

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

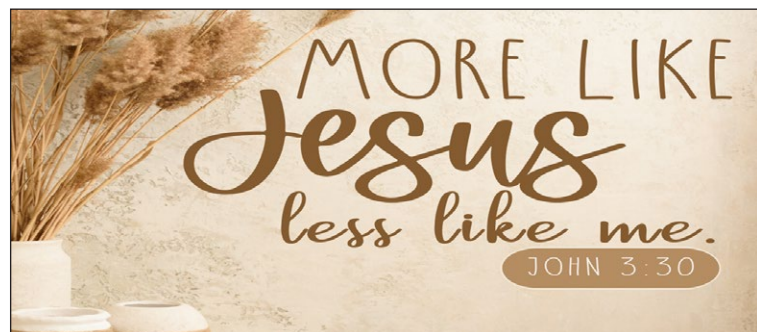
www.baptisttrumpet.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 84

February 7, 2024 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 19



## National WMA Conference

By Kelly Williams, National 2<sup>nd</sup> VP • WMA

The National Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) will meet on Wednesday, April 17, at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Mo. The 2023-2024 National Theme is "More Like Jesus, Less Like Me" from John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease." We are working to plan an amazing day for the ladies of the BMA.

Judy Wallace will be the keynote speaker during the morning session

— "Looking Unto Jesus." How do we reach the goal of living a life that exudes more of Jesus and less of me? It is by learning more about Him. Using Heb. 12:1-2 as our text and the book of Hebrews as our context, Judy will lead us on a study of our Lord Jesus Christ — who He is, why He is "better than" and what that means for our lives today.

After lunch, we will have several breakout sessions available, and you will be able to choose two to attend:

### • More Like Jesus in Ministry

— Yalanda Merrell is the director of Audience Engagement and blog writer at Lifeword Ministries, a media organization of the BMA. She and her husband, Shaun, live in Cherokee Village, where they work alongside their son, Hunter, to raise and train Labrador and golden retrievers. Join us in this unique ladies' breakout session as we unwrap the beautiful mission of Christ and discover how we can serve more like Jesus in our ministries — One King, One Mission, One You.

• **Pastors' and Missionaries' Wives Only** — A panel of pastors' wives will lead this discussion about the joys and challenges that face pastors' and missionaries' wives. We ask that only those who serve or have served in this capacity attend this breakout session. It will be led by Charlotte (Charles) Johnson, Kelly (Ken) Williams and Haley (Jacob) Norman. These

See WMA, Page 8

## In This Issue

10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (pg. 2)  
Discerning God's Direction (Part 3) (pg. 5)  
Don't Just Do Something, Stand There (pg. 3)  
Dr. Tony Cleaver Retires (pg. 5)  
Epic Story of Truth (Part 7) (pg. 6)

## How Do We Associate? Series (Part 5)

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

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 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 the Jan. 31 issue, we shared the stories of the two departments that help maintain the identity of our association — BMA Theological Seminary and Baptist Publishing House.

In this issue, we are sharing about two other national ministries that help churches extend the reach of what they could do on their own — Moral Action Agency and BMA Financial. (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 Dr. Steve Crawley,  
Executive Director

BMA Financial is an agency of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America located in Conway, Arkansas. I serve the agency as executive director, Mark Bradley serves as director of Insurance Services, Cherie Hall as Accounting & Administrative assistant, Ryan Johnson as chief development officer and Glenda Sellers as Human Resources coordinator. To keep costs low, these team members are classified as part-time employees but provide full-time care and support to those served.

The agency's mission is to assist BMA employees and churches in managing God's money, God's way, for God's glory. BMA Finan-

See FINANCIAL, Page 4



## Baptist Missionary Association Moral Action

By Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

Moral Action Agency represents the Baptist Missionary Association of churches in outreach to Washington, D.C. and state capitols. I present the spiritual desires of our churches to our elected officials. These face-to-face ministries allow God's Word to be planted in our Congress and local officials.

Moral Action is located in the offices of First Baptist Church in Mantachie, Miss. (P.O. Box 305, 38855). Our primary staff is Secretary Lynne Stewart, Bookkeeper Darla Adams and Web Page Manager Renae Starling. I have served as executive director since 2005.

Each year since 2005, Moral Action has helped students at the BMA Seminary and represented this ministry and local churches and associations through a scholarship fund. We invite you to give to the Moral Action/Dr. John M. Adams Scholarship Fund at the BMA Seminary. You can go to [bmats.edu/donate](http://bmats.edu/donate) and give to the Scholarship Fund or contact the seminary at (903) 586-2501.

One of the biggest milestone events in the history of Moral Action was when I led in prayer at the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 11, 2013.

We invite our churches and individuals to give to this worthy ministry. Our churches have given steady support over the years. This ministry is truly needed with the decline of our nation. Thank you for making this a viable effort of God's people. In 2024, we ask for your continued help. We will give glory to God in all we do.



## Help Us Validate Your Church Information

By John Meriweather, Director of Operations • BMA America



[bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey](http://bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey). It only takes a couple of minutes to review and update your information there.

You select the name of your church, review and update your information, if necessary, or just confirm. It's that easy!

You may also request a copy of your church information by email. For assistance, please contact Sidney Vines at [sidney@bmaglobal.org](mailto:sidney@bmaglobal.org) or (870) 826-7757.

We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, contact me at (844) 262-8637 or [john@bmaamerica.org](mailto:john@bmaamerica.org).








# CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

## PROFILE

**Central Baptist College**  
 1501 College Ave. • Conway, Arkansas 72034  
 (501) 329-6872 • (800) 205-6872 • www.cbc.edu  
 Twitter: @CentBaptCollege and @tkimbrow

Terry Kimbrow  
President

## CBC Announces New Trustees

The Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas, in their November 2023 annual meeting, elected four new members to serve five-year terms on the Central Baptist College Board of Trustees beginning in 2023. They are:

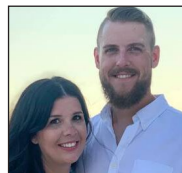
**Doug Brewer**, of Moore, Okla., is the senior pastor of Southgate Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., where he has served for 37 years. He attended Oklahoma City Community College and served on the Daniel Springs Encampment board and the BMA Missions Advisory Committee. Doug and his wife, Deanna, have three children (Sarah, Nathan and Rachel) and five grandchildren. This will be his third board term, having served 2005-2009 and 2017-2021.



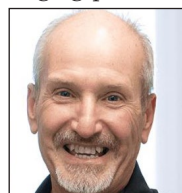
**Michele Corder**, of Plumerville, served over 20 years as a Mortgage Loan Specialist at Citywide Professional Lending in Conway, where she was part owner. She attended the University of Central Arkansas and obtained a travel degree from South Central Career College in Little Rock. She and her husband, Neil, have one son (Derek) and one daughter (Raegan). They attend Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Plumerville, where Michele serves on the worship team and plays the keyboard. Her father, Wayne Smith of Wayne Smith Trucking in Morrilton, served three terms on the CBC board, and Michele is proud to continue his legacy. This is Michele's second board term, having served 2018-2022.



**Chris Vines**, of Hope, has served as family pastor of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope for nine years. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Bible from CBC and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently serves on the board of the Baptist Publishing House and formerly served on the Arkansas State Publications (*Baptist Trumpet*) board. He and his wife, Sidney, have two children, Carson and Elliot.



**Bobby Stoner**, of Conway, has been the strategic account manager at A-Tech, Inc., in Tulsa, Okla., for the past 34 years, managing products and projects sold to accounts such as Tyson Foods. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Central Arkansas and is on the board of the Arkansas Poultry Federation. He serves on the Budget and Finance and Personnel Committees at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. He and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters (Haley and Sydney) and one grandson. This is Stoner's second board term, having served 2018-2022.



**Kelly Williams**, of McNeil, is a retired teacher who served six years as an adjunct faculty member, teaching business information systems at Southern Arkansas University of Magnolia. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Southern Arkansas University. She and her husband, Ken, are active members of First Baptist Church of McNeil, where he serves as pastor and she is a teacher of children and women. She has also served as worship leader and church secretary. She served twice as WMA state president and also served as District WMA president and as National WMA 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. Kelly and her husband have three children (Aaron, Jessica and Jennifer) and four grandchildren. This is Williams' first board term. She was elected to (2024-2026) serve a three-year term to complete the term of the late Mrs. Jenny Lindsey.



"I have been extremely blessed with strong leadership on the Board of Trustees," said CBC President Terry Kimbrow. "I'm looking forward to adding these men and women to the 20-member board and drawing on their expertise."

See CBC, Page 3



## Sports News

By Erik Holth

### Athletes of the Week

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 5** — The American Midwest Conference (AMC) announced their first athletes of the week for baseball and softball, and three CBC Mustangs were selected. **Josh Albat** won Pitcher of the Week in baseball, and **Hannah Work** earned Pitcher of the Week and **Lauren Anderson** earned Hitter of the Week in softball.

### Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 1** — Looking to continue their historic run in AMC play, CBC hosted the Cougars of Columbia College (CC) inside a packed and loud A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (18-4, 8-0 AMC) led by 15 at half and had to come back with clutch free throws in overtime to beat CC (16-5, 6-2 AMC) 77-76.

### Women's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 1** — Opening the second half of AMC play at home, CBC hosted the Cougars of CC inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (3-12, 2-8 AMC) led after one quarter, but were outscored 21-6 in the second and fell to CC (18-3, 10-1 AMC) 68-49.

### Baseball

• **Bryant, Feb. 2** — CBC was on the field for the first time this season on Friday at Bishop Field in Bryant for a doubleheader against the Champion Christian Tigers. CBC split the doubleheader, taking game one 10-2 before dropping game two 1-0. **Josh Albat** threw a gem in game one, earning the win with four innings of one hit baseball, striking out six and allowing just two unearned runs. **Julio Escobar** got the save, pitching the final three innings with three walks and three Ks. In the second game, **Gram Middleton** was good in his four innings, allowing just three hits and a walk while striking out four. **Jaxon Kirkhuff** allowed the only run in two innings of relief on just three hits with three Ks for the unfortunate loss.

### Softball

• **LeCompte, La., Feb. 2** — CBC started the season 2-0 after beating Dillard 26-0 and Arlington Baptist (ABC) 8-4 at the Louisiana Christian University Play Day. **Hannah Work** threw four hitless innings in the season-opener against Dillard, striking out four and earning her first win of the season. **Lauren Anderson** went 2-5 on the weekend with a home run, four RBIs, a walk and a hit by pitch. She posted a .571 on base percentage and slugged 1.000 to help CBC start the year 2-0.



## Student Ministry Matters

Phone: (479) 790-7808  
 bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com  
 www.StudentMinistryMatters.com

**Dan Carson**  
Director

**BMA of Arkansas Youth Department**  
 1410 North Porter Rd. • Fayetteville, AR 72703





## 10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask

We are big fans of books at the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department. Each year, we have tried to put good books into our attendees' hands at our annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat. This past year, Crossway gave us an exceptional deal on 100 copies of *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity* by Rebecca McLaughlin. That means every person who attended walked home with a free copy.

This year, we have secured some great deals from Christian Book Distributors, giveaways from Replicate Ministries and two free books from Truth For Life (Alistair Begg's ministry). And I'm not done asking yet. I hope you plan on joining us at Central Baptist College on Sept. 14 for another great day. Dr. Owen Strachan will be our featured speaker, with some great breakouts focused on discipleship. You can register at SMWR2024.eventbrite.com.

With Christian bookstores all but gone from the landscape, it can be difficult to determine good books for ourselves and our students. To help in this process, I hope to occasionally review books aimed at those in ministry or students. This week, I wanted to take a few moments and share my thoughts on McLaughlin's book.

*10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity* is a book for tweens and teens who are asking some of the big questions in life. It is designed to equip students with answers as they encounter some of the more difficult questions they may face in school or from their friends. Questions include "How can I live my best life now?", "Isn't Christianity against diversity?", "Can't we just be good without God?" and "Who cares if you're a boy or a girl?" McLaughlin does a great job presenting material that is readable and informative. She utilizes several pop culture references that help draw readers in as she provides sound theological arguments for these harder questions based on logic and God's Word.

As a reader, you may feel uncomfortable with her honesty. In the chapter "Why Can't We Just Agree Love is Love," she discusses biblical marriage, sex and attraction. She shares that she is tempted in the area of same-sex attraction, but realizes that God's guidelines for marriage and love don't allow for that. It is a temptation she must deal with. She goes on to share that if she were ever tempted to have an affair outside of her marriage, it would be with someone of the same sex. She mentions this later in the book as well. I appreciate her forthrightness in discussing this and her clear understanding of what God wants for her and everyone. Our students are hit with this type of information in so many places. It is good to hear someone write and discuss the sinfulness of this issue.

In chapter 10, the author points readers toward a relationship with God by discussing the subject of Heaven and Hell. While she speaks of eternal destiny, she doesn't speak of Heaven and Hell as destinations as much as needed. If you are leading your students through this chapter, you will want to have more firm biblical references on the subject.

If you are looking for a book about apologetics to read with your students or children, this is a great place to start. Our students need to be equipped as they face the realities of this world. They should be ready to stand and give an answer for the faith they embrace. Let's give them much of the Book and good books to help prepare them.





## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

P.O. Box 878 • Conway, Ark. 72033-0878  
(501) 455-4977 • larry@bmaam.com

LARRY BARKER, By Larry Barker, Regional Coordinator  
For Europe and North America • BMA Global

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



## Don't Just Do Something, Stand There

My dad was definitely a doer by nature. He loved being busy and making sure we were not just sitting around but doing something of significance. There were times when he was frustrated with our laziness and would say, "Get up and do something, even if it's wrong." Of course, he didn't mean the last part, but he wanted to see us being constructive.

In *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby stated, "We are a doing people. We always want to be doing something. Once in a while, someone will say, 'Don't just stand there, do something!' I think God is crying out and shouting to us, 'Don't just do something, Stand there!'"

God, first, desires a relationship with us where we get to know Him. He desires for us to adjust our lives and plans. Think of all the biblical commands to "be still" and to "wait on the Lord." Yes, a time is coming to be doing, working hard and being productive, but first, we are called to abide in Him. In the song *Abide*, by Aaron Williams, he wrote, "You're the way, the truth and the life. You're the well that never runs dry. I'm the branch, and You are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide." Abiding requires a commitment to intentionally build rhythms in your daily schedule to spend time in your secret place with Him. (Psalm 91:1; Matt. 6:6)

Abiding in His secret place is not about perfection; it is about progress. Eugene Peterson described following Christ as "a long obedience in the same direction." Abiding is not a competition, nor should it be about comparison; it is about commitment. It means to not just be busy but, instead, standing in His presence by faithfully pursuing Him and refusing to stop or quit. It is making a lifetime commitment to the secret place: a place of intimacy. It is Isa. 40:31 (ESV): "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Why are we so tired when He

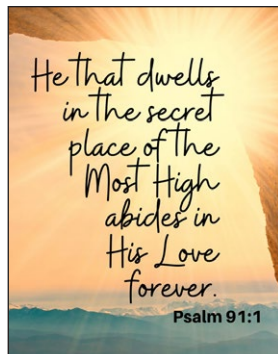
has promised to renew our strength and said we will "run and not be weary?" Abiding requires making God's priorities our priorities, making first things first. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, He stated very clearly, "... Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Serving others is listed clearly as "second." Loving God comes first, even before serving Him or others. Jesus then said in Matt. 22:38-39 (HCSB), "This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Loving and serving others is the second commandment. Jesus said it's like the first commandment in that it is very dear to His heart, and yet, He clearly placed it second. Jesus was prioritizing your relationship with Him as the greatest priority, and what you do for Him is second.

"Don't just do something, stand there." Why is this so important? When loving God gets your first strength, you will live in spiritual health and have the inner reserve to execute the second commandment well. When your priority is backward, you will give your first strength to other things that are likely to cause you to overextend, malfunction or even burn out. Before you even know it, you are done and ready to quit.

Ministry makes it easier to find your identity in what you do for Him (Second Commandment) instead of who you are in His presence (First Commandment). You are not primarily a worker for God. First and foremost, you are a child of God. You are a son first and a soldier second, always focusing on your intimacy and relationship with Him. Love comes before labor. Jesus wanted to know this from Peter, "Do you love me?" Love comes before labor, and the order is critical to your spiritual health. If necessary, the Holy Spirit is willing to turn our lives right-side-up so we get first things first again.

In Rev. 2:4 (NKJV), Jesus says to the church in Ephesus, "I have this



## MOVING with Ministers and Staff

To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at [www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com).

First Baptist Church of Caldwell is seeking a full-time pastor. Please submit resume to [garyhughes@cablelynx.com](mailto:garyhughes@cablelynx.com) or call (870) 494-5132.

## CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

CBC Board Officers for 2024 include: Chairman Kirk Shelton of Fayetteville; Vice Chairman Chris Vines of Hope; Secretary Kellie Harper of Sarepta, La.; and Assistant Secretary Lisa Speer of Conway.

against you, that you have left your first love." They are told to repent and listen to what the Spirit is saying to them. When He is finished correcting us, if we listen, we will be lovers who work rather than workers who love. The calling to the Secret Place is a calling back to our first love. He desires a people of one thing: the passionate pursuit of His face like David in Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."

Paul conveys this same "one thing" conviction in Phil. 3:13-14 (ESV), "But one thing I do..." pursuing "the upward call of God..." It was also the heart of Mary of Bethany in Luke 10:42 when Jesus said, "one thing is needed," which was to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His words. David's, Paul's and Mary's one thing was the same — the pursuit of a loving, intimate relationship with their Lord and Savior. Here is the difference — putting the second commandment first causes you to be energized by a project; placing the first commandment first causes you to be energized by a person (Jesus).

Yes, we are soldiers of Christ involved in high-level strategic warfare. We are called to fight the good fight of faith. We are laborers in His vineyard, working tirelessly in the harvest to bring all the wheat into His barn. But Jesus did not die on the cross and rise from the dead only to enlist an army or a labor force. We come to the secret place to receive our battle plans from the Commander and to regain strength for our day's labors in the fields, but even that is not the primary role of the secret place. The primary purpose is to protect us from and move us away from religious obligation and service to a close, personal, intimate relationship with Him!

## Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

(501) 804-6647 • [temitchell1946@gmail.com](mailto:temitchell1946@gmail.com)





## The Royalty of King Jesus

I was just thinking about the lyrics of the Gaither song, "The King is Coming!" How absolutely encouraging it is! It causes me to think about the royalty of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### His Birth

When the magi searched for the newborn king who had been prophesied, they went to the palace of Herod and approached the king, saying, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (Matt. 2:2 NIV). When they found Jesus with his family, they showered Him with gifts befitting a king, but He looked like a normal, healthy baby boy.

### His Splendor

Near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus told the apostles that some there with Him would not taste death before they saw Him appearing in His kingdom. Six days later, Peter, James and John experienced precisely that at the transfiguration of Christ atop a mountain.

Jesus was not going to be a future king — he was already King, the Sovereign Lord of all. That trio of apostles saw Him in glorious royalty. It was much like Moses seeing the train of God's glory from the cleft of the rock. "... His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light" (Matt. 17:2). Immediately, the men wanted to do what the Magi wanted — worship the King.

The Greek word for kingdom is "basileia." It can be translated as realm, royalty or even splendor. Indeed, on that mountain, as Peter, James and John saw Christ transfigured, they saw the royal splendor of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

### His Trial

Jesus verified His royalty before Pilate the night He was betrayed and brought to trial: "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37 NIV).

Again, I remind you, Jesus did not say He would become a king. He already was a king!

### His Triumph

The Revelation that John was later given tells us of Jesus one day returning and, when that occurs, He will be wearing many crowns, and His name is the Word of God. But added to that is this: "On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16 NIV).

### His Royalty

Unquestionably, Jesus is much more than we humans can comprehend this side of Heaven. But one thing we do know is that Jesus is the Sovereign over Heaven and Earth. He is the royal Son of God, and one day, every child of God will see the splendor of the King. Then, with Moses, the magi, Peter, James and John, we will bow and worship Him who has rescued us from the condemnation of sin.





## Jerry Kidd's Story: How He Arrived in Missions

Missionaries are sent and mission work is accomplished because, at some point, someone inspired those missionaries to take the teachings of God's Word seriously. As a result, they gave their whole life to the cause of Christ. Such is the story of Jerry Kidd, who soaked up the teachings of God for the purpose of sharing the Savior with those who need him.

It began in the small Arkansas town of Hope. There was a little church called Unity Baptist Church, and in that church, Jerry Kidd accepted Christ at the age of 12. It was the beginning of the journey in his relationship with Christ — one that is still growing and expanding today.

Throughout his teenage years, Bro. Kidd continued to grow in the faith, and while he was attending Southern State College in Magnolia, he surrendered his life to the ministry. After meeting and marrying his wife, transferring to Central Baptist College and graduating with a Bible degree, Bro. Kidd received his first pastoral position at Eastside Baptist Church in Springhill, La. But this was just the beginning of the Kidds' ministry.

"In 1967, we felt led to go into mission work in the United States," said Bro. Kidd. It was called interstate missions, and we became interstate missionaries. We moved to Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., to work with a mission church there, and we were there for five years."

After having been involved in interstate missions for several years, the Kidds felt God leading them overseas to continue their missions work. They were ready to embark on the journey to foreign missions with God's leading.

"That year, 1972, we went to the missions committee, but they weren't sending out missionaries that year," remembered Bro. Kidd. "So we went to LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, which was a missionary technology school."

Bro. Kidd recalls that during their time at LeTourneau, he studied to get his pilot's license and took courses in auto mechanics, paramedics and FCC (Federal Communications Commission,

which regulates all interstate communications). In addition, he earned his HAM license, which is an amateur radio license. On top of these courses and more, he was pastoring Ware Acres Baptist Church (now named Camille Acres).

"In 1973, we were elected to go to Bolivia. We chose Bolivia because of a missionary that was working in Bolivia (Marvin Lloyd) who came and shared with me the need of a missionary pilot in Bolivia. That's what I was wanting to do and what I felt God was calling me to do, so we made that choice," said Bro. Kidd.

During 1973, the Kidds were on deputation, raising funds for their ministry. They needed the funds to buy an airplane and get equipment into Bolivia. God provided the funds for their ministry, and on Nov. 8, 1973, they began the drive all the way to Bolivia. It was a three-month journey. They did not arrive at their Bolivian destination until February 8, 1974.

"It's a story indeed," quipped Bro. Kidd as he began to tell the perilous tale of their journey to the South American nation:

"Basically, in every country we went through, we were stopped at customs. We had a large freight truck, the kind where the doors raise up in the back, and it was loaded with supplies for us and Marvin Lloyd, who was already living there. So, the truck was loaded, and I also drove a pickup truck that had a 12-foot camper on the back of it. This was where my family lived. We also pulled behind a 16-foot camper for Lloyd and his family!

"So, every border we crossed, they had to inspect us. They'd never seen anything like that, and there were all kinds of complications. They would put locks and guards on the truck. Just going through all the different countries slowed us down.

"The main reason we were slowed down, though, is because our travel was during a fuel crisis. And when we got to Panama, since there was no road from Central America into South America, we had to put our rigs and trucks on a boat and ship them around the coast of South America. But the fuel crisis caused

the ships to come to the Panama Canal and just stop. They didn't have enough fuel to go on through, so they were stopping. It was impossible to get a ship that was going around the coast. We were there for 33 days.

"The problem was, we had 30-day Visas. We were scheduled to leave on the 30<sup>th</sup> day and fly to Ecuador. The flight was scheduled at 11:30 at night, but it was delayed, so our Visas expired, and they wouldn't let us leave. Instead of flying out that night, we had to go into town and get an extension, which took three days. Finally, after that, we could leave.

"So, we flew to Quito, Ecuador, and took buses from Ecuador to Peru, where the ship had docked and had our rigs and truck. Then the rainy season began, and the roads were not passable up through the Andes Mountains. We had to put our truck and trailers on a train to carry them to the top of the mountain that borders Peru and Bolivia, where there was a lake. From there, they had an old steamship that we were able to put our things on and take them to Bolivia, where we were able to start driving again.

"Before we were able to start driving, though, we had to stay on top of the flat cars on that train for one week, because they were having a military coup in Bolivia, so we couldn't go into the country. After that, when we finally got into the country, they took all our things away and put them in customs for weeks until we could get our paperwork done. Finally, we were able to drive down to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where we were going to live and work."

After three months of travel delays, the Kidds arrived at their home for the next eight years where the gospel was proclaimed, disciples were made and countless stories were shaped.

In 1982, they came back to the United States on furlough and attended the BMA National Meeting. There Jerry Kidd was nominated as the assistant director of foreign missions. He took the position and moved back to the States with his family to serve in that capacity.

"We had never, in the BMA, had anyone who had specifically given full attention to the foreign missionaries, and so, I began to work with them," said Kidd. "Through the course of the years, my position changed to director of international missions, and then I transitioned to director of missionary care."

After 8 years on the mission field and 35 years serving other missionaries, Bro. Kidd is now retired from the Department of Missions and serves on staff at South City Church in Little Rock as the Missional Engagement Pastor.

## FINANCIAL (Continued From Page 1)

cial, through its strategic partners, offers resources to aid both the pastor/staff and services to help the church at large.

Created in its existing structure in April of 2023, the agency combines the former Ministers Resource Services, Ministers Benevolent Society, Auxiliary Benevolent Society and the BMA Foundation into a single entity. By incorporating these financial services under the BMA Financial umbrella, the organization is striving to streamline operations, enhance efficiency and reduce overhead expenses.

The flagship service of BMA Financial is providing a qualified 403(b)(9) denominational retirement plan to its constituents. Any BMA church or entity is eligible to participate and take advantage of fully-vetted investment options and an array of other unique benefits derived from the plan. Further, the agency provides insurance services for BMA ministers and employees that encompass coverages for health, life, accidental death & dismemberment and disability. Risk Management Insurance is available to churches through a strategic partnership with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. Comprehensive payroll services are offered through a low-cost arrangement with MinistryWorks. Moreover, the BMA Foundation provides the association with investment and man-

## Opportunities For Service

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

**Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Mineola, Tex.** is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 5848 S. State Hwy. 37, Mineola, Tex. 75773 or mpmbc.mineola@gmail.com.

agement of funds to perpetuate the work of BMA departments through direct contributions, charitable gift annuities and estate planning.

The greatest current challenge is persuading the decision-making body within BMA churches to utilize existing services. The association is stronger when its churches work together. The more BMA churches and entities that participate, the better the agency can take advantage of economies of scale and serve their constituents with lower costs and better benefits. The primary goals for this year are to determine how to reduce costs further to operate the agency and to increase participation in the agency's services.

Our team would relish meeting with your church or associational entity to discuss how we might serve you through BMA Financial. We desire to serve those who serve!

For more information on BMA Financial, you can find us on the web at [bmafinancial.org](http://bmafinancial.org).

## Baptist Trumpet

(USPS 043-720)

(ISSN 0888-9074)

Published by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas; sponsoring Missions, Benevolence and Christian Education.

**JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor**  
[editor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:editor@baptisttrumpet.com)

P.O. Box 192208 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208  
Telephone (501) 565-4601 • Fax Line (501) 565-NEWS  
(Note: An answering machine on the 565-4601 line will take messages after regular working hours — Monday-Thursday)  
[www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com)

**ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor**  
[associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com)  
(mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

**Subscription Rate:** \$39.00 per year (87¢ per issue)  
**Church Plan Subscribers:** \$36.00 per year (80¢ per issue)

Published weekly except for the week of New Year's and one week in April, May, July, September, November and December. Periodical postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. Editorial offices at 10712 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Baptist Trumpet*, P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the churches of the BMA.



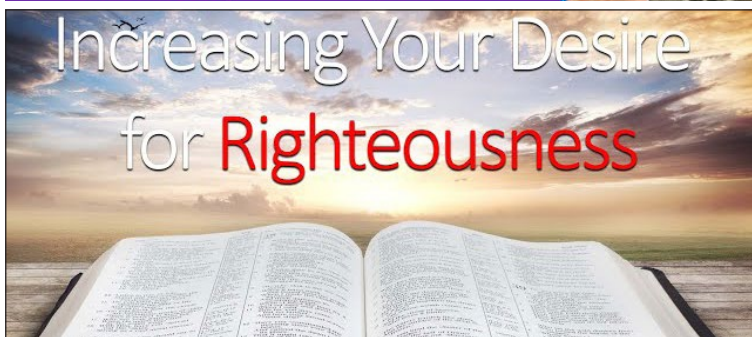
Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access our website.



Like us on Facebook for late-breaking up-to-date news



**Spinning My Gears**  
*a young pastor's perspective*  
**Derrick A. Bremer, Pastor**  
**Denver Street Baptist Church**  
 derrick@dsmbc.org • (479) 544-7153  
 P.O. Box 1669, Greenwood, Ark. 72936



## Discerning God's Direction in 2024 (Part 3): Increasing Our Desire for Righteousness

Developing an appetite for the Word and maintaining an awareness of God's presence in our lives are two major variables that indicate whether a believer is growing closer to God. Discerning God's direction for our lives will be difficult without this desire and understanding. For the past two weeks, my articles have been playing off the analogy of a car's dashboard to describe what kind of gauges exist to direct a closer walk with God in the new year. This week's article will discuss the final gauge, **an increasing desire for righteousness**.

The late Dr. Howard Hendricks contends, in his classic work *Teaching to Change Lives*, that the goal of Christian education is not to impart knowledge. His argument is framed by presenting two opposites. In most areas of education, the opposite of ignorance is knowledge. However, obedience is the opposite of ignorance when dealing with spiritual matters. It is worth adding that striving for obedience without an awareness of God as personal and present in our lives and a strong appetite for the Word of God is dangerous. Most of the time, the errors that present themselves without an awareness of God or appetite for His Word can be classified as legalism. When we closely monitor all three gauges simultaneously, we can appreciate the most exciting dial on our instrument cluster, the MPH. Again, we'll reorient this meaning for our spiritual dashboard to form a new acronym.

• **Measuring righteousness by the Word** is the meaning of the first letter. Saying we should increase our desire for righteousness to discern God's will for our lives can be a misleading exhortation if the meaning of **righteousness** isn't defined. Our society has, by and large, embraced

the idea that what is right and wrong changes from person to person. Indeed, areas where individual Christian liberty comes into account exist. But the standard of righteousness is not vague or changing. The standard of righteousness found in the Bible is descriptive and unchanging. To pursue righteousness in our lives, Christians must allow the Bible to be their only measurement for comparison.

In the last three months of 2023, a new at-home Bible study began to take shape with several young adults. January is the first month we've started to dive into the material I use to familiarize new believers with the faith. Why has it taken us three months to get to our starting point? Because we needed to lay a foundation of the basic principles for studying the Bible by ourselves and establish that the only authority is the Bible itself. I've made the mistake of rushing through this foundation before. The result has been miniature debate sections about biblical perspectives. By rooting our new Bible study group in the authority of Scripture, we hope to avoid these issues in the future.

• The P in MPH stands for **practicing the Word**. The easiest step to neglect in Bible study is the application of the Word to one's life. Reading the Bible and hearing great sermons are a means to an end in themselves. They aren't the goal. Just reading the Word will not make a person a more mature Christian; neither will sitting under the finest preaching since Pentecost. Christians who draw nearer to God regularly make personal applications from the text they sit under.

We should be careful not to rush to application before understanding a passage's original meaning and intent. Running the application too early will lead to a superficial

## Master's Builders Retreat 2024

By Nelda Malone, Reporter

The Master's Builders gathered for our annual retreat at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp on Jan. 23-26. It was a wonderful time for fellowship, food, fun and relaxation for all of us. We had 29 Builders who were able to attend this year. Because of extreme cold and dangerous driving conditions the week before, the date was moved from Jan. 16 to Jan. 23, which caused several couples to miss our time together. They were missed very much by all. We did have two first-time "retreaters" — Billy and Dawanna Keys from DeValls Bluff. This sweet couple joined our group this past year and formerly worked in the Nail Benders Ministry (a similar ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention).

While at the retreat, we had our annual business meeting and learned of the possible opportunities to serve we have coming up this year. These will be updated on our Facebook page as we prepare to work. The Lord has blessed us with a full calendar for 2024, with several new buildings to build and additions and repairs to others.

A special thank you to each of you who pray for this ministry. Please come and join us if we are in your area. Our first job will be March 4-15 at StoneRidge Baptist

response to the Word. Once we have understood the text we're looking at, we must apply it. The easiest way to ensure we apply Scripture to our lives is to answer two questions — "What will you do?" and "When will you do it?" Instead of being general, adding flesh to the bones moves us closer to fulfilling our intention and obeying the Word.

• **Honoring the Word** is the final letter of our acronym. The best way to do this is to remind ourselves of what the Bible is. It is more than an anthology of over 40 authors spanning over 1,000 years. The Holy Spirit carried along each author to inscribe each word. Despite the vast period to complete all 66 books, each works harmoniously to deliver the best news ever. Unlike most "open letters" used to provide such news, the Bible is not mindlessly intended to work as a catch-all. Instead, the divine Author masterfully intended the Bible to be delivered personally to all those who belong to Him. My favorite definition of the Bible is a love letter delivered to you. When we cherish the Word of God the way we do a personal letter, we honor it rightly. Doing so gets our gears spinning to pursue righteousness with the right intention. It is impossible to grow in holiness without the grace of God.



Camp in Smithville. We would love to have you come to help or just pop in to visit and see what this ministry is about!

A big "thank you" to Jason Prewitt, camp director at Daniel Springs, for hosting our group. We ask you to pray for his camp and our group as we strive to serve the Lord and further His kingdom. Please pray for workers to help with this ministry and join our family. The

blessings are abundant!

If you have any questions about the Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877, David Axe at (903) 918-0720 or Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675.

Follow us on Facebook and see where we are and what we're doing — like us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo).

## Dr. Tony Cleaver Retires From BMA Seminary

Dr. Tony Cleaver, professor of Biblical Studies and Director of Distance Education, retired from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary at the end of 2023 after more than 13 years of service to the seminary.

Cleaver's contribution to the seminary is difficult to overstate. According to Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President, "Dr. and Mrs. Cleaver have been incredibly supportive of the seminary's ministry, both professionally and financially, during my time as seminary president."

Vice President and Dean Philip Attebery emphasized that "Dr. Cleaver was essential to the formation and initiation of BMAT's online distance education and critical to the ongoing quality and maintenance of BMAT's distance education. Students have repeatedly expressed their appreciation and admiration for Dr. Cleaver's skill and encouragement as a professor. The Lord used Dr. Cleaver to put BMA Seminary on the cutting edge of theological distance education." Holmes added, "We are all grateful that Dr. Cleaver remains available for consultation when needed."

In response to news of Cleaver's retirement, the Board of Trustees' Academic Committee "expressed its appreciation for Dr. Cleaver's unique and extraordinary contribution to BMA Seminary during his time, especially as it pertains to distance education."

Cleaver began his employment with BMA Seminary following years of serving in the pastorate and as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. Cleaver's higher education includes the B.A. and M.S. Ed. degrees from Baylor University, the M.Div. from BMA Seminary and the D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary.

Cleaver has authored numerous books and is well-known for his articles entitled "Leave it to Cleaver" that appear in the *Baptist Trumpet* and other newspapers associated with the BMA.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.







## The Epic Story of Truth (Part 7): Land Promised, More Rebellion but Promise of Help

In sharing these articles and telling the Bible as one complete narrative, I hope we can see how prophecy and God's continued plan for Israel fit into Scripture. I also hope the story of truth in Scripture becomes larger, and I hope details in Scripture that don't seem to make sense or seem irrelevant today in light of the Gentile church become as relevant as they truly are within God's plan for the ages.

One of the main topics in the Old Testament that seems completely irrelevant to the Gentile church is the emphasis placed on the land. Have you ever thought about that? The land seems like only an Old Testament thing or just an Israel thing, making it seem completely irrelevant for us, the Gentile church, today. But if it is such a meaningless issue for us, why would that subject dominate so much of the Bible?

In the next article, we'll come back to the relevance for us today, but first, let's bring the issue of the land into the narrative. Two articles back, we left off at the Tower of Babel and Moses' additional insight that's recorded in Deuteronomy, in which it's written that Moses said God gave away the people on earth to these prince angels (Paul calls them principalities or rulers of the air in Ephesians 6). Then God created His own people, His portion or His inheritance through the calling of Abraham. God's family would become the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — the Israelites.

Since God formed a new people, He then had to give them land — a home. Part of giving away the people at the Tower of Babel was that people were divided into nations and sent to different territories. This account

is found in Genesis 10.

God wants His people to have a territory and has one in mind when He starts His new people. When He called Abraham, He revealed that there was already a property picked out and called Abraham to go there: *"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you'"* (Gen. 12:1 NIV).

The necessity of the land came back to the discussion when God sent Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. He pointed them back to this specific property set aside for His new people: *"So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey — the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites"* (Exod. 3:7-8).

God picked a land for His people. In His infinite wisdom, He chose the land we know as Israel today. The land was promised unconditionally — the descendants of Jacob weren't required to do anything for the land, but God wanted His people to be holy as He is holy. Though the land is God's and for His people, the land is used throughout history as a tool to guide His people to holiness.

On their way to the Promised Land, God brought His people to Mount Sinai, where He made a covenant with them. He gave them the Law and, if they stuck to their end of that covenant, they would be blessed and live in the land; but if they disobeyed the Law, they would be cursed and removed from the land: *"For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands,*

*decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess"* (Deut. 30:16-18).

After spending 40 years in the wilderness or desert, the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament and the gospels, we read about the struggle God's people had in living in the land. Again, the land was theirs, but they must obey the Law to live in it. The history that unfolds in the Old Testament tells of repeated cycles of obedience and enjoying living in the land, then disobedience, warnings from prophets to return to God and then repentance. As time went on, the sin of Israel continued, despite the warnings of the prophets. The prophets reminded Israel of the covenant made with God. Yes, He had given them the land, but to enjoy it, they had to obey. Prophets warned if Israel didn't turn back to God, they would be removed from the land.

What the prophets warned would happen happened. First, the 10 tribes in the north would not repent and were taken captive by the Assyrians and led out of the land. This was followed by the same thing happening to the southern kingdom of Judah. After their unwillingness to turn from their sin and idols and turn to God, the Babylonians were allowed to invade and carry the Jews off to Babylon. Their disobedience led to their being removed from the land, just as God had warned.

Though they were removed, God kept His promise that the land was for His people. Even though they were exiled from the land, God gave them hope. In that hope, we get a hint of how the land connects to the greater picture. During the Babylonian invasion, the prophet Jeremiah gave a comforting promise of a New Covenant. Through this New Covenant, they'd be equipped to obey the law and live in the land. This term of the new covenant hits home to us, the Gentile church. It is here where we can find the intersection of the land and us today. We'll look at this intersection in the next article.

Dive into the Epic Story yourself by reading Genesis 10-12 and Deuteronomy 30.

— *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)*



## God Gives the Increase

By Susie Edgar

We were preparing for our yearly revival at church and, after selecting our evangelist (Larry Markin), we were excited to hear what the Lord would send through our revival. There were only 10 more than our usual attendance the first night, but Larry preached with much vigor and anticipation. I couldn't help but enjoy what the Lord had to say that evening.

On Tuesday night, there were 20 more in attendance. And Larry, as he had done the night before, preached a very uplifting and encouraging message.

Wednesday came and Larry was having dinner with us before the service. With our normal dinner conversation, I put the question to Bro. Larry, "Do you ever get discouraged driving so far just to preach to under 50 people?" He replied "Oh no, I prepare to preach to 500 every time I preach, then I am ready for as many as show up."

That was a great encouraging time in my life because, from then until now when I prepared to speak, I prepare for 500 and I am ready for ever how many show up. It's amazing the feeling you get by just being ready for whatever God is going to do. If few show up and you see nothing happen, don't forget the promises in I Corinthians and Isaiah:

• *"So then neither is he that planteth anything neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase"* (I Cor. 3:7). We see from eyes on earth, but He sees from eyes with a view of heaven and His glory.

• *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"* (Isa. 55:11).

The Lord has a message. It's not our message. We are called to speak, and He will accomplish that which He pleases with it and it will not return to Him void. It will prosper.

His Eye Is On The Sparrow — "Why should I feel discouraged,

Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely,  
And long for Heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear, And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears, Tho by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see; Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

When song gives place to singing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him; From care He sets me free; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me; Chorus: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me. I sing because I'm happy. I sing because I'm free For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." (Lyrics by Civilla Durfee Martin)

It's so important to read His Word because it contains a map for us to follow. God is a communicating God, speaking words to me as I am attentive to Him. He is available at all times, and He is unchanging. Sounds to me like a safe person to follow.

How many people do you know that are unchanging, accessible at all times and died that you might live?

By studying His Word, we learn to recognize His voice and His patterns for living and serving. We develop deeper faith and confidence, and it changes us more and more into His image from one degree of glory to another.

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* (Psalm 119: 11).

May I be a joy to you, Lord.  
— *These articles are shared via the National WMA web page blog that can be accessed at nationalwma.org/blogs.*



**David Dawayne Glasco**, 77 of Jonesboro, passed away Jan. 27. He was a veteran and member of Valley View Baptist Church.

**Check Out The Trumpet Archives at**  
**baptisttrumpet.com**





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

**Missionaries**

Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752  
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388  
 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  
**MICHAEL HIGHT, HISPANIC COORDINATOR; (501) 326-0198**  
**DONNA WEBB, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
 E-Mail: bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com • Phone: (501) 565-4601  
 Office Location: 10712 Interstate 30 • Little Rock, AR 72209  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 195514, Little Rock, AR 72219  
 www.bmaARmissions.com  
 Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



**PAUL WHITE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
arstamis@comcast.net

## Roman 3:23

Sunday morning's message centered around Jonah and the decisions he made. The things that stood out to me were:

• **Jonah chose to say "no" to God's leading.** While not a very smart move, it no less reveals that Jonah had an opportunity to choose to willfully disobey, just as we do. But I wonder if he considered the ramifications of his actions for one minute. Mankind does not often take the time to consider the penalty and cost of their decisions in respect to God's leading. Surely a person would not change their future and the future of others by being defiant, yet it happens every day. Jonah knew he was to blame for the storm and the loss of the cargo and riggings as the others worked diligently to lighten the ship. It would be good if, the next time you are tempted to disobey God, you would stop long enough to count the cost.

• **Jonah's message was one of coming judgment as God had had enough.** Jonah did not want to go to this group of people. He disliked them and it would be fine with him if they perished instead of repenting. Do we find ourselves passing judgment on those who are not like us? We see Jonah pouting because they heard God's message and turned from their wickedness.

To preach the whole council of God, sometimes it is necessary to explain to people that God is holy and will not look upon sin, how deeply sin offends our Lord and how important it is to tell individuals that God does not mince words. When He says sin has separated you from the love of God, that is exactly what He means. Our message may offend many because they cannot endure the truth. Paul said if they preach any other gospel than the one we shared with you, turn away.

## From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "Sayra and her team in Sunday School have set out to teach children their duty with the Great Commission. They do not want children to just color, but at an early age to understand that they must share their faith. There are some children who need special attention due to their ADHD, dyslexia or Down Syndrome, which is an additional challenge. Please pray for wisdom so the sisters do their jobs to the best of their ability."

"There is a special case of three siblings — two girls and their little brother — who came to church on a vaccination day. They have been victims of bullying at school because of their shyness, consequently they are extremely reserved, none of them wanted to speak when they first came. Then they started congregating with us and now they ask their mother to bring them to church. It is incredible how displays of sincere love can create a safe environment for children so they will long to come to the house of God."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:**

Ruben Isturiz writes, "Last Tuesday was our last home to visit and pray. We were in the home of Victor Ahmed. He invited his family members, and it was a good opportunity to connect with them."

"We finished the month of January and now, in February, our task is to activate the Berean Groups (home groups) to be praying so that this year we will have many more places to sow the precious seed."

"We continue to have a series of messages in the book of Acts. We are taking advantage of the fact that there are new people arriving who do not know what a church is."

"Last Sunday, we were expanding on the brothers of Jesus. Some with Catholic backgrounds were amazed that Acts 1 mentions Jesus had more brothers. Keep praying that God will continue to guide us on how to take the gospel to new people."

"My schedule is very busy with two ministries, and I must be wise in how I manage my time. Pray for God's wisdom in being a good steward of time, talent and treasure. May God be glorified in our midst!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "What a great week we had at Faith Chapel! Our num-

bers were back up, even with several out and, for the second week in a row, the Lord added to His church. Two more of our faithful visitors joined our mission and became members. Praise God! They are actually our close neighbors too, so we are very happy the Lord led them to us and to this decision!"

"We had a beautiful week weather wise, and this next one is forecasted to be the same. I keep saying this, but we are still waiting on drywall for the new building. But we are patient and know the Lord will have us in there when it is time for us to be in there."

"We thank you again for all of your prayers and support. We are amazed every week by the faithfulness and generosity of God's people in this association to support His work here in Flippin, and we are committed to doing the same as we plant here, with every intention of supporting other works as they are sent. We hope and pray that we will be able to raise up and send a missionary from here as well. Please keep praying for us and for this community. God is answering your prayers, and we will continue to pray for you as well."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "Faith Journey took the opportunity to get out in the community this week. I was able to meet with one of our local campuses to talk with them on how we can better serve any needs they may have. We are currently helping to keep their food pantry stocked and are working on getting them hygiene type items for students that may need them. Hopefully, we will have more chances to be of service to them and their students in the future."

"Our worship leader and his wife have a heart for overseas mission work, namely the country of Belize. Roy and Melanie Hale created 3H Ministries to be able to share God's love and the gospel with this group of wonderful, hardworking people. They travel to Belize often, this year in May and June, and would love to have people join them who want to share Jesus with others. 3H Ministries spreads hope, healing and happiness through this life-

changing mission. If anyone would like more information, please reach out and we will share their contact information with you! We are all on the same mission to share Jesus and grow the kingdom of God. Please keep missionaries in your prayers as they continue to do the work the Lord has called them to do in the lives of others."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "I am so excited to inform you of all God is doing through our mission with Hispanics in the Northwest part of the state. We see people coming every week to our discipleship groups and to our Sunday service, the glory be to God. Our goal is to make disciples, so every week we meet in the homes to disciple men, women and children. There are 25 people who meet every week to pray together, have a time of accountability and learn the biblical principles we teach them."

"The people who came to our Grace Group in Springdale are a couple who have just arrived in the city with a newborn baby and have nowhere to live. I asked the brothers who were gathered to stop the meeting and we prayed and looked for a solution to the situation these people were living in, and managed to get them to stay in the house of a sister from our congregation."

"In our Sunday service, we had seven guests and one of them was very interested in starting to disciple himself. I consider this to be a response from God since we pray for men who want to commit themselves to serve the Lord."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "Well, shoot! That's how I feel about this past Sunday. I was so pumped because our eight coach (leader) families (which includes us) were to gather in our house to start training. We also had three others coming to learn about coaching. This would give us 11 families working as missionaries in their neighborhoods and training to lead a Connection Group. That excited me! It had been a long time coming, but when we went to bed Saturday night my daughter started coughing, she woke up with fever and flu symptoms. We knew we couldn't have it at the house. This meeting was so important, so we talked about me leading it at our rented space, Room 161, or another home. But after praying through it, I felt it was important that Amanda and I lead the meeting together, not just me. The way we're doing ministry at Epic Life, we're not extracting individuals out of families. Being missionaries in our neighborhoods and networks starts with us being missionaries in our homes. It's important to me that we move at a

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

**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.

**Gospel Singing;** May 19, 5 p.m.; featuring The Representatives; Barney, Enola; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

**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.

pace that families move together, so our meeting has been postponed.

"Though the meeting didn't happen, this was still a great week. We had a record number in our Woodbridge Group, with a new family joining for the first time. Our Garfield Group had a great night as they do a meal once a month, which adds to their fellowship. Three of us continued in the ongoing training with the KC Underground."

**El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville:** Michael Hight writes, "This week, the rain has kept us from doing a lot of visiting, but Sunday I was able to attend church with a group I feel like will let us use part of their facilities when we begin having corporate worship. I enjoyed meeting the church and wish them the best as they are struggling."

"On another note, I ask for your earnest prayers on my behalf. The autoimmune illness I had in March of last year, partially due to a tick bite and COVID-19, has now combined to affect my heart activity and respiratory functions. The cardiologist told me there was no one in the state who could help me, and that I really needed to go to the Mayo Clinic. The one in Arizona has my medical records and is reviewing my case to see if they can help or are willing to see me. We really need a break in this area as this has been very difficult these past few months. God has a plan, and we are trying to walk by faith, not by sight. Pray for a divine breakthrough!"



## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**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. Dist. Brotherhood;** April 8, 6:30 p.m.; Church at Willow Beach, No. Little Rock.

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

**United District WMA;** July 13; Hattiesville, Hattiesville.

## Reports — from the — Churches

**Antioch, Conway** reports 20 by baptism, 18 by letter and 6 by statement since last report; Dr. Jason Aultman, pastor.

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

**Brister, Emerson** gained one by baptism; Dr. Eric Goble, pastor.

**Celebration, Haskell** received one by baptism; Allan Eakin, pastor.

**Dickinson, Harrell** welcomed two by letter; Paul Outlaw, pastor.

**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge** added one by letter; John Durham, pastor.

**Providence, Hope** witnessed one by baptism and two by letter; Casey Curtis, pastor.

**Shiloh, McRae** rejoices over three by baptism; Rodger Cole, pastor.

**Victory, Hampton** gained three by baptism; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

## WMA

(Continued From Page 1)

ladies have many years of experience in this place of service.

• **More like Jesus in Relationships** — Sharon Carter is from McNeil, and owns her own business as a consultant and lecturer for Optometry. For 26 years, she has traveled all over the U.S. and Canada with her company, Eye Care Optometric Consulting, educating and motivating doctors and their staffs. One of the key tools in her success with her teams is the ability to find the right personality for the right position. That is even more important in ministry as it can mean the difference in someone choosing to be in the kingdom of God or not. This class explains the strengths and weaknesses of each personality and how God can best use those personalities to further His work.

• **More like Jesus through suffering** — Judy Biggers lives in Springfield, and has been married to her high school sweetheart, Gus, for 43 years. She says, "We have three beautiful daughters, two we hold here on earth, and one God holds in Heaven." The Son of God is called "A Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Even in grief, we do not lose hope in God! This hope in God's

redemption and ultimate victory allows us to grieve well. This good grief is the action of faith on our road home.

• **Hispanic Ladies Breakout Sessions** — The first session will be "Relaciones personales con otros" and the second session will be "El discipulado" led by Wendy Fontina de García.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9

a.m. We will end the day by 2:45 p.m. so the ladies can attend the BMA meeting that starts at 3 p.m.

Lunch at the Chateau during the meeting will be served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$25. If you plan to stay for lunch, please send \$25 to Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, Mo. 65560. Make your checks payable to National WMA.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

**BMAA National Meeting**  
**Branson, Missouri**  
**April 16-18**  
For more information visit  
[baptisttrumpet.com/BMAA2024](http://baptisttrumpet.com/BMAA2024)



## WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

CBC'S ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION IS SEEKING TO FILL THE  
FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Director of Admissions

Personal Admissions Officer

TO APPLY, VISIT [CBC.EDU/JOBS](http://CBC.EDU/JOBS)

DAVID T. WATKINS  
ACADEMIC BUILDING

# 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](http://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!