

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## No King But Christ: Whose Kingdom is Shaping You?

By Dr. Clif Johnson, President • BMA of America

Several months ago, some college presidents from “elite” universities were invited to a congressional hearing on Capitol Hill to discuss steps being taken to address the rise in antisemitism on college campuses. In what seemed to be a straightforward question — if calling for the genocide of the Jewish people violated their college’s code of conduct — the presidents

delivered not-so-straight answers. They seemed to dance around the question, using lawyer language and the need to discern the context of the particular situation in which the genocide was being demanded.

Genocide is the intentional extermination of a particular group of people. So, the gist of the question that was posed to the college presidents was, “If students on your campus were publicly calling for the deliberate extermination of the Jews, could you, as an administration, take disciplinary action against those calling for the genocide?” This is a straightforward, “yes” or “no” question, that deserves a straightforward, “yes” or “no” answer. But that type of answer was not given by any of the college presidents.

I know the need for the carefully parsed word that is given in public. Nuance and qualifications are meant to clarify, guard and sharpen answers. But little to no qualification is needed when the question is, “Should a college administration be able to bring disciplinary action on students or student groups who publicly call for the elimination of a whole race of people?” The answer is always, “yes.”

What is going on in America when the supposedly most educated people, leading the elite universities, have this much trouble discerning

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## How Do We Associate? Series (Part 6)

By Jeff Herring, Executive Director

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 the two oldest ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas — State Missions and the *Baptist Trumpet*.

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, the 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 the Feb. 7 issue, we are shared about two national ministries that help churches extend the reach of what they could do on their own — Moral Action Agency and BMA Financial.

In this issue, we are wrapping up this series by sharing about the ministries that seek to reach the next generation with the gospel — the Arkansas Youth Department, Central Baptist College and Daniel Springs Camp. (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 Dan Carson, Director

The Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas Youth Department is the “little engine that could.” Since its inception in the 1980s, the department has invested in a variety of ministry efforts. The Liquid Lock-In and the Encounter Teen Bible Conference were among those youth-focused activities of the early days. Even in moments when the department went through some moments of struggle, there has never been a desire to draw it to a close. We all know how important it is to reach the next generation.

Over the past several years, we developed a plan to love on our student ministry workers and to help them as they seek to impact the next generation for Jesus. That is what we have done and continue to do. We seek to expand the conversation through social media and our podcast, “Student Ministry Matters.” We also love providing an annual one-day retreat/conference that provides connection

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By Terry Kimbrow, President

In November 1951, what is now the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas, met in Warren to discuss starting a college for the youth of the association. They authorized the Christian Education Committee of the association to enter negotiations to buy 10 acres (formerly occupied by Central College for Women from 1892–1947) located in the heart of Conway, now one of the fastest growing cities in Arkansas. The price was a bargain at \$85,000, but it proved to be a heavy burden for a small association of Missionary Baptists.

Dr. D.N. Jackson was elected as the “promotional man” for the college. He rallied the churches and was successful in raising the down payment. The sale of bonds helped fund the remaining balance and, by the summer of 1952, the association took possession of the abandoned campus. Associational minutes reflect that the first name chosen for

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By Jason Prewitt, Executive Director

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a group of people dreamed of the BMA of America having their own camp facility. Through that dream, partnership across the association, financial donations and a lot of work, the Daniel Springs Baptist Camp facilities opened its gate in 1965 for its first ministry opportunity through summer camps. Over the years, the camp ministry has been a place where groups have looked forward to summer camps, but it is exciting to see the facilities expand to also host events and retreats throughout the year for men, women, college students, high school and junior high students, children and families.

Located in Gary, Texas, deep within the piney woods of East Texas, sits the beautiful 54-acre property that has been a location and a catalyst for missions. Much of the mission field the camp invests in comes to the headquarters

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# CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

## PROFILE

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**Terry Kimbrow**  
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## CBC Releases Names On President's List and Dean's List

It is a pleasure to release for publication the President's and Dean's Lists in recognition of student academic achievement. The following lists are for the fall of 2023:

### President's List

To qualify for the President's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point average of 4.000 out of a possible 4.000.

**Traditional Students** — Baylie Ainsworth, Magnolia; Lauren Anderson, Cibola, Texas; Anna Atwood, Little Rock; Landri Aultman, Greenbrier; Cailyn Baser, Stuttgart; Richard Bass, Bixby, Okla.; Zackary Birmingham, Greers Ferry; Rylie Brissette, Greenbrier; Lily Brister, Conway; Lilly Brock, Marianna; Jaclyn Burroughs, Greenbrier; Caroline Byers, Kennett, Mo.; Ryan Carroll, Wichita Falls, Texas; Emilia Chronister, Morrilton; Joshua Claiborne, Clarksville; Christine Collins, Sherwood; Evan Cranford, Searcy; Marina Crespi, Spain; Manuela Cruz Hernandez, Colombia; Mason Crymes, Timbo; Andrew Davis, Mena; Bay Davis, Benton; Sierra Dodson, Quitman; Brennan Duhe, Paulina, La.; Evan East, Hot Springs; Ysabella Esquivel, Corpus Christi, Texas; Maggie Franklin, Waxahachie, Texas; Jordyn Frederic, Alvin, Texas; Madeline Freeman, Fort Smith; Emily Gentry, Greenbrier; Kylie Germann, Rogers; Rebekah Gilmore, Vidalia, La.; Faith Grantham, Conway; Dillon Hall, Damascus; Mary Hall, Greenbrier; Leilani Hanson, Greenbrier; Kane Harrell, Conway;

Ashley Henderson, Harrison; Ruben Hernandez, Dominican Republic; Landon Hitchcock, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Amber Horton, Vilonia; Alexandra Jeter, Paragould; Audrey Johnson, Rusk, Texas; William Kanaykin, Tyler, Texas; Gracie Keathley, Conway; Evelyn Land, Conway; Jarvis Leigh, Columbus, Miss.; Austin LeJeune, San Antonio, Texas; Madisyn Lindstrom, Springdale; Emma Love, Greenbrier; Whitney Mallory, Greenbrier; Mallory Malone, Conway; Heidi Maxwell, Saint Clair, Mo.; Jesse McGarrah, Benton; Kylie McGarrah, Benton; Lau-

ren McGinley, Hensley; Ahna Merrell, Anderson, Texas; Asher Middleton, Vilonia; Joy Murdock, Conway; Abigail Murphy, Plumerville; Preston Nesterenko, Little Rock; Kayla O'Kelley, Conway; Emily Pharr, Conway; Daniel Pinkney, United Kingdom; Malory Reynolds, Katy, Texas; Lindsey Risner, Damascus; Sheridan Rogers, Conway; Abbie Rusher, Greenbrier; Brooke Schmitz, Royse City, Texas; Lily Seaver, Montague, Mich.; Caroline Skinner, Bryant; Katie Smith, Georgetown, Texas; Kenneth Teal, Brinkley;

Parker Thomas, Shreveport, La.; Peyton Thomas, Shreveport, La.; Drew Tiner, Plumerville; Madalyn Tubbs, Hernando, Miss.; Hudson Turnage, Conway; Taylor Turney, Benton; Maele Van Houtert, Netherlands; Sierra Victory, Conway; Bailey Walerczyk, Sherman, Texas; Abigail West, Ida; Margaret Whittingham, Greenbrier; Kennedy Williams, Conway; Tommie Williams Jr, Beaumont, Texas; and Laura Wilson, Greenbrier.

**PACE and Online Students** — Zellecka Allen, Alexander; Shelby Atkins, North Little Rock; Ira Browder, Conway; Donald Chapell, Sherwood; Kara Christensen, Conway; Daniel Collins Sr., Bryant; Amunique Idrogo, Austin; Michael Kelley, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Jon-Austen Linch, Maumelle; Alana Moore, Heber Springs; Bryan Risner, Damascus; Pamela Risner, Damascus; Nicolette Walker, Conway; and Toni Walthall, Conway.

### Dean's List

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point

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## Sports News

By Erik Holth

### Women's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 6** — Stepping out of American Midwest Conference (AMC) play for the final time this season, CBC hosted the Bobcats of College of the Ozarks (C of O) at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse in a meeting of former Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference rivals. CBC (3-14) had an early lead but couldn't contain hot shooting from C of O (19-6) and dropped the contest 88-72. **Rhys Anderson** led the way scoring for the Mustangs with a career-high 17 points, including a career-high tying 4 made threes, while **Olivia Lambrigtsen** and **Aliya Grotjohn** both joined her in double figures with 10 each.

• **Hannibal, Mo., Feb. 8** — On the road for the first time in six games, CBC took on the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) at the Mabee Sports Complex in an AMC tilt. CBC (4-14, 3-9 AMC) never trailed, racing out to a 12-0 lead before cruising to a 65-30 win over HLGU (5-14, 1-11 AMC) to sweep the season series from the Trojans. Every single player scored for the Mustangs, led by 12 from **Caroline Citty**, 11 from **Aliya Grotjohn** and 10 from **Rhys Anderson**. Citty also became just the fifth Mustang ever with 7 steals in a game as CBC shot 35% from the floor and held HLGU to just 20% from the field.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 10** — Looking for their second consecutive season sweep, CBC took on the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) in an AMC tilt inside the Emerson Performance Center. CBC (5-14, 4-9 AMC) never trailed, taking a 40-30 lead into the halftime locker room before winning 67-52 over HSSU (3-18, 1-12 AMC). **Caroline Citty** led all scorers with 20 points while **Rhys Anderson** chipped in with 15 and **Olivia Lambrigtsen** added 14. CBC dominated from start to finish, only turning the ball over 7 times while outrebounding the Hornets 35-22.

### Softball

• **Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 10** — CBC was at Sycamore Park days for a tournament at Texas Wesleyan (TXU). The Mustangs took on the Rams of TWU three times over the two days and took on the Coyotes of Kansas Wesleyan (KWU). CBC (4-2) dropped two of three to TWU (2-2), losing 3-2 and 4-0, before winning the finale 8-4. CBC won the game with KWU yesterday 7-4.

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## Student Ministry Matters

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## Winning & Losing

This past Sunday evening, I watched Super Bowl 58 with much of the world. I'm a big football fan, but because of the day of the week most pro games are played, I don't get to watch many NFL games during the regular season. In college, my buddy Mike Phillips introduced me to the pro game, and I became a Cowboys fan. That was easy during the 90s. The Cowboys, with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin, were a force to be reckoned with.

Living in Arkansas, we don't have the option of supporting a local pro football team, so we all turn to places outside the state. Over the last several years, I started backing the Chiefs, especially as I have spent more time in Kansas City for school. Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College are hilarious in their support of the team, including the 12 Days of Chiefsmas. All in all, it is a lot of fun.

While I was elated at the end of the game, I was struck by the different reactions on the field. Of course, there was joy as the Chiefs had won the most important game in professional football again. Many started asking, "What about next year? Can you win the elusive three-peat?" There was red and yellow confetti all over the place. There were hugs and kisses from spouses, children, siblings, teammates and even parents. It was fun to watch. However, that was only one side of the field.

For the 49ers and their fans, the reaction was much different. There were hugs, but more out of consolation. It was an incredible game full of ups and downs, but you could see the pain and numbness of their players as they panned across their bench. There was no great celebration happening that evening for the 49ers. They had almost made it to the top of the mountain but didn't reach the peak.

That made me think about the students in our ministries — not whether they were rooting for Taylor's boyfriend or the team on the West Coast, but how we encourage our students as they handle victories and losses in their lives. No matter how big the game is, at the end of the day, it is still just a game. Wins and losses aren't just for those in sports, though. A student may lose out on an opportunity to be in a group because they failed during their tryout or simply didn't have the talent to make it. Some of our students may have missed out on scholarships. Some will "win" and get the scholarship they dreamed of. While we can't impact the outcome of our students' wins and losses, we can help them see the right way to respond. What does that look like? What should we pour into them as they deal with their win/loss record? Here are some ideas to get you started:

• **Do everything as unto the Lord for His glory.** Whatever they are involved in, whatever they shoot for, it should all be done in a manner that is God-honoring. The Bible tells us in Col. 3:23-24 (ESV) that *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."* Paul also writes in I Cor. 10:31, *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* If our students know this is their purpose, their losses may not sting as much because this is the real purpose of all they do — giving glory to God. In the movie Gladiator, Russell Crowe's character, Maximus, said early on, "What we do in life echoes in eternity." What we do here matters and should reflect our real purpose in life, bringing glory to God.

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## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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## Reports from the Churches

**Banks, Banks** gained one by letter; Jerry Burress, pastor.

**Calvary, Heber Springs** received one by baptism; Josh Murphree, pastor.

**Friendship, Greenbrier** reports one new member; James Crews, pastor.

**Immanuel, Greenbrier** welcomed four by letter; Dr. Billy Crow, pastor.

**LifeSong, Greenbrier** witnessed four by baptism and twelve by letter since last report; Freddy Mark Wilcox, pastor.

**Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier** added one by letter; Dr. Virgil Porter, pastor.

**Tenth St., Paragould** gained one by statement; Jerry Jolly, pastor.

changed, and you begin to stare your mortality in the face. Now, you have more days behind you and fewer days ahead of you. You wonder, "Is there any reason to dream anymore or just endure?" Perhaps you have been disappointed far too many times to mention. Someone betrayed your trust, a staff member stabbed you in the back or a member of your church family offended you. The very people you expected to love and encourage you let you down. It is easy to give in to negativity, cynicism and skepticism (Neh. 8:10).

You must be prepared for any one of these three life challenges to attack at any time throughout your life. The Bible doesn't view the trajectory of a person's life as a ballistic arc to a pathetic crash. Instead, it pictures the believer's journey as becoming sweeter, kinder, patient, thoughtful, godlier and spiritually mature (Psalm 92:12-14). Consider life more as a series of rising stairs than an arc or a bell curve (1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Peter 2:21). As you get older, the question of legacy begins to arise, but your focus should be on faithfulness, then trust God to handle what that legacy looks like.

God's brilliant truth is that those who overcome the crises of life can actually impact more just as they begin to work less. Peak performance may be long gone, but peak impact can be one step away — trust God for how He pens it. Legacy is not something you seek or determine. Instead, it is what others say about the life of faithfulness you have lived. You must not succumb to the temptations of Hymenaeus and Alexander, who "shipwrecked their faith," Demas, who "loved this present world..." and deserted" or Diotrephes, "who loves to have the first place among them." Let us be found faithful, serving Him with joy and passion!

# Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## The Challenge of Life's Crises

In John 16:31-33, the disciples were in the midst of a major life crisis that would change and challenge all of them. A crisis is defined as "a condition of instability or danger; leading to a decisive change. It is a dramatic emotional or circumstantial upheaval in a person's life."

Jesus was headed to the cross and back to the Father. The disciples stated in verses 29-30 that now they got it, but they did not really get it. Honestly, it reveals their overconfidence. Jesus did not openly reject their flawed confession, but He clearly saw its inadequacy. Their enthusiasm was about to receive a very rude awakening.

Then Jesus addressed their overconfidence. He basically said, "Hey guys, your faith is about to be tested, and when this crisis moment occurs, you will not pass the test." The bond that had held them together, His presence, was about to be taken from them, and soon it would be "everyone for themselves." They would be focused on self-survival and their own safety through flight and running off into the night. Later, John would recover, and after Jesus' resurrection, Peter would come back. Listen to the Lord's own anguish in verse 32, "You will leave me alone." He had already told Peter he would deny Him three times.

It must have been heart-wrenching to be told by the One you have followed for over three years, "Your faith will be tested, and you will fail." Jesus let them know this failure would not be the end of it because their faith would triumph in the end. What a beautiful picture of His promise that, despite our failures (and they can be total failures), despite our shallow promises (and they can be many), in the end, their faith (our faith) will triumph (1 Cor. 15:57). Yes, your successes develop your confidence by increasing your faith, but your failures deepen your convictions, increasing your dependence on Him.

John 14:12 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and

greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Peter failed horribly, yet there was Pentecost. The good news is that He will guide and enable you to do great things. The bad news is that you cannot microwave the process. It has been said, "You don't get break-thru in the drive-thru." There is no shortcut

around the time it will take to find out how faithful He can and will be. This runs counter to the discouraging mental model of how life works that contemporary Americans have. There are at least three challenges of faith that you must prepare for:

• **Youthful Lusts** — In your 20s and 30s, the temptation is to give in to the flesh. That is why Paul told a young Timothy to "flee youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22). Biologically, most human functions peak in their early 20s, and that is when an identity crisis can occur about what to do with your life. Will you live for yourself (personal pleasures and achievements), or will you accept the challenge of being who Christ has called you to be? Some people don't pass that test; their impact plateaus or declines, and some never recover. This challenge is real for every follower and leader.

• **Pride** — The second crisis usually occurs in your 40s and 50s. Most, at 40, still have their youthful vigor, but now they have gained a great deal of wisdom and skill through experience. The temptation is now pride because you feel like you know what you are doing and how to do it. In ministry, you know how to have a worship service, organize ministry teams, develop programs, etc. Romans 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." Will you continue pursuing Christ passionately or decide to play it safe and be comfortable?

• **Cynicism** — The third life crisis occurs in your 60s, and it is cynicism. Your physical strength, stamina and looks have certainly



## What's Love Got to Do with It?

Since today is the day for love letters, gifts and other means of showing affection, I was just thinking about the subject of love. Tina Turner, the grandmother of rock, sang, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" I would answer that by simply saying, "Everything!"

### The Very Nature of God

The truth is, apart from God, none of us really know what love is, and we certainly don't know what love has to do with anything. Yes, we know of the romantic, erotic kind of love, but that is way too often fleeting.

John wrote, "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus" (1 John 4:16-17 NIV). Those first three words are emphatic. God doesn't merely show love — He **is** love! As His children, believers ought to take on the nature of God in our daily lives and interactions with others.

### A Poor Concept About a Great Demonstration

Tina Turner sang of only one kind of love, but God's Word speaks of another. Her kind of love is short-lived; God's love is everlasting. The lyrics of her song revealed a very poor concept — "What's love but a second-hand emotion?" Another part of the song asks, "What's love but an old-fashioned notion?"

What can we draw from such a poor concept? We can readily see that few people know what real love is across the planet. Whether it is fourth graders exchanging Valentines, teenagers experiencing their first kisses or couples getting married based purely on physical attraction, there's more to love than most can imagine.

### Believers Ought to Love Like God Loves

Again, from John's first letter: "We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister" (1 John 4:19-21 NIV).

God's Word is not just a roadmap on how to get to Heaven and escape the punishment of the Lake of Fire. It is a guidebook on how to live in this world among people who need to know the true love of God — unconditional love.

Here is an important way regarding how to accomplish such — **look past faults and meet needs**. Every human sins, even believers. To love like God loves is to look at the people around us and put aside our judgmental spirits to meet those people's needs. That is exactly what Jesus did when He was on the cross. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34 NIV). We are not ever directed to die for others, but great love is demonstrated in doing so. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13 NIV). Love has **everything** to do with it!



## SMM

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and continuing education for those working with youth in our churches.

I have had the privilege of serving as the director since 2016. During the beginning days of ministry with the department, I was really at a loss for our direction and focus. It took a little over a year for us to determine our next steps and mission. Since 2018, we have narrowed our focus and the Student Ministry Matters initiative began.

Along the way, Chris Vines, student pastor at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church of Hope, Arkansas, has helped with our podcast and served as a sounding board for many of the things we have put into place. Our state-elected committee has been helpful as well. One person you may not be aware of is Stephen Avitts. Stephen is a retired pharmacist from Springdale who serves as our bookkeeper. In addition to being the church treasurer at Calvary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Stephen volunteers his time to keep me on track and record all our financials. I am so thankful for the work he does for us.

God has done some fun things over the past seven years. In the fall of 2018, we had our very first Student Ministry Workers Retreat at South City Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Pastor Drew Cline opened up his facility to us, and we had close to 50 people in attendance. It was a simple day with a simple desire — to provide something good for our student ministry workers. Since that time, we have met at Central Baptist College of Conway on a Saturday in September, with growing numbers of people joining us.

Another of our bigger initiatives began in February of 2020. That was the month we released our first episodes of the Student Ministry Matters podcast (studentministry-matters.podbean.com). We are now at nearly 180 episodes, with over 30,000 downloads across the country and around the world. “Introducing Christianity to Mormons with Eric Johnson” exploded in its reach and now has over 7,000 downloads. That is a wild thing when we began thinking that maybe 20 people a month might listen to us.

There is so much more we want to do, but we can't without the resources to do it. That is where you come in. With only 15-20 of the 300+ churches of the BMA of Arkansas giving to our department, I can only imagine what we could do if we doubled the number of our current supporting churches — \$10 a month can make a huge difference in our reach. Ask the leadership at your church if your congregation is

## CBC

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the college was Central College for Christian Workers, but before opening in the fall of 1952, the name was changed to Conway Baptist College. Dr. Jackson was elected as president on Aug. 25, 1952, and announced in the *Baptist Trumpet* that the college would open for business on Sept. 15, 1952. The headline of the Oct. 10, 1952 *Baptist Trumpet* read, “The Impossible Accomplished.” CBC (the name changed in 1961 to Central Baptist College) would see many such “impossibles” over the years.

On Dec. 26, 2023, I completed my twentieth year as the president of CBC. What D.N. Jackson believed, and I still hold to this day, is recorded in Luke 18:27: “*What is impossible with man is possible with God.*” In my inauguration address, I chose a portion of Eph. 3:20, “*Now unto Him who is able...*” as the theme for my presidency. Much of the growth of CBC, both in terms of enrollment, faculty, staff and physical buildings, I have only read about. I must say that the *Baptist Trumpet* archives are a treasure trove; I have spent hours reading reports from the previous eight CBC presidents. Between the archives and the recorded minutes of the CBC Board of Trustees, I have been able to relive both the accomplishments and the struggles of the early years of the institution.

Today, I am blessed with a 20-member Board of Trustees. These faithful men and women, all members of BMA churches, provide direction and support to me and my Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The Board, elected by the BMA of Arkansas in their annual meeting

financially supporting us. Even if it isn't a part of your church's budget, you could help by giving through your local church. The other thing you could do for us is to pray as we seek to fulfill our mission. We would love to have you partner with us.

If you have a youth class or even just one teenager in your church, you have a student ministry. God will hold us responsible for how we minister to them. Let me encourage you to connect with us and let us help you in that process. You can find us online at StudentMinistryMatters.com or through most social media outlets. If you would like to learn more about the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department or would like to have me come and speak at your church, contact me at [bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:bmayouthdepartment@gmail.com). I would love to connect with you.

Let's continue to love students, minister to their families and show them all Jesus, because Student Ministry Matters.

each November, meets in regular sessions the first weeks of March and June and the third week in October. If needed, the Board convenes meetings between the regular sessions via Zoom, or in some cases, I poll the Board via e-mail.

Most private institutions, and CBC is no exception, are dependent on two primary sources of income: tuition revenue and charitable contributions. We reward students for academic achievement, musical talent and athletic ability with scholarships. We also forego income from BMA students who meet the qualifications. We do so to the extent that we could not operate without those individuals, churches, businesses, corporations and foundations who give — some sacrificially — to the ministry of Central Baptist College.

There are many ways to give, and they are all found on our website at [cbc.edu/give](http://cbc.edu/give). I hope you will consider joining us with your financial support. Our greatest need is regular monthly support. Last year, we launched Legacy Leaders, a sustainable giving program. Will you pray about becoming a Legacy Leader? You can do so for as little as \$10 per month. Join at [cbc.edu/legacyleaders](http://cbc.edu/legacyleaders).

I have been associated with CBC for nearly four decades, both as a non-traditional student and later as an employee. I have personally witnessed God's hand moving in our people to see the college through some perilous times. Yet, our greatest moments have not been the completion of strategic plans or campus facilities master plans, the buildings constructed, the millions of dollars raised, the increase in academic offerings or even the rise of student enrollment. Our greatest accomplishment is not found in students graduated and degrees awarded. Our most significant victory is in remaining true to our mission! Though it's been rewritten, reworked and reworded, Central Baptist College continues to stand for the absolute truth of the verbal, plenary, inspired Word of God. The central message of our Mission Statement is the “transformation of lives through the integration of Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.”

We are facing big challenges in 2024. Both of our accreditation visits are scheduled for this fall — the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our regional accrediting body, and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), which governs our teacher education program. I have capable leaders in both areas. As President, I want to focus on the revision of our campus facilities

## CAMP

(Continued From Page 1)

in Gary. Daniel Springs Camp gets the amazing opportunity to be an extension of the local church. Through that partnership, testimonies of pastors and individuals tell of how God has moved in and through their lives while at a camp or a retreat. The camp continues to be the place they could go back to and say, “That was the place I heard from the Lord and responded.” It has also been exciting to hear from those missionaries who are serving all over the world about how their journey started at Daniel Springs.

Every summer, the camp takes up a summer offering to invest in ministries that are working to further the kingdom. Some of those ministries have been the National Camp of the BMA of the Philippines, The Master's Builders and Everlasting Smile Shoeboxes. For many years, the camp would send small teams from the United States to travel to the Philippines and partner with the BMA National Philippines Camp. More recently, we have been able to send the summer missionary staff to West Texas to help with an associational camp at the beginning of summer. The ministry is on the move, locally and globally.

Since the beginning, Daniel Springs Camp has been a place to master plan and implementation of our next capital campaign. I know it is possible, not in my own strength, but because “*He is able...*”

invest in people. I became director in 2015, and my family and I are excited about many more years of serving in this ministry. There were some great men who led this ministry and laid the foundation for the ministry we have today. Each of these men would say they were not alone in this calling because each family member had their own part in leading, helping and investing. Eugene Gaunt was the first to take the title of camp director. He and his family served from 1965 to 1979. James Speer became camp director in 1980 and he and his family served until 2014.

Each director and their family has seen ups and downs, but each one would testify that seeing and hearing testimonies of how the Lord has used the ministry of Daniel Springs to change lives has made a lifelong impact on their lives. These men and their families can testify that the ministry they were/are called to was/is too big for them alone.

The list of volunteers who have poured into the ministry would take a lifetime to tell. Those who have invested time, resources and financial gifts have allowed the camp to be an extension of the church and continue to do so. Each drop of sweat, financial blessing, building built and event held has been an investment in people, and that investment is worth it for the gospel. Each year, countless people have come and invested their time, whether a week during the summer or all summer long, into the ministry purpose of

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## Baptist Trumpet

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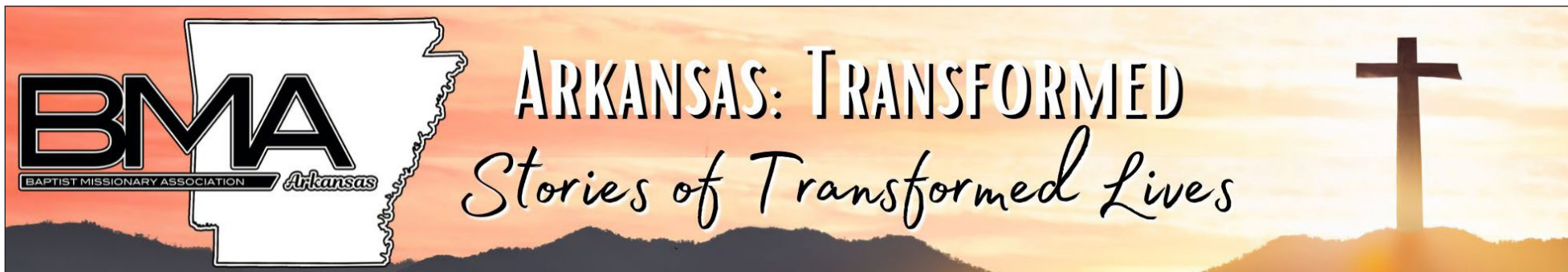
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## God Still Uses Church Camp to Transform Lives

By Dan Carson, Director • Student Ministry Matters

When we think back to our days as teenagers and being involved in a church, there is a good chance we have some memories of church camp. Sand volleyball pits, silly songs, camp crushes, Bible quizzes and temperatures that made us all sweat are just a few of them. However, some of the really exciting memories are based around our spiritual lives. It was at camp where my good friend, Wade Allen, surrendered his life to the gospel ministry. It was at camp during different years that my children began their relationships with Jesus. It has been at church camps where I have seen young men and women hear God's direction more clearly because the distractions of this world were set aside for a few minutes.

Church camp may seem like an outdated notion, but I believe there is still a great place for it in our ministry to students. In this issue, we want to highlight two of the church camps that operate around our state and the work that they do for the kingdom. If you don't take your students to camp, you need to at least consider how it could change their lives.



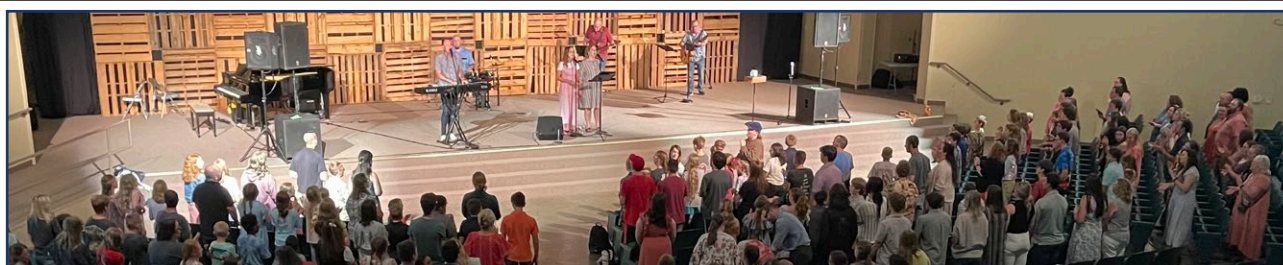
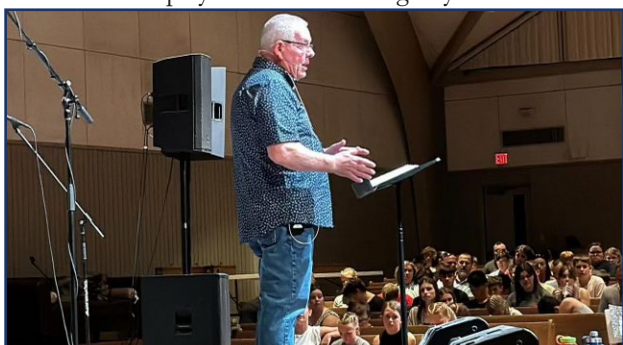
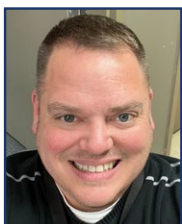
## Ozarks Baptist Encampment

By Joel P. Young, Youth Pastor • Summers Baptist Church

Ozarks Baptist Encampment (OBE) began in the early 1970s as a joint venture between the Benton County and Fayetteville Local Associations of the BMA of Arkansas. In the mid 1990s, those two associations merged to create the BMA of the Ozarks, and OBE continues to be a ministry of that association. Currently, we have churches from Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri who participate in camp every summer!

Over the years, they have met at Camp Eagan near Tahlequah, Okla., Baptist Vista near Cass, Ark., Grand Lake Baptist Assembly (GLBA) near Grove, Okla., and Camp Siloam, near Siloam Springs. We will be returning to GLBA for camp this summer, and we are excited to see what God is going to do at and through OBE2024. Most of our camp staff is made up of volunteers from the churches who participate in the camp, which truly makes OBE a family experience.

While some might say that camp is a thing of past generations, that is certainly not the case with OBE. Last summer, 57 souls came to a saving knowledge of Jesus and 1 young man surrendered to the ministry during the 4 nights we were together. There is just something special about getting away from the world for a few days and being able to focus our attention on God. Please pray that He works mightily at OBE2024



## BMA Camp (at Budd Creek)

By Jeff Herring, Camp Director

I have been going to church camp since before I was born. My dad believed strongly in the ministry of church camp and did his best to take children to camp every year. I was born Aug. 5, 1974, and my parents were at camp a few weeks before that (so I've been told, my memory is a little foggy from that time). I can honestly say there has not been a year since I was born that I have not been to church camp, even during the busy college years of working around my job.

In 1978, my dad was part of a group of pastors (mostly in the Greenbrier Association) that saw the need for a youth camp in Central Arkansas, so they formed the BMA Youth Camp Board and started having church camp in the summer. Over the next 10 years, the camp outgrew the local campgrounds and divided. A few years later, while my dad served as the camp director, BMA Camp began meeting at Budd Creek Baptist Campground in Greers Ferry, and we have been meeting there ever since during the same week in June.

The heart for reaching students through camp ministry was passed down from my dad. After I surrendered to the ministry and began working with students, I was elected to serve on the camp board. I served in a variety of roles over the next few years, including board president, assistant camp director and then I was elected to serve as camp director, a position I have held for over 20 years.

I have personally taken hundreds of students to camp over my years of ministry and have seen God work at camp in some very special ways. There is just something special about getting away from the everyday things that can be a distraction in our walk with the Lord. Students often come to camp with a group and they may have never even been to church, but God uses their time at camp to change their life for eternity. It is there that students surrender to ministry, confess sin and rededicate their lives to the Lord.

If you have never been to church camp, I invite you to bring a group and see for yourself how God is using this ministry to reach the next generation with the good news of the gospel. If you are not ready to bring a group, come visit for a day or evening service. I know I am biased because I have not known life without church camp, but I strongly believe God uses the

intentional time away from everyday life to do special things in the lives of those who go to camp, both students and adults.

BMA Camp this year will be June 17-20 (Monday-Thursday) at Budd Creek Campground in Greers Ferry. Our speaker will be Chris Vines, family and youth pastor at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope. Doug Mickan, associate pastor of music & worship at Faith Baptist Church in Festus, Mo., will be leading the worship during the week. Information packets will be available soon, and you can follow and find out more information by joining the **BMA Camp @ Budd Creek Campground** group on Facebook. I will post all of the latest information there regarding this year's camp.

Church camp is a place God still uses to transform lives, and I encourage you to do your best to help students in your church have an opportunity to attend. One of the most difficult things groups often run into regarding bringing a group to camp is finding sponsors to bring the students. Will you consider being a sponsor so students in your church can attend camp and possibly be changed for eternity? I have talked to many adults that attend camp for the first time and they fall in love with going to camp, not just because of the students' lives that are changed, but because they also benefit from their time at camp.



- Plan to attend SMWR 2024 on Sept. 14, 2024
- Check out the Student Ministry Matters podcast at [studentministrymatters.podbean.com](http://studentministrymatters.podbean.com) or through most major podcasting platforms.
- Join the Student Ministry Matters Community on Facebook at [Facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StudentMinistryMattersCommunity).





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people need to be connected to Jesus through a community of faith.



## Epic Life Impacting Us as Much as Pea Ridge!

By Jake McCandless, Missionary • Epic Life, Pea Ridge

In our monthly “Preview Night,” where we invite those interested in Epic Life to preview a Discovery Bible Study at our “neutral” space at the rented Room 161, we have been tackling passages in which God reveals Himself to His people. At our January Preview Night, we looked at Exod. 19:1-6. In preparing, I felt led to this passage because of the “plot switch” given in verse 4.

To grasp the plot shift in the verse, we must back up to the beginning of Exodus to the context. The beginning of Exodus finds the Israelites in slavery in Egypt. By the time we get to Exodus 19, God has called and led Moses to face off with Pharaoh. God has gotten the Egyptian ruler’s attention through the plagues. The Israelites have been set free, but are soon boxed in at the Red Sea, where God parts the sea. They have traveled through the desert for three months. God has provided and sustained them, and, in Exodus 19, they’re encamped around Mount Sinai. Moses is about to receive the Law. In this passage, God is giving Moses instruction on how the Law should be received.

If we were “retelling” the first chapters of Exodus (as we do in our Discovery Bible Studies), we’d summarize it by saying God was rescuing Israel and guiding them to the Promised Land. That’s the obvious plot, or is it? As God meets with Moses in this passage, He tells the plot from His point of view. Yes, outwardly God is rescuing His people and bringing them to the Promised Land, but, **ultimately**, God reveals He is bringing Israel to Him — “*You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself*” (Exod. 19:4 NIV).

Did you see the plot switch? Or better asked, did you see God’s main goal? For the record, this is **always** God’s goal. Though this passage was for a great discussion with a new family who had attended the worship service the week before and came back to preview a Discovery Bible Study, the Lord used it to help me articulate what is going on in my life, and the lives of my family and the leaders of Epic Life. Outwardly, we’re planting a church, but, **ultimately**, God is bringing us to Himself. I know this is always the case, but I have never experienced it to the level that the method of church planting we’re using leads to.

I have preached and touted, throughout my 26 years of preaching, that we can’t do it in our own strength but must rely on God to do His work. I have preached that, prayed for that and even thought that was how I was doing ministry. But in retrospect, I was still trying to do everything in my own strength. I practiced and thought if I could just produce a great strategy, preach a great sermon, plan or organize the perfect event, then the church could grow. Unfortunately for my own growth, God is gracious and allowed that to often work to some degree.

When I started in Pea Ridge, I felt led to explore the “Movements” model, which focuses for most on becoming a missionary in my own home, neighborhood and network and then help others to also do that. Then, as we’re missionaries in our neighborhood and networks, Bible study groups will form and then these Bible Study groups will gather as a church. It really doesn’t sound that drastic, and it isn’t, except on the missionary. There’s no ministry on and off switch. There’s no event that can be done to make this happen. It completely relies on seeking the Lord constantly and stepping in obedience courageously and letting the peace God gives radiate out into the relationships in your home, neighborhood and network.

This type of ministry also relies heavily on obeying the Scriptures that are studied together and holding each other accountable for doing so. That means you can’t kick the difficult “can” of life change down the road, you must face it. For me, it seems everywhere I go I’m running into a mirror that is forcing me to make sure every part of my life is moving to being obedient to the Lord through His Word. Things in my relationships and interactions that I never considered are being tweaked and transformed. It can be a painful process, but personally and within my family the Lord is bringing me to Himself. Though difficult, I’m beginning to become able to really help others walk in daily transformation by the gospel.

Along with the personal impact, this model of ministry is transforming me in terms of letting God do His Work and not relying on His strength. Results are not coming from any strategy or event; they bubble out of simple obedience and prayer. We had our largest worship service a couple of weeks ago, and it was the only one we did not promote heavily. We did nothing on our own except keep our hands to the plow and pray. We formed a Prayer Team we meet with every two weeks. This team is becoming like those who held Moses’ arms up in the battle. We can tell when that team is praying.

I have worked and worked and been in turmoil on how to train our leaders. I’ve been frustrated that it has taken over a year to start formal training; but, in what seemed like a snap of fingers, we have now launched a regular leader meeting. I have our main leaders in the middle of an eight-week training course. I’m also meeting with those main leaders one-on-one weekly. God did more in a second than I labored to do in over a year. This method of ministry is forcing me to completely rely on God. I’m so thankful for that. I’m thankful for the life-giving transformation that is happening in my life and home. I’m thankful that it turns out I’m not just up here planting a church, but that God is bringing me to Him. I’m so thankful I’ve been as impacted by this church plant as Pea Ridge has been.







## A Light in the Midst of Darkness

By Ruben J Isturiz, Missionary • Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock

We are called to minister in a broken world. Not only do we carry the message of the gospel, we also minister to people with many needs. Suffering is inevitable, and part of planting a church is serving suffering people.

The Lopez family has been through some difficult times. Luis and Georgina Lopez have two daughters and a son. Their son, Neymar Lopez, is seven years old, and he is a joyful child. He waits for Sunday to come to church. His arrival at our Celebration Service is a source of joy for all of us because he has a contagious joy. Every Sunday, he comes to our congregation with a box of donuts.

Lately, Neymar began having health problems. We were praying for him as his health problems were very recurrent — flu, fever, etc. The doctors could not find a diagnosis. In December, his father informed us that Neymar was diagnosed with cancer. It was news that shocked all of us at Ebenezer.

His parents were doing everything possible, along with his doctors, to treat Neymar, but what could we all do at Ebenezer? We dedicated ourselves to praying to the God of the impossible, praying every day for Neymar's health. We could not visit him because his defenses were low.

I thank God for the faith of the Lopez family that never wavered and for Ebenezer's support in praying and being attentive to the development of Neymar's treatment. After his first stage of treatment, I visited him in January to pray for Luis, as the leader of his home, and for Neymar.

The results of the first stage of treatment showed that there were no traces of cancer in Neymar's body. Glory to God! We have seen God's answer to our prayers. Our heavenly Father is a God of the impossible. God has once again given us hope — a light in the midst of darkness. Keep praying for Neymar for the next stages of his treatment. To God be the glory!



## God is Still Calling People to Salvation

By Roberto Marcelletti, Missionary • Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.

Seeing God's transforming grace in the lives of those He sovereignly calls to salvation is glorious. I'm going to share with you about Nanie, an older woman who came to our community in September 2023. She was born in Puerto Rico and had a very difficult childhood. Her parents abandoned her, and, as a result, she grew up with resentment toward them. Her grandmother picked her up and took her to church when she was very young, but she only went to accompany her grandmother since her heart was very far from the Lord because of her difficult situation of resentment and hatred. Then she got married and, unfortunately, when a person does not have the Lord as a guide, she and her three children suffered in this relationship of abuse and mistreatment. From this relationship, two daughters were born with autism. She has had a very difficult life.

Her sister, Iris, was the first to begin worshipping with us. She invited Nanie to her house on Thursdays because we have our Grace Group there every week. She ignored her sister's invitations and rejected Christianity because she blamed God for all the difficulties she had experienced since she was a child. But one day, she agreed to go, and the Lord moved her, and she couldn't stop crying. She told of the difficulties she had lived through — abandonment, abuse and raising her daughters alone with special conditions.

From the moment we met her, she was a very nervous person with many fears. The whole Grace Group began praying for Nanie and in about two weeks, she attended the Sunday service and gave her life to Christ. She began to go to church every Sunday and to the Grace Group on Thursdays. One Thursday before the meeting, Nanie shared the great news that she had given her life to Christ. Still, the struggle did not end since the daughter with whom she lives told Nanie she did not want to see any Christians in her house because she hated them. We started praying for Nanie's daughter and, at Christmas, my wife invited her to our Christmas service. She attended, and since that day, she has visited us three times and helped us decorate the church on Saturdays.

Nanie is happy about this, and we see the transforming grace in her every day. Now, Nanie is being prepared because she wants to be baptized this year. Seeing how God transforms the people we serve is beautiful and hopeful. I ask your prayers that God will continue to guide us to where He is working.



**72 years (1951-2023) of sharing the gospel across ARkansas and beyond.**  
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**people need to be connected to Jesus through a community of faith.**







# Mustang Message

## CBC Fulfilling Its Mission: Transforming Lives

By Mason Crymes



Central Baptist College's mission is to transform lives, so it is great to hear from alumni whose lives have been changed by the mission of the school. Noah and Jordan Pratt are two recent CBC graduates who shared some of their CBC stories with us.

As prospective students, Noah and Jordan applied for the leadership scholarship (an institutional scholarship awarded to incoming freshmen demonstrating leadership capabilities). This scholarship ended up being what brought the two together. Jordan recounted the day this happened, "We were both seniors in high school and were interviewing for the leadership scholarship. Thankfully, we both got it and, three years later, he became my husband!"

In addition to their role as leadership students, both students were heavily involved on campus in other ways. Noah was a resident coordinator, resident assistant, Student Orientation Staff (SOS) member and the director of intramural sports. Jordan was an Resident Assistant (RA), an SOS member and was on the homecoming court three times.

To the couple, CBC brought about many great relationships and memories. Noah talked about some of the highlights of his CBC experience, saying, "I loved chapel, basketball games, intramural sports, hall wars and spending time as an RA with my hall."

Jordan also talked about some of the relationships she built. "I have great memories in the dorms as I met four of my bridesmaids who will be lifelong friends — Kat Carson, Cassie Hager, Allison Mantooth and Mallory Guyton," she said.

After graduating, Noah and Jordan moved to Kansas City, Mo., where Noah is pursuing a Master of Divinity, and Jordan works as a sixth-grade math and inquiry teacher.

When speaking about the Bible department, Noah said, "Getting to sit under Dr. Tim Brewer's teaching was my favorite part of the Bible Department. Through his teaching and discussion with other Bible majors, I began to have a deeper love of theology."

Similarly, Jordan talked about the way the Education Department helped her. "The greatest and sweetest memory is when I was struggling in my student teaching. The professors were so encouraging and would meet with me after school and be a shoulder to cry on. They let me know that I was not alone and encouraged me every step of the way," she said.

To those who may be considering CBC, Jordan gives some encouragement. "You should come to CBC because of the low student-to-faculty ratio. I always felt accounted for and pushed because the professors knew me personally, but they also showed love and grace because of their faith," she said.

Jordan later commented on what CBC did for her as a whole, saying, "CBC was a home to me for four years, and my life changed a lot during that time. There was not a day that went by that I wasn't encouraged in some way. I never felt like I was going through life by myself."

Noah also talked about what he hopes people know about CBC. "Our purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever," he said. He continued, "If that is our purpose, our aim should be to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. I believe CBC can definitely help people accomplish that mission."



*CBC is committed to transforming lives by providing an education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.*



## LIST

(Continued From Page 2)

average of 3.500 or higher out of a possible 4.000.

**Traditional Students** — Dalton Alexander III, Arnaudville, La.; Caleb Allen, Conway; Victor Alvarez, Honduras; Julissa Arevalo, Little Rock; Caleb Bagby, Greenbrier; Analee Baker, Greenbrier; Charity Barone, Lavaca; Tavia Bradley, Russellville; Jort Bressers, Netherlands; Joshua Brown, Minden, La.; Madeline Bruce, Greenbrier; Katherine Carson, Springdale; Grace Collins, Sherwood; Laney Crutchfield, Malvern; Ryan Dauphinee, Canada; Nathan Dodson, Greenbrier; Lydia Dunlap, Conway; Julio Escobar, Venezuela; Warren Farish, Atkins;

Jasper Gadellaa, Netherlands; Pablo Garcia, Little Rock; Corina Garcia, Irving, Texas; Josie Gelsthorpe, Sand Springs, Okla.; Amanda Goncalves, Brazil; Malory Gossett, Benbrook, Texas; Bryson Haden, Laurel, Miss.; Rebecca Hanry, North Little Rock; Kimbrow Harrell, Conway; Keely Hoffman, Wylie, Texas; Aubrey Jackson, Traskwood; Ruth Johnson, Conway; Kinley Johnson, Krum, Texas; Bryson Jones, Conway; Kara Keathley, Mayflower; Bailee Kelley, Greenbrier; Abby Kirby, Maumelle; Olivia Lambrigtsen, Mount Morris, Ill.;

Mikayla Lawrence, Beebe; Dalton Leutwyler, Cushing, Texas; Dillon Linn, Damascus; Danna Lozano, Mexico; Alejandro Mas, Tampa, Fla.; Raylee Mathis, Dike, Texas; Noah McCall, Conway; Bennett McCoy, Jacksonville; Allie McWhorter, Warren; Alejandro Mendoza, Oxford, Miss.; Molly Murphy, Rancho Mirage, Calif.; William Palmer, Damascus; Jack Papera, Greenbrier; Micky Parks, Bossier City, La.; Dylan Parton, Houston, Texas; Luis Ramos, Panama; Caroline Reams, Dover; Melody Risner, Damascus;

Jeremy Robinson, Dover; Ignacio Rosales, Mandeville, La.; Victor De Paula Sanches, Brazil; Bruno Sant'Ana, Brazil; Sarah Simmons, Dover; Jakub Slapal, Czech Republic; Kailey Sullivan, Conway; Danilo Taborda, Dominican Republic; Kori Truelove, Lonoke; Kailee Walker, Beebe; Robert Watson, Brentwood, Mo.; Paige West, Plumerville; Bayleigh Williams, Conway; Ashanti Williams, Jonesboro; Abby Wilson, Lufkin, Texas; Skylar Wise, Romance; Wyatt Woodell, Taylor; Hannah Work, Bryant; and Lydia York, Conway.

**PACE and Online Students** — Tonya Akins, Ward; Rainey Bart, Wooster; Jessica Brakebill, Greenbrier; Adrian Evans, Cabot;

## SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

**Jordyn Frederic** led the way at the plate for CBC, batting .600 with a home run, 3 runs scored and 6 hits, including hitting safely in every game. CBC also got home runs from **Kori Truelove** in the finale against TWU and got one from **Abi West** to go with Frederic's in the win over KWU.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 12** — For the second straight week, a CBC softball player earned AMC Player of the Honors, the conference announced. Senior outfielder **Jordyn Frederic** was selected by the AMC as their Player of the Week representative. Frederic had a big weekend in Fort Worth, Texas, against TWU and Kansas Wesleyan. She hit safely in every game, going 6-10 on the weekend with three runs scored, a home run and an RBI, both of which came against Kansas Wesleyan.

### Baseball

• **Dallas, Texas, Feb. 10** —

Playing on the road for the second straight weekend, CBC was at the Dallas Christian Classic for games against Dallas Christian and Texas College. CBC (3-1) took both games, getting a no-hitter from **Josh Albat** in game one to beat DCC (0-1) 7-0 before pounding out 19 runs on 19 hits in game two for a 19-6 win over Texas College.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 12** — For the first time this season, CBC swept the weekly AMC awards in one sport. Baseball players **Josh Albat** and **Cade McBride** were the Mustangs to pull that off this week. Albat earned his second straight pitcher of the week award after throwing the sixth no-hitter in program history on Friday against Dallas Christian. Albat struck out 10 batters in the contest and only allowed 2 base runners. McBride earned his first career hitter of the week award going 4-7 in the two games on Friday, homering in both games to give him 3 already this season.

### Men's Basketball

• **Hannibal, Mo., Feb. 8** —

Playing for the first time in seven days, and beginning a stretch of four games in the next seven days, CBC took on the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) in an AMC contest inside the Mabee Sports Center. CBC (19-4, 9-0 AMC) survived a tough environment, hanging on to a slight halftime lead

Tara Goodrich, Conway; Shunta Hubbard, Conway; Victoria Lasker, North Little Rock; Sarena Motes, Searcy; Austin Reitz, Conway; Charles Scallion, Pine Bluff; Tim Sweeney, Vilonia; and Paris Tacker, Austin.

to beat HLGU (6-13, 3-7 AMC) 79-69. **Sage Borbon** led three Mustangs in double figures with 20, while **Kyle Harding** had 14 off the bench and **Devin Foster** chipped in with 11. The Trojans outshot the Mustangs 46% to 36% from the floor, but CBC went 21-26 at the free throw line, while HLGU was just 1-6 at the stripe.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 10** — Trying to move their win streak to its second longest total ever, CBC took on the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State (HSSU) in an AMC meeting in the Emerson Performance Center. CBC (20-4, 10-0 AMC) made history, leading by 10 at halftime before finishing HSSU (6-19, 3-8 AMC) 66-52. **Sage Borbon** led the way in scoring with 17, while **Jonas Carlisle** added a double-double, finishing with 10 points and 13 rebounds. The Mustangs never trailed and held HSSU to 36% shooting from the field and 2-9 from three.

### Wrestling

• **Conway, Feb. 8** — Wrestling

at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse for the final time this season, CBC hosted a dual with Lyon College on Senior Night for 149-pounder **Alejandro Mas**. CBC earned victories in four matches and lost 33-24. **Inson Guerrier** and **Raymond Murray** won their matches by forfeit at 165 and 174 pounds respectively. **David Corretjer**, the #21 wrestler in his 125-pound weight class, beat his opponent by fall at the 4:56 mark and **Mas** pinned his man 1:56 into his match to earn a win as well.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 12** — Approaching the final week of the regular season, the AMC named their wrestler of the week for the final time before the AMC Championship. **Alejandro Mas** earned that honor after his performance against Lyon on Senior Night. Mas pinned his opponent from Lyon at the 1:57 mark to earn his 16<sup>th</sup> win of the season in his final home match at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. The Mustangs dropped the dual to Lyon 34-22.

## WINNING

(Continued From Page 2)

• **What did you learn from the experience?** Win or lose, a good debrief is important. We should all take time to sit and ponder on what God has taught us through the process. Think about what Luke 2:19 (ESV) says, *"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."* It was one of the greatest nights for mankind, and Mary got to be a part of it. After the events of the evening, she sat with them and pondered them in her heart. Both victories and losses teach us a great deal.

## Calling All Young Men

(ages 9-18)



Speaker  
Danny Paul



Find out more at  
**Galileans.com**



## Calling All Young Men

By Dan Williams, Galilean Promoter

I would like to extend a special invitation to all young men (even if you do not have a Galilean ministry in your church), ages 9-18, to fellowship with the Arkansas Galileans on Feb. 23-24 at Central Baptist College. The plans for the overnight retreat and basketball tournament, including the schedule, can be downloaded at galileans.com.

We are excited to have Danny Paul, pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Russellville, as our speaker for the Friday evening of worship and praise that begins at 8:30 p.m. After the session, we will enjoy some pizza before the traditional Galileans (young men) vs. Sponsors basketball game. You don't want to miss it!

Even if you only want to come for the benefit basketball tournament that begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, you are still invited! (Please arrive by 8 a.m. so we can get everyone organized for the tournament.) There is a \$5 charge for each boy who plays in the tournament to fund the Arkansas Galilean CBC Nixon/Hornaday Endowed Scholarship at CBC.

The tournament will be a 3-on-3 format, and the teams will be formed before the tournament starts to include boys from different churches on each team. The tournament will have two age divisions, one for boys 9-13 and another for boys 14-18.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (501) 336-4586 or dwilltwelve@gmail.com.

God has something for us in both.

• **Our identity is not bound up in being a winner or a loser—it is found in Christ.** Sometimes, it is easy to classify ourselves as losers or failures because our win/loss record is skewed in that direction. However, thinking we are winners because we are the champion can be just as detrimental. Our identity is most clear when we see where we stand in Christ. The scoreboard or resumé doesn't define us. Our real identity is defined as either saved or unsaved. We are either "in Christ" or not. All the other things will pass away. Plaques, certificates and even trophies will all fall apart, but our relationship with Jesus will carry us into eternity.

I remember helping my children through situations as they lost in one form or another over the years. It was never easy. You want them to succeed and experience victory, but that doesn't always happen, so you prepare them for loss and victory. Help your students in the same way. Help them see what God thinks about our victories and losses and how we should handle them.

The Chiefs came out on top this year. I know those in Kansas City are celebrating the win. You might be doing that as well. While that can be fun to celebrate and enjoy, the greater thing is to understand how God views the big and little victories in life. And as student ministry workers, we need to pass that information on to our students.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Mt. Vernon Youth in Harvest;** Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.; County Line, Marvell.

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

**Mt. Vernon Dist. Brotherhood;** March 4, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.

**Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood;** March 16; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville.

**Mt. Vernon Youth in Harvest;** Mar. 18, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.

**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.

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

**Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood;** April 9; Immanuel, Jonesboro.

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

**United District WMA;** April 13, 10 a.m.; Grace, Russellville.

**Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood;** May 14; Prospect, Jonesboro.

**United District WMA;** July 13, 10 a.m.; Hattieville, Hattieville

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## The Epic Story of Truth (Part 8): Help to Live in the Land and The Future of the Land

The Old Testament is dominated by the topic of the Promised Land. It starts in Genesis with Abraham being told to go to a particular land. Then in Exodus through Deuteronomy, Moses is called to lead the Israelites back to that Promised Land. We read in Joshua of the struggle to gain the land back. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, the struggle of Israel to remain in the land is at the forefront. Even the Gospels and the first of Acts continue to speak of locations in the land.

The topic of the physical Promised Land there in Asia, along the Mediterranean Sea, is prominent in the Bible; but today, for us, the Gentile Church, this topic doesn't make much sense. We mostly reference the Promised Land only metaphorically to describe fellowship with God and our future in Heaven. I'd argue that the disconnect rests in us not considering the single narrative running throughout the Bible and history. That's the point of this series of articles.

In the previous article, we looked at how once God took the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as His, He had to find them a home. God chose this strip of land in Asia. He made a covenant with Abraham and continued that with Isaac and Jacob. This covenant was unconditional. God gave them the land for perpetuity. Yet, as Israel travels back to the land from Egypt, God makes another covenant with Moses and the people. This covenant is conditional, with the conditions being that if the Israelites keep the law, they will live in the land that is theirs and enjoy it; but if they fail to obey the law, they will be removed from the land.

Throughout history, Israel constantly rebelled against God, and prophets were sent to call them back to Him and warn them that if they continued to break the covenant, they'd be removed from the land. This eventually happened. The Assyrians took away the 10 northern tribes, and the 2 southern tribes were exiled to Babylon, but even during the time of exile, God spoke comfort through the prophet Jeremiah: *"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant. . . . This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. . . ."* (Jer. 31:31-33 NIV).

The prophet Ezekiel gave Jews a similar hope for the future: *"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God"* (Ezek. 11:19-20). *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws"* (Ezek. 36:26-27).

Jeremiah and Ezekiel gave the hope of a New Covenant. This New Covenant would do two things — reconcile God's people with Him and make His people able to obey the law. This hope of being able to obey the law was in the context of the removal from the land, which,

as you probably recall, was due to not being able to keep the law. So, the New Covenant is providing God's people a way to obey the law and, therefore, be able to live in the land. This should be intriguing for us, the Gentile church, because we know this promise in Jeremiah and Ezekiel is the Holy Spirit and ultimately receiving our glorified new bodies through faith in Christ.

We celebrate the New Covenant in our churches today. We even call them New Testament or New Covenant churches. Yet, in context, this New Covenant we celebrate equips God's people to live in the land promised to God's people. This ability to obey the law and live in the land isn't just a feature of the New Covenant for Israel, but it is for all who belong to God through Christ, Jew or Gentile.

We get to live in this Promised Land and enjoy it because of Christ and the law being written in our hearts. This may seem foreign but that is because we often think of "Heaven" as being a spiritual place in the clouds. For those who die in Christ now, their souls are in Heaven and are with the Lord. But the Bible is clear that, after the return of Jesus, the afterlife for the saved or "Heaven" is the Millennial Kingdom on earth and, guess what, that Kingdom has a location. God's people have a territory.

There are many places in Scripture where we can read about this physical, tangible kingdom. Revelation 20-22 is the most vivid, but think just about the passages of the return of Jesus. Those passages put Him returning to the land of Israel. He will step on the Mount of Olives. Armageddon takes place in Israel. The Valley of Decision is a real valley in Israel. Many passages speak to Jesus ruling on the throne of David, which was in Israel. Jesus is called the Davidic King in II Samuel and Daniel. The Davidic king will rule over Jerusalem. Psalm 110 says the Messiah will rule from Zion, which is Jerusalem.

Amazingly, Ezekiel even gives the borders of the future of Israel in chapters 45-48. Israel has never possessed this full territory, and I don't believe it will until the return of Jesus. Even after the Millennial Kingdom, the eternal city we read about in Revelation 21 and 22 is the New Jerusalem.

The land isn't an irrelevant Old Testament idea but a major piece of the story. That land promised to Abraham for God's people is the very land we will live in because we are God's people.

Dive into the Epic Story yourself by reading Jeremiah 30, Ezekiel 36 and Ezekiel 45-49.

Note: Speaking of the land, as

## CAMP

(Continued From Page 4)

Daniel Springs Camp. Church leaders and volunteers are making an eternal difference by giving of their time to bring kids to camp. Making and building relationships and showing the love of Christ has and continues to change lives.

There is also a special group of people who have chosen to invest their whole summer. Those who choose to become part of the staff are summer missionaries. They travel from all over the US to the campus of Daniel Springs, dreaming of seeing someone else's life changed. They work, day in and day out, for 8 to 10 weeks, leading others, loving on people and making sure the facilities are ready before and after every camp. They spend the summer with a group of people who are walking this journey alongside them each step of the way. The prayer has been and always will be that this summer of missional work and investment would be another way the Lord leads these summer missionaries into a life on mission to share the gospel.

Words cannot express how thankful the ministry is that so many have invested in the ministry of Daniel Springs Camp. Many of the buildings that were built in the beginning were built by churches and individuals who had a heart to invest in summer camps. The countless volunteers who have helped with facility upkeep and improvements over the years continue to make the camp a welcoming place for the gospel to touch lives. Those who have partnered financially have invested not only in buildings and maintenance but also in people.

The hope and dream of Daniel Springs Camp is to continue to be a place and a ministry that takes every opportunity to point people to the love of Christ. We want kids and adults alike to be impacted by the gospel and enter into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. We want to be an extension of the local church and partner with them to reach the world through a ministry called camp, both at the campus in Gary and around the world.

People ask all the time, "What does the camp need?" We need min-

you read this, I'm currently in Israel, seeing the locations of the Oct. 7 attacks in person, along with interviewing families of those killed or held hostage. I look forward to reporting on the Truth on Israel beginning next week.

— *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)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.

## Deaths

**Irma Jean Wolfe,** 90 of Banks, passed away Jan. 28. She was a member of Banks Baptist Church.

**Brooks Hall,** 94 of Jonesboro, passed away Nov. 2. He was a member of Unity Baptist Church.

istry partners. We need churches and individuals to walk in ministry with us. Some choose to come to a camp with other churches, and some choose to rent the facilities for their church alone. Some come to retreats with groups from their church or come with other churches. Either way, everyone has been blessed because we all realize we are not in life alone.

Many have been financial contributors, and we need more. Many realize that costs continue to increase, and I hate the idea of continuing to raise prices. The camp has been blessed to have over 140 churches and individuals who have partnered with the camp financially over the last year. Those financial contributions allow the camp not to have to charge the total amount of what it truly takes to offer ministry programming, meals and facility maintenance. We need more financial partners to allow the camp to continue to offer more exciting and inviting ministry programs and update and improve facilities so people of all ages will be excited to come. That investment is not just in programs and facilities but in people to hear the gospel.

The goal has always been, and continues to be, finding creative ways to love people so they will see the Lord. We desire to continue seeing Daniel Springs Camp's ministry as a place where the Lord changes lives.





## 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

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## Reach for the Sky

*"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12).*

I'm thinking this week of how Jonah found himself in what us country boys like to call **a fix**. I believe, if we were honest, all of us have found ourselves between a rock and a hard place. While growing up, some of us disappointed our fathers. We often thought they were being unreasonable, while all the time it could have been their love for us that directed them. The same is true with our heavenly Father. We can have relationships, and yet lack fellowship. I also thought about the disobedient son who rebelled against his father and found himself in a pig pen (a fix). They both realized it was their decisions that had placed him in the pig pen and the belly of a fish.

Sometimes, we have to be flat on our backs to see up. Pride and arrogance have to give way to true humility before the Father will intercede. If you don't believe the saying "obedience is better than sacrifice," just ask one of these guys when you get to Heaven.

Unlike our earthly fathers, who often fail to love their children as they should, our heavenly Father never fails and desires the best for His children. If you find yourself in a trying circumstance, perhaps it's time to go to God in real humility and mend some fences. After all, He told us that every son he loves he will chasten — *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth"* (Heb. 1:6).

This was a lesson I had to learn firsthand. Back in the 80s, God was calling me into the ministry. In 1987, I finally surrendered, only to turn down the first church that called me as pastor — not because it was God's will, but because of my family's love for our home church. That afternoon, sitting in my den, I knew I had been disobedient to God's will. It was then that the Lord spoke to my heart, and I remember it clearly: "If your family is going to hinder you serving me, I can take care of that." Scared to death, I couldn't wait for the evening services so I could confess that I said no for all the wrong reasons and tell them if they would still have me, I would come. They said, "yes," and I said, "Thank you, Jesus." I remained there for over 10 years. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "During the rains of last week, the water began to leak into the roof. That is terrible news since, at the end of last year, we submitted a claim to the insurance company for roofing damage and it was denied. We presented our arguments in disagreement with the company, and they sent an inspector again. The inspecting engineer provided a report on which the insurance company again denied the claim. We are now faced with the need to replace the tile and probably part of the plywood on which the roof shingles are nailed, as it is visibly damaged, showing a very significant catenary between support beams. We have estimated the cost to replace the roof,

which is around 120 squares, at up to \$40,000, depending on the number of plywood sheets to be replaced.

"We are contacting Hispanic people who work in roofing to ask for their voluntary support with labor. Their reaction has been very generous. Many have offered their volunteer work for two days and contacted the companies they work for, asking for donations of roof shingles. Assuming we reduce the cost of labor and roof shingles by 50%, the total cost would be reduced to \$24,700. The church has \$8,000 for this project; therefore, we must raise funds worth \$16,700. Please pray that we can raise that estimated amount of \$16,700. If God has put in your heart to donate to the project, please contact us or the Arkansas Missions Department director at arstamis@comcast.net."

### Ebenezer, West Little Rock:

Ruben Isturiz writes, "We thank God that Avelina Santos is in much better health. On Monday, Feb. 5, we visited her at her home to pray for her. She is 87 years old and one of our most faithful members. She is an example to the whole congregation of faithfulness to the Lord. She has not been able to congregate for more than two months, but she joins via online to our congregation. Let's continue praying for her so we can see her soon in Ebenezer.

"Every Sunday, we are promoting the special offering for missions that we collect the last Sunday of this month. We are educating people about the importance of supporting missions, not only in prayer but also monetarily.

"We are about to re-establish the Berean Groups. Pray that God will raise up leaders to lead the groups and homes to serve as hosts to proclaim the Word of God.

"Last Sunday, we had a good attendance and a meaningful Celebration Service. We finished the theme on the brothers of Jesus, and next Sunday we will be in Acts 2, where the apostle Peter presents the gospel message. May God be glorified!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had another great week at Faith Chapel, with a great number, even though we still had several out for various reasons, both members and "faithful" visitors. It was a great time of worship and fellowship!"

"You may remember that, when we started building, we downsized our original plan due to the costs associated with doing it all at once and decided to just do the sanctuary and fellowship hall at first, but we made provisions to add the classrooms as we were able and as the need grows. Well, we had a business meeting last week and our need is great for those classrooms, especially for the children and teens, but for the adults as well. We are growing week by week, and our rented building is full! And it turns out that our support has been great as well! God has supplied our needs according to His riches in glory through your support in amazing ways, and we are also under our projected budget due

to doing most of the work ourselves along with the Master's Builders. So, we have decided to go ahead and add the classrooms, get them in the dry at first, with the priority being finishing the sanctuary and fellowship hall first so we can move in (come on drywall), then finish the classrooms one at a time as we can afford. We have the Master's Builders scheduled to help us again in May, and we can't wait to see them again.

"We are only able to move ahead like this because of your prayers and support! We thank God through Jesus Christ for each and every one of you who has helped us in any way. We do not take you for granted. God is blessing our mission through you, and we dearly love you all. We give God the glory for all of this and all He has done here! Praise God!"

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love"* (1 Cor. 13:13 NIV).

"We celebrated the season of love with a Valentine's Day fellowship at Faith Journey this week. Everyone brought finger-foods and desserts that were delicious!"

"Our married couples discussed what we looked for in a potential life partner when we first began dating. We enjoyed hearing what each person remembered about those younger years and what drew them to their spouses. Some things were funny, and some were tender and sweet, but the most important lesson we learned was that each couple shared a foundation that centered on Jesus and that was their key to a strong marriage. As with any solid structure, a strong foundation is crucial. Happy Valentine's Day and may you enjoy God's endless love for you."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We continue with the mission the Lord has given us in the midst of the Hispanics of the area. To that end, we continue with intentional discipleship. One more family has been added to our Springdale group, and the groups in Pea Ridge and Rogers continue with regular attendance. What we have observed is that interest in the topics we have to deal with is growing. Every week, we share with you many questions and ask that you will pray with us because God is giving them a thirst for His Word.

"On Saturday, we responded to the invitation made to us by the brothers of Cornerstone Church. It was the banquet of love and friendship, and there were 11 people from our congregation. We are happy every time we can meet with Pastor Williams and his church. We are very loved and very well cared for.

## Opportunities For Service

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

**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.

**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.

"We had our Sunday service and had a family that visited us. Then we went to the fellowship room and, with a cup of coffee and some bread rolls, were able to meet them."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "It was a rough week, but I'm not discouraged. At least this week, I was aware that I'm not the one planting this church, but God is doing so. So, if the momentum has a hiccup, it is okay. Maybe I will take that attitude next week.

"After our coaches meeting was canceled due to my daughter having the flu on Sunday, we then had to cancel our Woodbridge Connection Group because three families had the flu. The Garfield Connection Group did meet and had a good night.

"Though we had to cancel some meetings, three of us continued our training with KC Underground. This is very helpful as we are missionaries in our neighborhoods.

"For most of the next week I will be traveling to Israel. I'm excited about the opportunity and when I do miss the group I lead, it is great because another leader steps up! This week, their family has been working on a special Bible study."

**El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville:** Michael Hight writes, "We got some good news on the meeting place. The church we were talking to voted to let us use their facilities when we got ready to start public services. This will be a few months from now, but at least we have that taken care of for the time being.

"I also got an appointment in Arizona for March 12. I will be there for the entire week going through testing. Please pray for some solid answers and that God would provide for our needs for the expenses. Thank you!"



## KING (Continued From Page 1)

between what is right and wrong, moral and immoral? Some have said that perhaps the presidents of the colleges were wanting to leave some room in being able to defend one of America's most precious rights, the right to free speech. But surely these presidents know that not all speech is protected speech, such as language that leads to imminent, lawless action. Let me suggest one possible thread to what is surely a multi-dimensional answer to the question posed at the beginning of this paragraph.

Two types of institutions exist — institutions and organizations that thrive by shaping people according to the principles and values instilled found within the institution, or those that seek to thrive by being influenced by the people coming to their institution.

Sometimes leaders are not certain how a “yes” or “no” response would be received by the constituents of their particular institutions, so they run to the land of obscurity, hoping to buy time until they can lick their fingers, stick them up in the air and come up with the right answer that would satisfy all parties involved. Often, when leaders

do this, they vacation in this land until polls can be run in order to tell them what to think.

We do not need these types of institutions. Yet, sadly, this seems to be the majority of what we have. These types of institutions tend to be swayed by a money compass instead of a moral one.

I write this to ask you to consider yourself. Would you rather belong to and support institutions that are principled along the path of biblical truth, or would you rather belong to and support institutions that will cave to your desires and demands?

In the Christian worldview, personal desires and demands are so very often carrying the residual effects of the sinful nature and need to be ferreted out by the Holy Spirit within the community of faith, aka the biblical church.

When the church builds out and creates tangential institutions, such as schools, businesses and non-profits, these institutions must also run on principles, not shaped by prevailing public opinion, but shaped by biblical truth, in order to help build men and women into the image of Christ.

For those in pastoral and leadership roles of institutions as the church, Christian schools, Christian non-profits, businesses run by

Christians, etc., we must ask the question, “Are we willing to lose people in order to uphold biblical convictions? Are we stalwart enough to be abandoned by the world?”

When it comes to the two types of institutions, one will succeed and the other will erode. I think Jesus said something about the rains coming, the winds blowing and the floods rising, and that the house on the sand going “splat” (or maybe that was my children's church teacher who said that part). When your consistent approach to making decisions is sticking your finger in the air to see which way the wind is blowing, you are on shifting sand, my friends. Presidents of elite universities may be able to get by with this for a little while, but may we, as churches of the living God, find ourselves with our finger pointing to the text. Let's continue to build on the truth that we have no king but Christ.

The theme for our national meeting is “No King But Christ,” and I hope to see a great number of you there as we enjoy times of worship, fellowship and taking care of the business of our association. You can find information, including the meeting schedule, hotel information and registration options at [bmaamerica.org/nationalmeetingorBaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024](http://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeetingorBaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024).

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# SENT

## To The Nations

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