans Tuition Grant.

The enrollment process begins by applying or scheduling a virtual meeting with one of our Personal Enrollment Officers. Visit cbc.edu/ online to apply and to see what PACE can do for you. If you have questions, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@cbc.edu or (501) 329-6873.



Sports News

By Erik Holth



Player of the Week

• **St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 29** — For the first time this season, a CBC player has earned American Midwest Conference (AMC) player of the week recognition. **Deshawn Corprew**, a senior from Norfolk, Va., earned the honor as he averaged 20 points and 7 rebounds-per-game this week on 58% shooting from the field in leading the Mustangs past both William Woods and Missouri Baptist to improve the team to 17-4 on the season and 7-0 in the AMC.

Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 25** — Back at full strength for the first time in two weeks, CBC hosted the Owls of William Woods (WWU) in an AMC clash inside a packed out A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (16-4, 6-0 AMC) trailed by 6 at the half but used a hot second half and great defensive intensity to win their seventh in a row by a score of 74-68 over WWU (10-7, 2-3 AMC). **Deshawn Corprew** led three Mustangs in double figures scoring, with **Sage Borbon** and **Kyle Harding** also joining him there. **Jonas Carlisle** paced the team in rebounding as CBC shot 47% from the field in the contest, including 65% in the second half.

• **Conway, Jan. 27** — Looking to remain undefeated through the first half of AMC play, CBC hosted the Spartans of Missouri Baptist (MBU) on Youth Group Day inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (17-4, 7-0 AMC) never trailed by more than 4, and held the lead for over 32 minutes in a 76-66 win over MBU (14-7, 5-2 AMC). The win marks the first time CBC has started 7-0 in AMC play since the Mustangs joined the conference in 2015. **Deshawn Corprew**, **Kyle Harding** and **Jonas Carlisle** led the way in scoring as CBC attempted 8 more free throws and converted 11 MBU turnovers into 18 points.

Women's Basketball

• **Conway, Jan. 25** — Returning home after spending last weekend in Missouri, CBC hosted AMC

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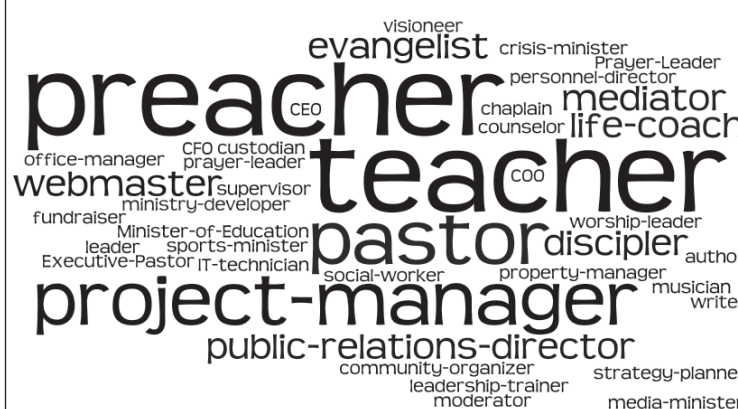


Student Ministry Matters

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Dan Carson
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The Many Hats of The Second Chair Leader

As the associate/family/youth pastor at my church, I wear a variety of hats. That has always been the case in my ministry. Even when I was the lead, I had to wear several ministry hats. Do I mind it? No. My time serving is never boring. I am always figuring something else out. During COVID, it was how to livestream our services, keep our people connected and provide an online giving option. In recent months, I have had to upgrade our treasurer's computer. Some days, I am the church photographer. For others, I am the backup worship leader. On the slower days, I get to focus my attention on our students.

For many, this type of varied job might be daunting, and there are times when it would be nice to simply say, "I don't know." However, God places us together in our church bodies for a purpose. If you are the resident jack-of-all-trades, don't resent it. Lean into it — not for your glory, but for God's. There are some things you should remember when you serve in this capacity:

• **Do all things for the glory of God, not your own.** I Cor. 10:31 (NIV) is pretty clear: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." So, if you are working on the baptistry, taking pictures or maintaining the church's social media, remember that we do all for God's glory. That is what this life is all about. It should permeate our ministries. It is easy to enjoy the gratitude that is often expressed, but we can't make that our goal. We must remember that it is all for Him.

• **People are more important than things.** As I work on "stuff," I can bring those things to the level of people. That should not be. It has been said that two things will last for eternity — God's Word and the souls of men and women. If I have to choose between finishing our weekly email by my self-imposed deadline or spending time with my church members, I need to invest in people. We can't ignore the tasks that need to be completed, but we do need to understand the hierarchy of responsibilities that lie before us.

• **We should train others to do the work.** As pastors, our priority is to pray and study the Word, but as we have already discussed, we get pulled into a wide range of activities. Are you willing to hand off tasks, even if they aren't done exactly how you would like to have them done? Unfortunately, many of us would rather kill ourselves with activity and rob others of the opportunity to serve because we think we are the only ones who can do it right. That attitude will only limit the growth and capacity of your ministry. We need to hand off ministry as much as we can.

Will there come a time when we will only wear one hat? Probably not, but let's be honest, that would be boring. Let's serve with gladness and be mindful as we serve our churches and the King of Kings. If you feel you are starting to break under the weight of the many hats at your church, talk with your lead pastor and discuss what you can set aside or hand off to others.

Join the conversation at facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity. We would love to hear about some of the other roles that you carry at your church.



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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LARRY BARKER, By Larry Barker, Regional Coordinator
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healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



get to where the darkness is instead of sitting in our well-lit sanctuaries, buildings and homes.

How many churches have become “organized organisms?” The title describes the problem of when the organic nature of the living, breathing body of believers that has unfortunately organized themselves right out of ministry. Over-mechanization begins to destroy dynamic life when the well-oiled machine of “ministry” demands all our time and energy. Dave Harvey reminds us that every church and every organization needs institutional characteristics and movement dynamics, returning to the conviction that the gospel’s transforming power is greater, stronger and more effective than any system we devise.

The partnerships found in Philippians and throughout the New Testament do not show us radical independence but instead interdependence. Our association believes that the autonomy of a local church is a conviction we hold tightly, but let me challenge you again with an observation from Dave Harvey: “But we must not confuse the **priority** of the local church with the **exclusivity** of the local church.” Who can you cooperate and collaborate with in the advancement of the gospel? People, churches and organizations wither and perish in isolation, thinking like Elijah, that they are the only ones doing it right.

Your first step is prayer about how the Lord would have you personally advance the gospel. How will you engage with people who are far from God and shine your light into their darkness? Lead by example, and remember that the speed of the leader determines the speed of the team. Then, pray about how your church should go about its calling to the family enterprise of bringing more people into the family. How will you join arms together to advance the gospel in your context? Allow the Great Commission to be your compass that guides every individual, every family and every church initiative. Is your church advancing the gospel? Acts 1, and on in the New Testament, chronicles how the disciples understood and applied the Great Commission in partnership with other believers and between other local churches. May our conviction be that we are stronger together in advancing the gospel in every crack and crevice of society. May our conviction be to push the gospel outside the walls of our church buildings and see it spread “through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the utmost parts of the world” because we are better and stronger together. May our practice and passion be to carry out what we say is our conviction.




By Dr. Tom Mitchell
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Advancing the Gospel

Why should churches partner together? It has been said many different ways and times, but we will say it again — we are better together. We are also stronger together. In *Stronger Together*, Dave Harvey states, “My experience of network — with all of its virtues and vices — has confirmed this biblical principle: **churches can achieve together what no one could accomplish alone.**” You could argue both sides of that statement, but the Scriptures do point to a lot of cooperation and collaboration. In Phil. 1:4-5, Paul said he was always praying with joy for them because of their partnership in the gospel from the first day with them.

Our BMA Principles of Cooperation states, “The purpose of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, a distinct fellowship of Baptist churches, is to (1) provide co-operating departments and agencies, (2) inspire a mission vision, and (3) assist each local church in carrying out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).” It is the responsibility of every Christian, every church, every association, every network and every denomination that truly belongs to Christ to advance the gospel. When the Great Commission was given to the 12 disciples, it was a commission that began with the churches, and it is to be finished by His churches.

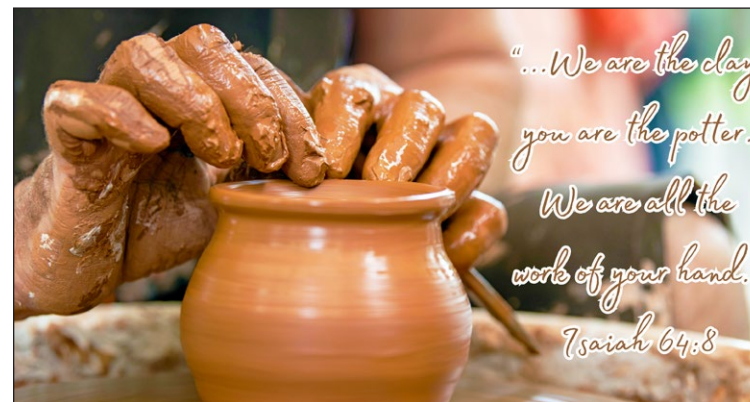
Grace Baptist Church in Joplin, Mo. is a church focused on advancing the gospel. Their Pastor, Brad Wieneke, states on their website, “Our goal is to build gospel-advancing families at Grace — families that will take the mission of Jesus Christ and make it their mission.” This beautifully describes the value of mission together and can protect you from the vice of individualism, which is man’s default setting, both individually and corporately. When values and virtues are discarded or forgotten, individualism and isolation step in to fill their void. Solomon made it clear that two are better than one and a threefold cord is not easily broken.

You can give all kinds of reasons

and arguments of why you believe you need to go alone in advancing the gospel as an individual or even as a church, but you need to ask, “Do you believe churches are stronger when their members work together advancing the gospel? Do you also believe churches are stronger when they are working together to advance the gospel? Is that a conviction, and how passionate are you about it?” Passion is a conviction that becomes contagious because it withstands the test of pain, and working together will create some painful moments. A conviction is not something you hold; it is something that holds you.

If your members or your church gives in to the vice of individualism, it will become inwardly focused, and being inwardly focused is very unhealthy. You focus, instead, on programs and ministry, making sure everyone already there is comfortable and cared for. It is Adam and Eve who introduced a godless individualism into our DNA, where our natural default is to hide from God, blame everyone else for our issues and become overtly self-centered. Satan loves to separate sheep (individuals) from the fold and churches from associations who think they are better by themselves and do not need anyone else. Paul spoke of being partners in grace in Phil. 1:7 (HCSB): *“It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and establishment of the gospel.”*

When the value of being better and stronger together is ignored or forgotten, it can easily lead a church or a mission organization into institutionalism, which is defined as “whenever a ministry or organization begins to exist more for those who are already there than those who are not.” Jesus said He came to seek and to save the lost. He also said He did not come looking for the healthy but for the sick. It dawned on me recently that if we are going to be a light in the darkness, we need to



Please Be Patient... God is Still Working!

As we drove back from Prescott, where I conducted the memorial service for my longtime friend, Tim Ashbrook, I was just thinking about how God changed that man. He was raised to be a good boy, married a wonderful young lady and had two children, but something was missing — Jesus as Savior. During what I call the “Great Wrecker Trip” (more on this later), Tim met Christ not just as a man but as His personal Savior and Lord. He was 25 years old at that time.

From that time until his promotion to Heaven last week, God continued to do an amazing work in his life. Tim became a beacon of light to people whose lives were in darkness. What a wonderful change in his life had been wrought since Jesus came into his heart. Tim Ashbrook was one of the finest Christians I’ve known.

A Poster that Has Served as a Constant Reminder

In the early days of my ministry, I came across a poster that read: “Please be patient; God isn’t finished with me yet!” That has served as a constant reminder for me over the past decades. We should never judge the character of a person too quickly. We should never expect a newborn believer to be a seasoned Christian in a few days, or even years. The process called **sanctification** takes time. Salvation is an immediate experience, but becoming the individuals Christ wants us to be takes a lifetime.

Some Encouraging Advice from an Apostle

Over the course of my ministry, I have heard many say, “I am trying to do good things to work my way into Heaven.” That can’t be done, but once God’s grace has saved a person, they can certainly work for the Lord on the way to Heaven. Salvation first — sanctification second.

The Apostle Paul had a life-changing experience. I told Tim shortly after he was saved: “The Apostle Paul, while traveling to wreck the lives of believers, met Jesus on the road to Damascus. While on a trip in a wrecker to tow a church bus, you met Jesus on the road to Texarkana.” That day, the Lord began to do a work on that man who had been my family’s friend for the past 44 years. Like Paul, Tim prayed for family, friends, coworkers and customers. He never hesitated to share the Good News with people from every walk of life.

Here are the words the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to encourage believers in their walk for Christ: *“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy... from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ”* (Phil. 1:3-6 NIV).

God is Patient — We Should Be Also

Make no mistake, life is hard. Living in these last days is daunting. The Christian life is not one of ease but often of suffering. But nothing we experience will compare to what Christ endured for us when He took our place on the cross. If you see another struggling in their walk, please be patient. God isn’t finished with them yet, nor is He finished with you! The Lord is still working, molding you into the vessel He wants you to be. *“Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter. We are all the work of your hand”* (Isa. 64:8 NIV).

BPH

(Continued From Page 1)

Texas. BPH has a long history of publishing doctrinally sound resources for the churches of the BMA. This not only includes BMA churches in the United States, but also around the world.

This is just as important today as it was 70 years ago. Today, churches have access to a world of information. Bible study courses, Sunday school or small group curriculum, children's ministry resources and more can easily be bought online and shipped right to your door or downloaded onto your device. While the convenience is certainly nice, there is also a risk of using materials that do not uphold the doctrine of the BMA. One of the main reasons the BMA has her own publications ministry is to preserve the doctrine of the BMA. Without BMA curriculum, books, studies and other resources, our doctrine would quickly erode.

Our mission is not only providing a comprehensive Bible study curriculum, but it is also preserving our doctrinal heritage as Missionary Baptists. We aim to serve the churches of the BMA by providing resources and preserving our doctrine. We are on the verge of an entirely new generation stepping into pulpits and leading Sunday School classrooms all over the nation. If we do not pass the torch of what we believe to them, BMA churches will begin losing their doctrine and, eventually, fade into a theological "no man's land." This need not happen.

I serve as our executive director, and I am strongly committed to the local churches of the BMA and BMA doctrine. I care for each church and am always willing to serve them to the best of my abilities. One of the most important parts of my work to ensure that all BPH publications remain biblical and true to BMA doctrine. All curriculum writers are required to be "members in good standing of a local BMA church." I am a graduate of Jacksonville College and BMA Seminary and a member and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in New Summerfield, Texas. Over the years, I have served as a pastor, student pastor and college minister.

I have the privilege of working with a gifted team. Dr. Philip Attebery, Dr. David Hellwig and Dr. Ronnie Johnson make up the editorial team for the Baptist Expositor curriculum. Their contributions cannot be overstated, as they work very hard to ensure the *Baptist Expositor* is grammatically correct and biblically accurate. In addition to this team of editors, I am assisted by Seth Hellwig, who serves as the

BMATS

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Scripture) and serve as a center for critical thought and research that is nurtured within a doctrinal and historical BMA context.

According to Dr. John W. Gregson's book, *Earnestly Contending for the Faith: A Fifty-Year History of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary (1955-2005)*, churches showed interest in creat-

administrative assistant for BPH, assisting churches with their orders, taking phone calls and serving in many other ways.

In 2023, Baptist Publishing House released the first Disciple-Kidz book, published knowthegospel.net and printed thousands of corresponding gospel tracts, began printing and distributing the DiscipleWay curriculum, printed Sunday School curricula for children and adults and Student Notes packets to assist in the teaching of youth-aged students. We also provided funds to buy three printers in Africa and assisted with various printing expenses in Latin America.

In addition to these, all of our resources are translated into Spanish and made available free through our sister ministry, Editorial Bautista. In addition to these publications, Baptist Publishing House has provided training workshops for Sunday School teachers and pastors in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas and Mexico.

In 2024, we are planning to release the second DiscipleKidz book, reprint *Brief Studies in Christian Doctrines* by J.E. Cobb, *The Joy of Bible Study* by Dr. Joe Pendleton and publish a book on Baptist churches and associations adapted from the writings of D.N. Jackson. Several such resources are already available digitally on our website. These projects will be in addition to the writing, printing and training work we do on an ongoing basis.

Baptist Publishing House has been blessed by the support of BMA churches and individuals. Your prayers and financial gifts make this ministry possible. As we head into a new year, there remains a need for your support. We have been able to write and publish more resources because of your support. God has blessed us through you, and we hope we have been able to bless you in return!

Here is a helpful way to think about it: while buying curriculum keeps the wheels turning, monthly financial support allows us to move forward. We want to keep moving forward in 2024. Please pray for us as we endeavor to serve the churches of the BMA of America.

ing a seminary back in the 1940s. In 1950, messengers of the North American Baptist Association (now the Baptist Missionary Association of America, BMAA) agreed to add a Christian Education Committee (i.e., an associational seminary) to its list of ministries. Much of the original article's wording remains in the current BMAA's principles of cooperation, including the expectation that prospective seminary faculty members sign a statement expressing their agreement with the associational Doctrinal Statement.

Indeed, a distinctive of BMA Seminary is its commitment to BMA history and doctrine. As is the case at the present, BMATS administrators and full-time faculty are typically ordained ministers holding membership in BMA churches. Each of the current full-time faculty was raised in BMA churches and actively supports the association's work. Most have visited and taught on BMA mission fields, attended Daniel Springs Baptist Camp, written and taught literature produced by the Baptist Publishing House, walked to support Lifeword, contributed to BMA Financial Services and prayed for Moral Action.

Seminary administrators and faculty have spent years earning higher-education degrees to better themselves personally and to help individuals prepare for faithful and effective service to their local churches. Through the years, faculty have provided local churches and associations with training workshops in areas such as evangelism, discipleship, preaching and Christian education. The seminary continues to offer such training to interested churches and associations.

Highlights of the seminary's ministry in recent years include its enhanced attention to evangelism and disciple-making. Its use of Evangelism Explosion and DiscipleWay materials provides students with tools, skills and strategies for helping them perform and lead others in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission to make disciples.

Although its main campus is in Jacksonville, Texas, BMA Seminary is approved by accreditors for comprehensive distance education. This allows students to complete both courses and entire degrees without requiring them to be on campus. In fact, the seminary regularly offers training in DiscipleWay via video conferencing. During some semesters, individuals have participated in such training from their homelands in places like Africa, Asia and South America. Also, some of these individuals are products of BMA mission work in their countries.

BMA Seminary's goals and dreams for 2024 include increased

SPORTS

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foe William Woods inside the friendly confines of A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-10, 2-6 AMC) trailed by 8 at halftime before falling 81-66 to WWU (9-7, 3-4 AMC).

Olivia Lambriigtsen led the way in scoring for the Mustangs, putting in 20 points, including going 9-12 at the charity stripe. **Caroline Citty** and **Taryanna McNary** also finished in double figures scoring, with Citty adding 15 and McNary scoring 10 off the bench.

• **Conway, Jan. 27**—Wrapping up the first half of AMC play, CBC hosted the Spartans of Missouri Baptist on Youth Group Day inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-11, 2-7 AMC) led early,

enrollment and graduations, more scholarly writing by professors, increased funding for scholarships through a generous Seminary Sunday offering, completion of a capital campaign to renovate parking areas and student housing and the hiring of additional faculty to accomplish our mission and service to our supporting churches. We also hope to see interest grow in the Master of Arts in Disciple-

but trailed at halftime and lost to MBU (6-12, 4-5 AMC) 84-51. **Olivia Lambriigtsen**, **Caroline Citty** and **Taryanna McNary** all finished in double figures scoring, with Lambriigtsen leading the way with 15 points and Citty and McNary both chipping in with 11.

Wrestling

• **Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 27**—Competing for the first time in a week, CBC was on the mat at Abe Lemons Arena for the AMC/Sooner Athletic Conference Duals. CBC dueled William Woods and Missouri Baptist, falling 36-16 to the Owls and 54-5 to MBU. **David Corretjer** won both of his matches at 125 pounds, while **Inson Guerrier** went 1-1 at 149 and **Kyle Bahl** went 1-1 at 157.

Making program.

For information on how to take a class or earn a degree, visit bmats.edu/admissions or contact the seminary dean's office at (800) 259-5673 or bmats@bmats.edu.

You can support the seminary by giving at bmats.edu/donate. For information on the various ministry projects, please contact the president's office at president@bmats.edu.

BMAA Meeting • April 16-18

Chateau on the Lake Resort • Branson, Mo.

For more information visit

BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024

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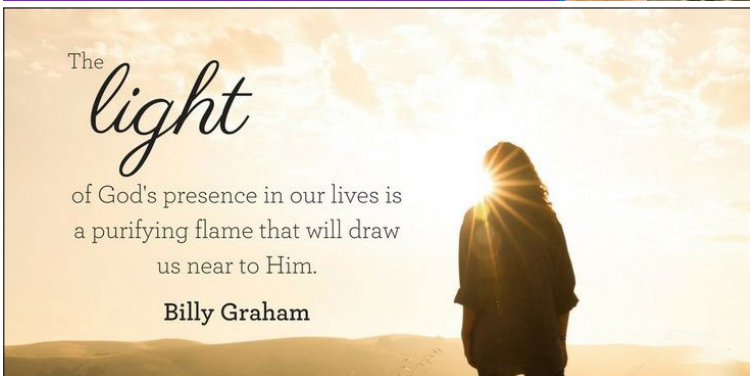
Spinning My Gears

a young pastor's perspective

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Discerning God's Direction (Part 2): Maintaining an Awareness of God's Presence in Our Lives

Last week, I began to introduce what a dashboard for spiritual health might look like in a believer's life. I did so by comparing the complicated variables in our lives to the intricate mechanisms monitored by our cars' dashboards. Just as I've never seen a car with only one dial on its dashboard, we cannot expect to monitor our spiritual health with a single measurement. So, just as we compared the disciplines that create a desire and appetite for the Word to the RPM gauge in our car last week, this week, I'd like to consider an even more essential gauge to monitor — the fuel gauge. This dial delivers an indication of the amount of gas in the tank. A driver can expect to drive a greater distance when the tank is full. Likewise, when the tank is low, the driver can expect to add a stop to their planned route or risk getting stranded on the roadside.

In my analogy, fuel represents **the Christian's awareness of God's presence in their life.** Unless the Christian understands God working all things according to His glory, it will be impossible to draw closer to Him in the coming year. God is an intensely personal and relational Being. Treating Him as though He were a power or principle is an insult. Good things like Bible study, theology, ministry and the church can become substitutes for loving God. As a countermeasure, maturing Christians should ask God for the grace of increased passion for Jesus so that, by the power of the Spirit, we will come to love our Lord as the Father loves Him. FUEL is another acronym to help us understand how to develop and maintain this awareness.

• **Frequently directing our**

thoughts to God is the F in FUEL. Paul directed the church in Thessalonica to "*rejoice always, pray without ceasing*" and "*give thanks in all circumstances*" (1 Thess. 5:16-17 ESV). This command is a practical instruction for growing our relationship with God. We often talk about the importance of developing a biblical worldview. Doing so is impossible if our thoughts are not on divine and eternal things. Unless we embrace the practice of frequently thinking of God and His goodness, we will succumb to thinking as the world thinks. Constantly being in a state of prayer helps the Christian to maintain this focus and attention.

• **Understanding life's circumstances from God's perspective** is the U in FUEL. When our thoughts are constantly on God, we naturally begin to understand and interact with the world around us differently. Instead of seeing trivial coincidences, we understand sovereignly orchestrated circumstances. There are no accidents in our lives. While men can plan their way, the Lord establishes each step (Prov. 16:9). It has been helpful for me to slow down amid frustrations to seek the Lord's direction. The added benefit of adopting a biblical worldview is that it puts Christians in a position to "be ready to encourage others with truth," as Paul instructed believers to do in 1 Thess. 4:18. Our natural tendency to ask, "How does this affect me?" lends itself to developing a self-centric concept of the world. When we push ourselves to ask instead, "How does God see this?" our priorities are reordered for the better.

• **Expecting God to accomplish His will** is the third letter of our acronym explaining how we can

maintain an awareness of God's person and presence in our lives. Generally, I have observed a diminished expectation of God among Christians. Perhaps it is the discouragement of seeing our associations and churches dwindle. Living life with a lack of expectation is like an empty fuel tank in a car. Christians must be reminded that God often moves in the most profound ways when circumstances look the bleakest. How often did God prevail for Israel in combat when they were outnumbered against their adversaries? How many prophets and kings were brought to absolute despair before they abandoned their self-reliance and turned to God? Preachers need to expect that the messages they prepare throughout the week when they're faithful to God's Word will result in the response of their audiences. Christians must live with the expectation that if they live according to God's Word, God will prevail for them according to His great purposes. When we live with the hopeful expectation that Christ's return is imminent, it prompts us to be ready. If we were constantly prepared, we would be more urgent in missions, more passionate in preaching and more faithful in our service. Our Christian expectation is fuel in our tank.

• **Listening to the Spirit's prompting and guidance** is the final indicator of FUEL. At multiple points in our pursuit to become more like Christ by drawing closer to God, we discover the nature of faith. The first moment comes when we are converted by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. Along the way, there are likely to be more lessons that remind and refresh the Christian's concept of faith. I experienced these moments when I first surrendered to ministry, decided to enroll at the BMA Theological Seminary and left my home church to pastor Denver Street in Greenwood. I admit that the word "listening" is not as precise as I would like. I'm not implying that God audibly speaks. He has done much more than that in inspiring and preserving the Holy Scriptures to communicate with His people. Nevertheless, the forbidding and permitting of the Spirit described in Acts 16:6-10 before Paul and Silas responded to the Macedonian vision still exists in our lives. No particular Scripture directed me explicitly in any of the personal examples I provided. Instead, an awareness of God and His provision of peace aided me in discerning what I believe to be God's will. The so-called "listening" I am advocating for is simply recognizing that the Spirit is responsible for guiding us. As such, Christians should become accustomed to seeing the hand of the Lord in our lives.



(L/R) Joe Ward from Brister Baptist Church delivers new generator to Brandy Haden with Just the Crumbs.

Generator Project a Success

By Dr. Eric Goble, Pastor • Brister Baptist Church, Emerson

Last summer, the Southwest District Brotherhood began raising funds for a new 45kw generator for Just the Crumbs feeding ministry, which works closely with BMA Disaster Relief. Churches and individuals from across the country responded generously to raise sufficient funds to purchase the generator.

Joe Ward, a member of Brister Baptist Church in Emerson, delivered the generator on Sunday, Jan. 6, to tornado-stricken Clarksville, Tenn., where it was put into operation immediately. Brandy Haden accepted delivery of the generator on behalf of Just the Crumbs ministry.

Just the Crumbs ministry appreciates the generosity of the churches and individuals who made this kind of donation possible. Any future donations for the continued operation of Just the Crumbs can be sent to 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Miss. 39482.



Bethlehem, Greenbrier added one by letter; Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor.

Bridge, Mt. Home gained two by letter; Hershel Conley, pastor.

Fellowship, Walnut Ridge received one by baptism; John Durham, pastor.

First, Bald Knob reports one by baptism; Matthew Grantham, pastor.

First, Gurdon rejoices over one profession of faith, one by baptism, and seven by letter; Randal Murphy, pastor.

Shady Grove, Prescott welcomed one by letter; Mike Puckett, pastor.

Shiloh, Lamartine witnessed four by letter and three by baptism; Michael Clark, pastor.

Union, Bodcaw added one by letter; Joe Brown, pastor.



Hershel D. Newton, 89 of England, passed away Jan. 22. He was a member of Landmark Baptist Church.



Ronnie Johnson is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. 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.





The Epic Story of Truth (Part 6): Included, Inheritance Expanded and the Future of God's People

So far, in this summarized retelling of the complete narrative in Scripture that includes the subjects that are often seen as fringe topics such as prophecy, God's continued plan for Israel and the unseen world, we've looked at the major events in Genesis and their hints to their resolutions or parallels at the end of the age. We started with creation and the flood. These are events we know will be repeated and resolved.

The original creation that was cursed following Adam and Eve's sin will be redeemed, and there will be a New Heaven and New Earth. Then, just as God sent His wrath on the world with the flood, He will do so again, but this second time, it will be fire.

The New Testament "bookends" to those two events are clear and commonly preached and taught, but the bookend resolution of the Genesis event I addressed in the last article isn't preached or taught nearly as much.

In the last article, we looked at how Moses' summarizing of the law and Israel's early history he gave at the end of his life that's recorded in Deuteronomy reveals more to the story of the Tower of Babel than we read in Genesis. Moses connects Genesis 11-12 in his retelling of Deut. 32:7-9.

He summarizes that, beyond dividing up mankind and giving different languages, God actually gave the nations away to other angels. Daniel refers to these as "prince" angels. In giving the nations away, humanity lost its inheritance from our Heavenly Father. God then created His own family to be heirs to His promises, which, among other things, include living in the New Heaven and New Earth.

It's as if all mankind was the family of God, and God gave them the boot, but then He created a new family. This is the origin of the division between Jews and Gentiles. Though this sounds cruel (they had the horrendous tragedy of the flood to warn them), in God's common M.O., He drops a hint that redemption could come to the Gentiles. He tells Abraham, the Father of this new nation and



family, that the nations (those who had lost their inheritance) would be blessed through his descendants.

As time went on, there were Gentiles who joined God's family. There were Egyptians who joined the Israelites as they left Egypt. Rahab recognized that the God of Israel was the true God, and she asked to be spared. Ruth decided to join as well. For 2,000 years, there was a stark difference between Gentiles and Jews. This difference would build until a moment in the city of Caesarea in Israel, likely 10 years after Jesus ascended to Heaven.

Until this point, the followers of Jesus had only been Jews. This inheritance of redemption, salvation and eternal life continued to only be with God's family, Israel. Gentiles remained estranged and in the dark. Peter himself limited sharing the good news of Jesus to the Jews.

This world-changing moment is recorded in Acts 10-11. A Gentile, the Roman centurion Cornelius, had an angel come to him and tell him to send for the Apostle Peter, who was 39 miles away in Jaffa. At that same time, Peter was given a vision that seemed to give him permission to share the gospel with Gentiles. When the messenger arrived to fetch Peter, Peter went to Cornelius's home with him. Peter went in with Cornelius and his family and shared the gospel. The Gentile family put their faith in Christ and received the Holy Spirit. Cornelius' family would become the first of many Gentiles who would come to follow Jesus. Upon

committing to follow Jesus, these Gentiles stepped into the family of God. They were now heirs of God's promises. The punishment at the Tower of Babel was beginning to be reversed, and that reversal continues even today as more and more Gentiles come to follow Jesus.

Gentiles stepping into the family of God and His promises became a stumbling point for Jewish Christians. Most of the New Testament epistles address this issue. In the Epistle to the Galatians, Paul goes to great lengths to help the Galatian believers understand this reality. He wrote: *"Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith"* (Gal. 3:7-9 NIV).

Paul addresses the subject throughout Galatians, especially in chapter 3. In his letter to the Ephesians, he describes what is happening to the Gentiles as adoption. They were not in the family of God due to the disinheriting at Babel, but through Christ, they have been adopted into the family of God. I should better not say **them**, but rather, I should say **us**. In Romans, Paul describes what is taking place with the inclusion of Gentiles into the Lord's portion as the grafting of trees. In Romans 11, he writes that the Gentiles have been grafted into Israel.

With each new people group reached with the gospel, the consequences of the Tower of Babel were being reversed. The full reversal of what happened in ancient times in Mesopotamia will come when the moment described in Revelation 7 occurs: *"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'"* (Rev. 7:9-10).

Once Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom, as we read in Revelation 19-20, we will get closer to that one family of God, but ultimately that will not come to full reversal until the events of Rev. 21-22.

Dive into the Epic Story yourself by reading Acts 10-11, Galatians 3 and Romans 11.

— *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)

ROPE (Continued From Page 1)

I greatly enjoyed the article, but it sent my thoughts in a different direction. Thinking about the two girls swinging a rope for the kids to jump gave me a mental picture of how we can work with others, too. Each person has a job but on different ends of the rope. You have to work together in a good rhythm to get the right results.

This is a great example of how the WMA can work with the Jeevan Prakash School to provide for their students. We can't all go to India to help with this ministry or the children's education, but we can work on our end, doing what we can to keep the rope swinging. If we raise money for the much-needed renovations, plenty of laborers in India are ready to do the renovations. We will work together to provide the kids with a safe, comfortable place to learn.

The children are attending school now in a building that needs foundational work to be safer. There is no ventilation for the building that houses all grades. The temperature in their area often exceeds 100 degrees. The school is unable to provide safe drinking water. Most of us would agree this is a dangerous combination. We would not want our children in this situation.

Those who run the school have stepped out on faith and have begun renovations. The lack of adequate restrooms has already been addressed. As money comes in, they will continue to do any repairs they can without disrupting ongoing classes. The bulk of the construction would need to be done when the school year ends in April. Let's try to have our funds in and ready for them to draw from by then. Our hope is that more than enough will come in for the building repairs, and the extra can be used to replace the well-worn furniture. New tables and chairs would be such a blessing and brighten up the school. Maybe these renovations and updates will attract more students to the school.

Surely, a familiar verse in a situation like this is Eccl. 4:9 (NIV), *"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor."* Over the years, we have worked together to raise money for many projects. This year is no different. Let's work together to bless the children and staff of Jeevan Prakash School with a safe and comfortable learning environment. We can do our part in swinging the rope on our end and have faith that the Lord will provide someone to swing the other end.

Please send any contributions to National WMA project, c/o Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, Mo. 65560.

VBS (Continued From Page 1)

even adults come to faith in Jesus Christ. As a missionary/pastor, I have found no better curriculum as gospel-focused and gospel-centered.

All this material will be available to download and print. We will have this available to view on our website at eimworldwide.org. If you would like more information about our VBS literature, please contact me at mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org or (870) 904-2091 (text).

All the materials we are offering are completely free for any church. We can make all-weather banners for purchase if so desired. We do ask that you consider making a donation of any size to EIM after you have printed and used our material.



Gospel Singing featuring Shawn Drewett; Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m.; Union, Rosston; Joe Brown, pastor.

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

State Galilean Spring Meeting and Basketball Tourney; Feb. 23-24; Central Baptist College, Conway.

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.

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

Greenbrier Dist. WMA, Feb. 15; 10 a.m., lunch to follow; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Greenbrier Dist. Men's Fellowship, Feb. 24, 8 a.m.; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

SW Dist. Brotherhood, April 2; 6 p.m. meal; 7 p.m. program; First, Taylor.

SW Dist. WMA, April 2; 6 p.m. meal; 7 p.m. program; First, Taylor.

United District WMA, April 6; Grace, Russellville.

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

United District WMA, July 13; Hattiesville, Hattiesville.





BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

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Glad to Be a Part

On Jan. 27, I attended the pastor's ReFresh Training hosted by Healthy Church Solutions and Larry Barker at Central Baptist College in Conway, along with several other pastors and four of our current missionaries. I know I am old, and some may wonder why, in my present situation, I attend workshops and various trainings. Well, the Lord knows I need all the help I can get.

I, for one, am a firm believer that iron sharpens iron. My experience over the years is that, while I seldom come away retaining the firehose of knowledge presented, I attend, hoping to take just one thing away I can incorporate into my ministry for the rest of my life. I like to think of them as tools of the trade. Gradually, you will develop a complete set from which to draw. No matter how long a training might take, getting one suggestion, idea, method or viewpoint will have been well worth your time.

When I say I am glad to be a part, I mean of an organization such as the BMA of America and her churches. There is an attitude of wanting to help others succeed. To see men like Larry Barker (a former missionary, pastor and teacher) surrender their lives to help men be all they can be makes me proud that he is one of us. We are blessed to have many thoughtful individuals who also give their time and effort to minister to our pastors and churches. Please take advantage of the opportunities afforded you. God forbid, never come to the place that you think you know it all, for I assure you that you don't.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Tuesday night, we started classes at the Bible Institute. I have the privilege of teaching the class 'Ecclesiastical Ministry Administration and Education,' and 11 students are taking the class, and 5 are from our congregation. I thank God for allowing us to equip brothers and sisters for service in His work.

"Doña Sayra took advantage of her artistic ability to give the sisters relaxation time, painting and studying the Word. On Saturday evening, they gathered to study the wisdom of God and develop their skills in the art of painting. For many of them, it was their first time painting, and they spontaneously expressed how much fun they had and the need for a special time that would

make them get out of their routine and focus on their personal development. At the end of the session, each one took away a good souvenir, which she could hang on the wall of her house and remember the good time of communion surrounding the artistic evening. Thank God for those details that allow us to cultivate our being.

"I also thank God for the training provided on Saturday by BMA Global for pastors and church leaders. It was very informative and provided very useful resources for the ministry."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "Thank God for January. We had the opportunity to visit several homes to pray for the leader of each home, put them in God's hand and, in turn, they will be praying for all the members of their family.

"This week, I will be praying for

the last ones on my agenda to visit them. We began a series of studies in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Thanks to God, we have been learning about the beginning of the first-century church, and how the Holy Spirit was guiding the church and it spread throughout the Roman Empire. There are many things our Ebenezer Mission has to learn from the book of Acts.

"Thank God, our sick people are recovering. Out of love for them, we are broadcasting via online.

"We will start our Home Groups again in February. We have had them on hold so we can pray for all the homes in Ebenezer. Pray that, through the groups, others will hear the gospel.

"Thank you for your support and prayers. Glory to God!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "What a great week we had at Faith Chapel! The temperatures were above freezing all week. Praise God! And we got plenty of rain, thank you, Lord! A bug has been going around that has afflicted several of our members and visitors. People seem to be taking turns getting it, so we had several out this week, but we still had a good number and a great time of worship.

"We were totally blessed when a dearly beloved couple that has been coming faithfully for over a year decided to join us and become members. Praise God! Most people were surprised and said, 'I thought they were already members.' We already love them dearly and welcome them sincerely as fellow laborers to the harvest. I love the way God adds to His church! We have several more 'faithful visitors' we are praying will also join us.

"We are still waiting for the drywall on the new building. The contractors had told us they were beginning to catch up, but that was before the snow, ice and brutal cold. We just pray the Lord will help them work their way to us soon, and we trust He will.

"Thank you all again for your prayers and support. Please continue. God is answering in a mighty way, and we will continue to pray for you all as well!"

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan

Clay writes, "I attended the Refresh Training this week for pastors and missionaries that was held at Central Baptist College in Conway. We enjoyed fellowshiping together and learning about our God-ordained profession. I was able to gather vital information from seasoned pastors about how to minister to others and grow as a person while serving an amazing, faithful Father. It was a great time, and I am glad I got to be a part of it.

This week, I started back with my continual education in a course called Faith Bible Institute. It is a college-level study of the entire Bible that is done over six semesters. It is online, and our sending church has a meeting every week to facilitate the class. If you are ever interested in studying the Scriptures and the theology that comes with it, I highly recommend this class. Have a blessed week!

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "What a wonderful week the Lord gave us. We were very well attended in the Grace Groups, our connection groups, in three different cities of Northwest Arkansas. We can see how love and devotion to the Lord grows and the commitment is only by grace. In each meeting, we have a time of accountability, where we can get to know each other better, know the situations our brothers and sisters struggle with, intentionally pray for each other and learn the importance of each other that the Word of God speaks so much about.

"Saturday morning, the women's ministry, led by my wife, Patty went to clean the church and decorate it so it was ready for our Sunday service. They had a great time together and had a devotional, prayed and ate together.

"On Sunday, we had a very good attendance. We had our largest attendance in the children's Sunday School class with 11 children.

"We need a TV for the children's class and also an electro-acoustic guitar since the one we have is not working well.

"Blessings to you all, and we are grateful for your prayers."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "The theme this week was training! Along with that, let's add trusting God! One of the key components of how we're doing ministry at Epic Life is training leaders to be missionaries in their neighborhoods and networks. We have been calling them coaches. We have six who have committed to being coaches (three households). Since we launched, I have wanted to start training, but nothing has felt right. Then, two weeks ago, Amanda and I attended a training session with South City. A group doing ministry like we are, KC Underground, led the training. We decided we would try to lean into that group's terminology and training. We returned and shared that excitement with our group, and they got fired up about training. They asked for it! I didn't have to push it.

"We have our first official 'coaches' meeting this coming Sunday, but two coaches and I are taking a seven-week training with KC Underground via Zoom. It was a dream come true for two of the coaches to do that. Then, this weekend, I had the chance to go training with our Healthy Church Solutions team at CBC. On top of that, I'm in the middle of a nine-week leadership coaching class — lots of training.

"This week was also great in that we had a family who attended our worship night last week come to our preview night this week! You won't believe this, but the husband trains missionaries in Africa to use the same method we are. Oh, I forgot the most exciting thing this week — my daughters created a Bible trivia game and led one of the Connection Groups!"

El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville: Michael Hight writes, "The last couple of weeks have been a little slow due to the weather and some health issues, but I think we made some real progress on a meeting location. I met with a church that is centrally located between Jacksonville and Cabot. I am supposed to meet with the entire church next week. Please keep this in your prayers. The first meeting went very well."



Misión Creciendo en Cristo ladies display their paintings.



Misión Gracia Soberana children's Sunday School class.

JKMO Helps Reach the Lost Around the World

By Holly Meriweather

God meets the needs of BMA Global each year, particularly through your support of the **Jerry Kidd Missions Offering (JKMO)**. This annual giving campaign is vital because it provides almost 20% of our annual expenses. The JKMO is named for a man who loves missionaries, and, even in his retirement, he keeps up with all of them, both past and present. BMA Global's purpose is to love and care for our missionaries well, and this offering helps equip them in the fight for lost souls. Here are some stories from some of the areas where BMA Global is sharing the gospel:

• **Middle East** — With a large number of Muslims in the Middle East, those who serve this people group are careful not to attack Islam. Doing so only creates barriers to understanding and accepting the gospel. But there is one “language” that breaks those barriers — showing the genuine love and care Christ had for people during His earthly ministry. This is a love that touches people where they hurt. This is the language they speak as they minister to Muslims, even when it's obvious

they're attending church and making professions of faith just to receive something in return. Middle East Coordinator Charlie Costa shared, “In a volatile area such as the Middle East, our strategy is to stay in the thick and thin of circumstances. We accept war and conflict as one of the realities of the region, and, as bad as war is, we also consider it a great opportunity to spread the gospel in times of trouble. Grace has risks and takes risks.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of Muslims to genuinely commit their lives to Christ. Pray that missionaries, ChangeMakers and churches in the Middle East will continue being called to plant the seed, water the seed, then see growth and fruit through the Holy Spirit's work.

• **Africa and South America** — Most of their countries in Africa and South America have emerging economies and are struggling with where they stand politically. Are they socialists or capitalists? But what they have most in common is religion. Africa and South America Regional Coordinator John Michael Poulin shared, “While there are

many Catholics, particularly in South America, that's in name only, not in practice. The truth is that both continents are steeped in animistic beliefs. Both include witch doctors who believe they must appease their gods, and are trying to find gods they can control. This creates all kinds of barriers to the gospel. But God is faithful, and the gospel is breaking through their animistic culture.”

BMA Global has a rich history in both continents, South America being one of the first fields the BMA went into. They have established churches and associations and are beginning to send missionaries, but the greatest need is pastors and pastor training, especially in sound theology.

Sunday, Feb. 25, is the official date of the JKMO, but feel free to schedule it any day that works

for your church. We have free promotional resources and a pastor's polo available at the BMA Global website (bmamissions.org/jerrykiddmissionsoffering). From there, you can register and order materials online.

Can you help further the reach of the gospel around the world by giving to this special offering? Give through your church or online at tiny.cc/JKMO.



NO KING BUT CHRIST

BMA America National Meeting - April 16-18, 2024
Chateau On The Lake, Branson, MO

For more info or to register go to bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting



Dr. Clif Johnson
President



Point of Grace
Guest Artist



Mac Lake
Pastor's Conference



Pastor Kirk Shelton



James Schoenrock
Annual Message

Sunday, February 25 is World Missions Day

BMA GLOBAL

JERRY KIDD MISSIONS OFFERING 2024

With 400+ ChangeMakers planting over 400 new churches in 65 countries, you can be part of funding new churches worldwide! Celebrate BMA Global's growing church planting ministry and God's global mission.

Register your church at bmaglobal.org to order promotional materials, and receive a free pastor polo.

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!