

BAPTIST TRUMPET

www.baptisttrumpet.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 84

February 21, 2024 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 21



(L/R) Cars burned and destroyed in 10/7 attack, Col. Danny Tirzah, architect of the security barrier and a home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza attacked in 10/7 attack.

Five Things Learned on the Ground in Israel

By Jake McCandless, Executive Director • Stand Firm

I spent last week with a team in Israel on a solidarity tour. The purpose of the trip was two-fold:

- We wanted to share with Israelis that they weren't alone, and we were standing with them. That didn't seem like something that would matter much, but it truly was. Everywhere we went, we had Israelis thanking us for coming.

- We were there to see and retell the truth. We had that chance. We

toured the sites of the attacks and visited with survivors. We talked with people from all levels to gain insight to the attack and current situation. Those people ranged from displaced children living in our hotel to the head of the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) strategic command.

There was so much I walked away with wanting to share, here are five of those things:

- **The 10/7 attacks in Israel did happen** — I don't imagine anyone reading this has doubted that the attacks in Israel on Oct. 7 happened, but that idea is certainly floating around in the world. Going back to the Holocaust, some claim it never happened. Not only are there those who claim that the 10/7 attacks didn't occur, but there are conspiracy stories of Israel attacking their own people. So, for now and into the future, when the world claims that Hamas did not attack Israel, let this be just one of the many proofs that it happened. I had the chance to be on the ground and walk through kibbutzim (small towns) that were attacked. I saw the homes that had been ransacked and burned. I talked with survivors, parents of young families killed and parents of hostages. I visited daily with families displaced from the attacks on 10/7 and threats of attacks in the north. I heard from soldiers who cleared the kibbutzim. I heard the 101 call tapes (their 911). I saw the burnt cars. I walked through where 364

were killed at the music festival. I walked from burned spot after burned spot along the roads where cars were burned. It happened just as the footage shot by the terrorists themselves showed, and it was even more brutal than you can imagine.

- **The nation of Israel is hurting.** One of our guides said we had walked into the national sitting Shiva—the mourning room. When Jewish families have a loss, after the funeral, the family gathers in a home where they mourn for seven days. They receive guests who come to sit with them in their grief. Though it had been four months since the attacks, the nation was very much still in mourning. Our trip was to sit with them in their grief.

It is hard for us 21st century Americans to grasp how a nation can grieve together, but Israel functions much more like a large family than a nation. Though there are over 10 million residents in the country, the nation is so small that six Israelis could fit in Arkansas. That's a very small area. One person said, when it comes to the hostages, those killed and the soldiers fighting, the chances are that every Israeli knows them or knows someone who does. Another person told us you can't say Israel is facing post-traumatic stress because they are still in the trauma — the wound is still open. Trauma is the right word to describe what Israel has faced. One reason is that these attacks were very personal because the nation had done so much to help the Gazans. A survivor in the kibbutz that was attacked worked daily with the very ones who came and brutally killed his family and friends.

The attack and its aftermath have impacted every aspect of the nation. There were over 300,000 reserve

See ISRAEL, Page 8

The Stories of Kenneth Brown Live On

By Dr. Thom South

A book of the stories Kenneth R. Brown told has been published. Bro. Brown was the first student to enroll at Central Baptist College when the BMA of Arkansas began the college in 1952. He became the history instructor and, later, head of the History Department, teaching at the college for 40 years. Many of his students have stated that he was their favorite professor.

One reason he was popular was the stories he told in his classes. When he retired from teaching, he was urged to write a book of his stories and reluctantly began to write about his life. It was thought that those who knew him would appreciate a collection of the stories he told in his classroom and at the many venues where he was asked to speak around Arkansas.

He began writing about the "momentous event" of his arrival on this earth. He wrote of early experiences in his life, but then he stopped. When encouraged to complete the book, he said, "Nobody wants to read about my life." From the comments and encouragement from almost everyone who knew him, it was determined that there was an interest in his stories.

Bro. Brown went into the presence of the Lord in 2013. His daughter, Judy South, and I tried to remember his stories and compile them into a book. The title selected for the book is *What Color Was That Bull Anyway?*

See BROWN, Page 8

WHAT COLOR WAS THAT BULL, ANYWAY?

The Stories of Kenneth R. Brown



Compiled and Written by Judy and Thom South

Stand Against the Radical Arkansas Abortion Amendment!

**Join the
DECLINE TO SIGN Campaign**



ARTL Launches "Decline To Sign" Campaign

Arkansas Right to Life (ARTL) has announced its Decline to Sign campaign to defeat the Arkansas Abortion Amendment proposal that would legalize abortion by writing it into the Arkansas Constitution.

"ARTL is currently engaged in the toughest battle yet for pregnant mothers and the lives of our unborn children in Arkansas. In November, a group calling themselves For AR People formed a ballot question committee, Arkansans for Limited Government," said Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life.

On Jan. 23, the Arkansas Abortion Amendment (AAA) ballot measure that would allow abortion for any reason in the state, which, for the last 18 months, has had virtually no legal abortions, was approved by Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin.

"Besides cruelly allowing babies to be aborted up to the moment of birth, this extreme amendment would give abortionists access to minor girls without their parents' knowledge and remove laws protecting women

See DECLINE, Page 6

In This Issue

5th Annual CBC Gala (pg. 2)
Discipleship Through Imitation (pg. 3)
Former Mission Burns Note (pg. 6)
Healthy Student Ministry (pg. 2)
Spotlight on Missions (pgs. 4-5)




CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

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

Terry Kimbrow
 President

5th Annual Scholarship Gala is Here

Central Baptist College's 5th Annual Scholarship Gala is almost here, but it's not too late for you to be involved! The Gala will take place on Friday, March 1, at 6 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. The black-tie optional event will be catered by CBC Dining Services, under the direction of Chef Billie Rodriguez. The night will be a celebration of "Enduring Faith," and will feature Dr. Jack Graham as the keynote speaker. The proceeds from the event benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund, which supports institutionally funded scholarships.

The need for individuals, churches and businesses to come alongside Central Baptist College and support the transformational life change that a Christ-centered education can provide has never been greater. Dr. Jack Graham's inspirational story is one of "Enduring Faith," as is the story of Central Baptist College.

We need you to help us reach our goal! Single tickets are \$100, and we have space for additional people to attend. If you cannot attend, you can still participate and help us by making a one-time contribution for the Gala event. Remember, 100% of the event proceeds will be used to fund student scholarships. To purchase single tickets or to make a one-time donation, visit cbc.edu/gala. Limited event sponsorships are also still available. Contact Jessica Faulkner at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8800 for more information.

Dr. Jack Graham serves as senior pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, one of the nation's largest, most dynamic congregations. When he came to Prestonwood in 1989, the 8,000-member congregation responded enthusiastically to his straightforward message and powerful preaching style.

Now thriving with more than 57,000 members, Prestonwood continues to grow, reaching throughout the North Texas region. In 2006, the church launched a second location, the North Campus, in a burgeoning area 20 miles north of the Plano Campus. Prestonwood also has a flourishing Spanish-language ministry, Prestonwood en Español, which includes members from more than 20 nations. And Prestonwood Live, the online community, draws worshippers from all over the world.

Dr. Graham is a noted author of numerous books, some of which include: *A Man of God: Essential Priorities for Every Man's Life*; *Unseen: Angels, Satan, Heaven, Hell and Winning the Battle for Eternity*; *Angels: Who They Are, What They Do and Why It Matters*; *Powering Up: The Fulfillment and Fruit of a God-Fueled Life*; and *Courageous Parenting*, written with his wife, Deb.

He served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the country with more than 14 million members. He and Deb have three married children and eight grandchildren.

Upcoming Admission Deadlines

For traditional high school students and college transfer students, now is the time to apply for Fall 2024. Scholarships are still available. To schedule an on campus personal campus visit, go to cbc.edu/visit. Students can also take a virtual campus visit to get more information about the value of Central Baptist College. After completing the easy application process, each new student will receive a scholarship award package to review and accept. Once students have been accepted, they will be invited to register for CBC Connect Day (Orientation). Our first Connect Day is scheduled for April 23. At Connect Day, students get to meet new and returning students and pick up their Fall 2024 schedule.

See CBC, Page 7



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Men's Basketball

• **Conway, Feb. 13** — Looking to extend their winning streak to 12 and stay undefeated in American Midwest Conference (AMC) play, CBC faced a tough road test against the Eagles of Williams Baptist University (WBU) inside the Southerland-Mabee Center. CBC (21-4, 11-0 AMC) did exactly what they needed to do, never allowing WBU (12-10, 4-7 AMC) to lead in a 90-81 win for the Mustangs. **Deshawn Corprew** led the way with 24 points, including 18 in the first half. **Kyle Harding** had 20 off the bench. **Jonas Carlisle** added 15 and **Sage Borbon** chipped in with 10. CBC posted one of their best shooting performances of the season, going 31-60 from the floor (51.6%), 9-19 from three (47.4%) and 19-23 at the free throw line (82.6%) to beat WBU by at least 9 percentage points in each category.

• **Conway, Feb. 16** — Playing for the final time at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse during the regular season, CBC looked to make history as they faced off with AMC foe University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP) in St. Louis. CBC (22-4, 12-0 AMC) made sure the road to the AMC Championship comes through Conway as the Mustangs led by 27 at halftime and cruised to a 96-81 win over UHSP (1-23, 0-12 AMC) for their 13th straight victory. **Tonje Durham** led the way in scoring with a huge night, scoring 24 in his final home game. **E.J. Anderson** and **Jonas Carlisle** chipped in with 15 and 12, respectively, off the bench, while **Tomas Mikyska** recorded his first career double-double, scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. The Mustangs made a season-high tying 14 threes and went 18-22 at the charity stripe to earn the victory and cement an 11-0 record at home this season.

Women's Basketball

• **Walnut Ridge, Feb. 13** — Playing on the road for the third consecutive game, CBC took on the Eagles of Williams Baptist University (WBU) in an AMC clash inside the Southerland-Mabee Center. CBC (5-15, 4-10 AMC) had a lead as late as the third quarter but couldn't hang on, falling 98-85 to WBU (19-4, 12-2 AMC). **Olivia Lambrigtsen** scored a career-high 24 points on 10-18 from the field for CBC and was joined in double figures by **Rhys Anderson**, who had 13, **Aliya Grotjohn**, who had 12 and **Caroline Citty** who chipped in with

See SPORTS, Page 6



Student Ministry Matters

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

Dan Carson
 Director

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



Signs of a Healthy Student Ministry



Healthy Student Ministry: The Worker & The Lord

If you look back through your old issues of the *Baptist Trumpet*, you will find a series we did concerning signs of a healthy student ministry. (See Nov./Dec. 2022 and Jan./July 2023 issues in *Trumpet Archives at BaptistTrumpet.com/archive*.) In total, we covered seven indicators that your student ministry is headed in the right direction. Those indicators are incomplete if you don't look at the person leading your students. Can your student ministry succeed even with an unhealthy leader? Yes, because God is ultimately the One in control. However, a truly healthy student ministry will have a healthy student ministry leader.

Before discussing what this healthy leader should look like, we need to define something. As a group of churches, we believe the role of pastor should be held by men only. Words matter, so for the sake of this discussion, we will be referring to the head of our student ministry programs as the student ministry leader. We are blessed by many women who invest in the lives of our students in BMA churches. They give of their time and energy in paid and, more often, unpaid roles. These women are incredibly valuable to our ministry to students, but most of these people would never think or wish to be called a pastor. With that understanding, it is important to look at what makes these people healthy leaders, whether they are men or women.

The healthy student ministry leader must be a Christ-follower. I know this seems like an obvious statement to make, but our world is full of good-intentioned people who want to see our young people succeed. These people care deeply for the next generation and want to give back but may not know Jesus. That simply won't do. A healthy student ministry is led by someone who not only knows Jesus but is growing in their relationship with Him. In I Cor. 11:1 (ESV), Paul writes, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." I don't claim to be the spiritual giant Paul was, but I do need to be able to say something similar to my students. If I don't have a relationship with Jesus, that is impossible to do.

Why is this important? As a parent, I can't imagine putting my students in the spiritual care of someone who doesn't know Jesus. That simply doesn't make sense. Our parents need it, and our students need it. Can you imagine a student ministry leader trying to teach a group how to get close to someone they don't know? I can't. And because of that, the topic might never be covered. There are plenty of other topics that would get neglected because the student ministry leader has no working knowledge of a personal relationship with God. It makes me think of my taekwondo training. I would much rather learn from someone who trains than someone who simply learns from a book. While our Book is the best, I would much rather learn about Jesus from someone who is working out their faith with Him.

If you are looking to start a student ministry or evaluate the current ministry in your church, make sure your leader knows Jesus. That is the starting place. Then, make sure that leader's relationship with Jesus is growing. A great personality and charisma are not enough. A healthy student ministry leader must know Jesus.

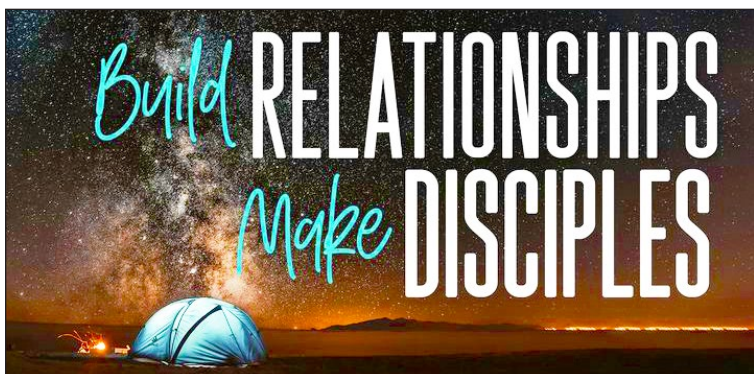


HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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

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

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



Discipleship Through Imitation

The apostle Paul focused on “living out” what you say you believe about God and what you have been taught. Paul understood what it meant to be an apprentice under someone more skilled, experienced or knowledgeable than him as a tentmaker, a Pharisee and even as a part of a missionary team (Barnabas). Paul learned from them, then immediately began discipling others through imitation. In Eph. 5:1 (HCSB), he said, “*Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children.*” The word here for follower or imitator is mimic and describes the one who has decided to follow Jesus in order to carry His name and reflect who He is in their life.

An imitator copies specific characteristics of another person, and the whole of the Christian life is the reproduction of godliness as seen in the person of Jesus Christ into every follower and disciple. The imitator desires to develop Christ’s character, love, forgiveness, kindness, actions, attitude, etc., into every space, area and arena of their life. The Scriptures drive this truth home multiple times and in multiple locations. In Eph. 4:1, the admonition is to “*Walk (live) worthy of the vocation of the calling you have received.*” You see, a disciple of Jesus is committed to being with Jesus and becoming like Jesus.

I Corinthians 4:16 says, “*Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers (imitators) of me.*” Paul adds depth and definition in I Cor. 11:1 — “*Be ye followers (imitators) of me, even as I also am of Christ.*” That is a pretty bold declaration, but it stresses the importance that practitioners of the principles of Christ are not supposed to be the exception but the rule. Paul was stressing that saying you believe the Scriptures and agreeing with them without proving it by living them out is biblically deficient. This same understanding

of discipleship by imitation was taught to the believers and churches throughout the New Testament.

“*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you*” (Phil. 4:9). James makes it clear that the expectation is not only “hearing” but also “doing.” There are two questions every follower of Christ needs to answer:

- Am I following the example of Christ to other believers?
- Is my example worthy of others following?

Paul is stating very clearly, through God’s inspired Word, that the journey of discipleship is founded upon a lifestyle of imitation. The ultimate goal is imitating Christ, and there is no hint of an “anything goes” or “mass chaos” individualism.

From the first day of your spiritual journey, you are to be disciplined by others through their godly example, so you can then repeat the process through your godly example. The journey of discipleship has definite borders and guard rails to keep us out of the ditch — human effort on one side and absence of personal responsibility on the other side. You must be in the Word of God daily, seeking the Holy Spirit constantly and leaning on other believers regularly, but you are responsible to imitate Christ. You cannot have a culture of empowerment without a parallel value of accountability. Obedience is required.

How do we learn to imitate Christ? The three elements needed are relationships, experiences and information. It is imperative that these elements be built upon your personal walk with Christ. How is your spiritual walk right now? Are you thriving spiritually or are you only surviving? How is your prayer life? Prayer is a constant attitude of the heart toward an ongoing

dialogue with Him. As a follower and imitator of Christ, you must pray if you want a strong relationship with God, and you must have a healthy connection to Him if you expect your prayers to be effective. Relationship and communication cannot be separated.

Your relationship with others is first determined by your relationship with Him. When you pray and begin praising Him, you are orienting your mind to the greatness of God. This better enables you to pray according to His will and to have the confidence that this great God can, indeed, grant your requests. The connection between the Word of God and prayer cannot be overstated. Prayer is talking to God; the Scriptures are God talking to us, and the two always go together. You pray in the right way when you pray scripturally. You study the Scriptures in the right way when you study prayerfully. That is where discipleship by imitation begins.

Paul said to imitate him as he imitated Christ. The discipleship Paul is describing requires direct and close relationships with another disciple. Who is discipling you? It cannot be done from a distance and demands an investment of time and energy. The deepest impact on our core being comes from the investment of others into our lives. The narrative can be changed, but the truth remains that discipleship is primarily about imitation over information. It is more caught than taught. This is not an anti-intellectual approach or being against curriculum but instead stating the greater challenge of imitation is willing disciples in proximity.

This is not a call to move away from truth or to check our brains at the door. It is a reminder of Jesus teaching the 12 through life-on-life and iron-sharpening-iron. Our systems and structures in many churches have not prioritized discipleship and especially imitation through the blood, sweat and tears of daily relational accountability. You need to discover pathways of discipleship that give you the flexibility you desire and the accountability everyone desperately needs. This occurs through relationships where you share meals, serve together in community, go on a trip or retreat together and function as a family.

Relationships provide the context where you can have an internal transformation. Through relationships, dialogue can occur, questions can be asked, assumptions can be challenged, sin can be confessed and specific applications can be practiced. Discipleship by imitation requires getting up close so we can learn together, journey

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

(501) 804-6647 • temitchell1946@gmail.com



World Missions Day

I was just thinking about the tremendous importance of World Missions Day in the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) and the BMA of Arkansas in particular.

Missions is Our Mission

When Dr. W.J. Burgess and later Craig Branham were secretaries of BMA Foreign and Interstate Missions (today called BMA Global), they emphasized that “Missions is Our Mission.” That is absolutely true!

In every era of our associated work, the Great Commission has been the source of our marching orders. Every believer knows, or should know, these verses and its impact on the Lord’s churches: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you*” (The Lord Jesus then added a promise which is a blessing) “*...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matt. 28:19-20 NIV).

Give Your Prayer Share

Over my 60-year ministry, I have been on 47 mission trips to Central American countries, mostly for the purpose of building, preaching and teaching. (I always told our people, such trips were a vocation, not a vacation!)

My desire has never been to serve as a missionary on a foreign field. I desired to encourage our missionaries and their families, as well as help relieve some financial burden on our BMAA Missions Department. However, when I asked the missionaries how our church could best help them, each replied, “Please pray for us and please don’t stop praying.”

Over the years, I have urged the churches I pastored, “Give your prayer share!” Today I am urging the churches of the BMA of Arkansas (and beyond) to do the same.

Give Your Fair Share

As churches located across our state, we associate to support the various entities of the BMA of Arkansas. On a global scale, we associate with the BMA of America to support our national entities. It is a fact that such support is essential because none of these could continue without our regular and substantial giving from the churches. Rising costs of everything, not just nationally but also globally, effects every aspect of our mission endeavors. One church alone cannot support all that is needed for growing the kingdom of God. But together — as we have done since 1950 — we can continue to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission.

This Sunday, Feb. 25, is BMAA World Missions Day. Church member, you are urged to give through your church, or you may individually send a donation via check to our Global Missions Center in Conway (P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033) or online at bmaglobal.org and choose “Give” from the menu.

Our Global Missions family — president, directors, staff and especially our missionary families — need your support, and they deserve it. Our Lord has promised blessings. Please churches, give your fair share!

together and make mistakes together. Discipleship is not an event; it is a lifestyle of following Jesus. It is realizing the importance of an

often-overlooked space in your life of what has been called “transparent” space where you walk with Christ with three other disciples.

Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions

P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878 • 501.455.4977 • www.bmamissions.org

Michael & Laura Beth Strong • Minneapolis, Minn.

It's a new year, and we are in a time of assessment and planning. I am seeking the Lord as to how He desires to accomplish the work He has for us.

• **Ending (And Beginning) On A High Note** — We ended the year celebrating the coming of Christ through the incarnation, and we are beginning the year planning in light of His second coming. He has guaranteed success in reaching all His lost sheep with the gospel (Acts 1:8; Revelation 7). That is a truth I hold dear, a truth I have learned to live clinging to each day. It is the promise that empowers our ministry the most in the hard times, the slow times and the days of trouble.

With each passing month in church planting, I have become more sober-minded about the work and what it means to walk by faith in completing it. I sit at my computer today with a peculiar stillness at work in my heart. I am not distraught because I know success is guaranteed — not by me or my efforts, but by King Jesus who has promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18). I'm similarly void of being overjoyed because I have felt the pain the work includes and know, with each passing season, there are hard things that are ahead of us, things God will use for my good, despite some being meant by others (human or spiritual) for evil (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28). So, by God's grace, I woke up and spent time talking and listening to God, and He reminded me it is not an "off" day. It's another day to take up my cross and follow King Jesus.

• **Will you pray for us?** — Would you please pray for us to make connections? Would you also pray for the Lord to lead us into effective gospel conversations where His Spirit will be at work bringing about salvation and new birth? Would you pray for each person who goes out to have confidence in our Lord and His Word? We desperately need the prayers of the saints on our behalf. It is very dark in Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metro. Thank you for praying for us.

• **A Major Opportunity: Good Friday Service** — I left the prayer request above the same as last month. I see no need to change it. We still need connections, gospel conversations, boldness and confidence to share the hope we have in Jesus, and, on top of that, a growing desire to be "All In" with King Jesus at all times.

But I would like to add a praise and another prayer request. We have been asked by the church that lets us use their building, along with the other church plants and ministries that also meet there, to oversee this year's joint Good Friday Service. It is an awesome responsibility and one I do not take lightly. I usually attend and serve however we may be called to in these services but have not sought to be the lead on one.

Worship is very important to me, and I have some culturally counterproductive views on how that worship should be administered based on the Word. To accomplish this goal, I will be asking the other groups to embrace a longer sermon, a breakout group Bible study at the end of the service, and a mostly more hymn-based music selection. I do not desire to stand in the way of anyone worshipping God with all they are. At the same time, I want to honor God and lead the sheep He has given me to serve in a way that elevates the Word to what I believe is its rightful place.

Each of the churches value the Word and care deeply about how worship is administered, and each of the churches loves Jesus and loves the other churches. My issue is less about what we are doing differently and more about feeling inadequate to serve everyone well. So, will you pray for my faith? Will you pray for my heart? I need to trust the Word that says it is Jesus, not me, that builds His church. I need to trust the Word when it says the Holy Spirit is not able to be controlled or summoned but is like the wind and comes from who knows where and falls on whomever He chooses. I need to believe the Holy Spirit convicts, renews, restores, gives life and heals, not me. I need to be free in my heart and mind to study the Word, be faithful in exegeting and preparing to teach it and leave the

results to God and God alone. I need to seek God for love for those who will attend, but especially love for the God we gather together to worship and to focus on pleasing Him rather than trying to figure out how to get to a specific response or outcome.

Thank you for your prayers.

As I have been praying and seeking God for a text, I settled on John 17 — Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. This is the prayer He prayed before He went to the garden to pray and prepare for His betrayal, unrighteous trial and crucifixion. My prayer is each person will see the heart of King Jesus, our Perfect High Priest, as we unpack what was on His heart and mind at that time. More than just seeing His heart, my hope is all who hear will understand how wonderful He really is and love Him more after the service than when they arrived. Only God can accomplish that feat. Anything I write will feel like it is too weak, simple, wordy or confusing to accomplish it, so I need to really know He can do miracles with a sinful, weak, simple man's work. He has done it before, and He will do it again. That is my hope.

Here's to a year of looking forward to watching God do more than we can ask or imagine.

Thanks again for your prayers and financial support. We praise God for His care through you. And all the souls who now know Jesus because of your partnership in taking the gospel to Minnesota also thank you. God has given us a unique ministry. We serve in a hard part of a hard city. Overcoming the challenges of poverty, broken homes, incarceration, mental illness, physical illness and violent crime keeps some groups and individuals from coming to join us to serve here. I get that, but it doesn't have to keep us from reaching the people of North Minneapolis together. Thanks for considering partnering with us.



Nick, Isaiah, & Juju serve cocoa to members of the community.

Siripong & Jessie's Yaebeang • Thailand

We hope it has been a good new year for you thus far. We don't know about you, but we have felt like January has lasted forever! Here are a few recent updates about our live and ministry here in Bangkok, Thailand:

• **Ouan's first sermon** — I mentioned last time that there were a few people from our church that have been given opportunities to practice preaching. This month, it was Ouan's turn to preach. This was his very first sermon! He preached from Col. 2:6-10 and we thought he did a good job, especially with it being his first time preaching. After the service, some of us men got to debrief and give him some feedback on the sermon. To be honest, as a pastor and someone who has been helping these guys prepare their sermon, I was probably more nervous than they were! I praise God for these men. Please pray for them.

• **Pray for Ann** — Ann has come to our church a few times now. She is friends with the guy in the picture, who is a member of our church. We invited them to our home one day. I gave her a Bible with a piece of paper (that I created for those who have never read the Bible before as an initial guideline) titled, "Where should I start reading?" I encouraged her to read according to that list and ask any questions that she may have.

To my surprise, she came back a week later saying she had read every day and finished everything on the list! It's a lot because it consists of the birth, death and resurrection of Christ from the Gospel accounts, plus the book of John, Acts and the sermon on the mount! We hope to continue talking to her and sharing the gospel with her. Please pray for Ann's salvation.

• **Our neighbor at church** — We haven't seen our neighbor — her name is hard to spell in English because you don't have that sound and the closest would be pronounced "Dom" — in some time, so Jessie went to check on her on a Saturday and invited her to church. We were thrilled to see her and her son at our church the next day! That was their very first time to attend a church service. They heard us sing, read the Scripture, pray and preach the gospel. We don't know if/when they will come back again but pray that God will continue to give us the opportunity to be a good witness to her.

See YAEBEANG, Page 5

Baptist Trumpet

(USPS 043-720)

(ISSN 0888-9074)

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

JEFF HERRING, Executive Editor
editor@baptisttrumpet.com

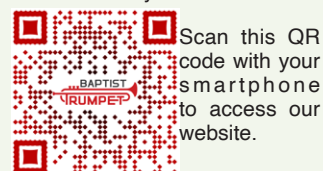
P.O. Box 192208 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208
Telephone (501) 565-4601 • Fax Line (501) 565-NEWS
(Note: An answering machine on the 565-4601 line will take messages after regular working hours — Monday-Thursday)
www.baptisttrumpet.com

ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor
associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com
(mailing list changes & billing inquiries)

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

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

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



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

Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions

P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878 • 501.455.4977 • www.bmamissions.org



Mickeal & Sharon Quillman • Zambia

Good things are happening! January and the start of February have been exciting and busy for us here in Zambia. We are still seeing God work in an amazing way. I love when things begin to happen that can only be a result of the power and authority of the One True God. We continue to see new souls reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ weekly, and the strongholds of the evil one beginning to break down.

We have reached into 17 villages now, with 14 of those making the walk to our first church, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church. (It was 107 degrees this past week, too!) When planting season and “rainy season” ends, we will start new Bible study groups in many of these villages. Our prayer is that these Bible study groups will become future church plants. Many of those currently attending the church services are walking from 45 minutes up to 2 hours so they can attend.

This past Sunday, we had 102 people for services. Imagine 102 people praising God on a dirt floor in a building that is just under 700 square feet. It is a mixture of beautiful voices praising the God they have just come to know in a cloud of dust. Our current Bible study group meeting in the church building is growing weekly. Our members continue to invite their friends and family to come and see what God is doing, and people are responding. We had a workday this last week to clear some land beside the church building, and over 200 people showed up to help.

Speaking of the church building, we put new doors on the building and have begun leveling the dirt floor to be ready for cement. We are also hoping to be able to put glass in the windows in the coming months. This will help keep some of the animals and bugs out of the building, although I have become quite used to preaching/teaching while a chicken, goat, dog and the occasional pig wanders through. A few cows have poked their heads into the doorway to check us out, but they must be from another

denomination because they don't stay for long.

We have also started building toilet facilities for the church. We built a small “mud and stick outhouse” a few months ago, but it needs an upgrade. We have one hole dug, 10 feet deep by 10 feet wide and 16 feet long. This will allow us to build concrete-style outhouses over them. We made over 800 concrete blocks to be used for this structure, and we will begin making more concrete blocks for the other two toilets in the upcoming weeks. These will be the only toilets for any of the communities around us. These are very important for us, not just for privacy and convenience, but for health reasons. Since December, we have been battling a cholera outbreak here in Zambia. God has continued to protect us here where we are serving, but just a couple hours north of us, there have been several deaths reported.

Another area we are assisting the community is through a school for the local children. In order to attend school, the children, starting at age 4, walked for over 1 hour 30 minutes — this is if they attended school. The local leaders reached out to Sharon and me to see if we would advise them to start a school close by the church. Our primary goal here is not to build schools but to bring the gospel and make disciples. However, to reach people, you must walk alongside them. Discipleship is a life-on-life experience and truly caring for not only for their eternal needs but also their current needs. We see Jesus walking with His 12 disciples, sharing meals with them, training and discipling them so they could be shaped into His image. We currently have over 100 children enrolled in the school, Chabantu Baptist Academy, and they are meeting in the church building. The children attend weekly Bible studies as part of their curriculum.

This last week, we spent time cutting down trees to make poles for another structure so we could spread the children out for better learning. I had a small chainsaw I thought could do the job, but I soon discovered it wasn't the “little

YAEBEANG

(Continued From Page 4)

•**Newbook (2nd Edition)**—We recently received some copies of my book as a gift from the publisher. It's the second edition of my devotional

engine that could.” So, several men took turns with a homemade axe and finally got the trees down and trimmed up into poles. We will purchase blue tarps in town to serve as walls this week. The toilets I mentioned will also be for the students and teachers during class.

Right now, the children only go to class for a half day as we cannot yet afford to provide for them. We were given a plot of land for the school to plant a field with corn and vegetables and pray that by the next school term, we will have enough food to feed the kids. The field was another praise for us. Not only was the land given, but we had the community come together to prepare the field and plant it. Everyone came with their oxen and plows and finished the 15 acres in less than 2 hours!

I mentioned the rainy season in quotes earlier for a good reason. It is called the rainy season because this is the only time of year we receive any rain; but for the last 3 years, Zambia has been getting less than 50% of the usual rainfall. Please pray that God will open the clouds and allow us to receive abundant rain in the next few weeks. The food stores here are already dangerously low, and another poor season would be devastating. The corn fields are already beginning to burn up and turn yellow from lack of rain, and irrigation is just not available. We have one well, known as a borehole here, for people within about an hour's walking distance. Most of the people within the villages cannot miss any more meals because they are already close to starvation.

Please join us in praising God for all the souls being saved, the new choir team for the church, the new floor for the church and the toilets being built. We also ask you to pray with us for rain, for the five men being trained as pastors, for the cholera outbreak to end and for the stronghold of the witch doctors to continue to be broken.

Our needs for this ministry are a larger chainsaw, benches for the church, glass panes for the church windows and acoustic musical instruments for the church. (pastorquill@gmail.com)

book. There are minor changes as far as the content inside, but the outside cover is completely different now. We already gave some away to people from our church and the publisher will work on distributing it to various bookstores. In this book, each day the readers will be meditating on scripture from both the Old Testament and New Testament, while understanding the meaning as well its application. Please pray that the Lord will use this book to draw readers closer to him through His Word.

•**Newmember(s)**—We rejoiced to welcome a few new members to our church family. They have been coming to our church for some time now, so we are glad they officially decided to be a part of the body. They are still several people that have been attending but haven't joined due to different circumstances. Please pray for them. For a lot of Christians here, church membership and the thought about seriously committing to a church is still relatively new.

•**New Worship Team**—Last month, a member of our church who helped lead worship suddenly left our church to go a different one. In a small church plant like ours, it makes a big impact when things like this happen. So, in the past month or so, we've been seeking out and encouraging others from our body to fill in these roles. By God's grace, we have not only one, but two new guys that have stepped up and have been helping us lead worship—one guy plays the guitar and the other sings. Both are doing a wonderful job. I'm thankful for them. Though it's not completely the same context, it reminds me of a Thai saying that goes, “Tough situations can create heroes.” There are still other roles and responsibilities in the church that we need help with, so please pray that God will raise up people for those tasks.

•**New Ministry**—It has always been my passion to not only preach and teach faithfully, but also to train other Thai pastors to do the same. So, we are excited to announce that we are planning on launching a new ministry called “Thai Expositor Ministries” to equip, encourage and energize Thai preachers to faithfully preach the Word of God. (The name, the logo and other details are still a work in progress).

One main thing I plan to do through this ministry is to host preaching seminars/trainings, both at our church in Bangkok and

different parts of Thailand. Moreover, I hope to assist Thai pastors/preachers I have met through these trainings and help them to fulfill their calling in any way I can.

We are currently looking at some dates to host the first preaching seminar under this new ministry. We were going to host one within the first few months of this year, but there are several changes at the church at the moment that need special attention, so we are looking at pushing it back a few more months. We will keep you posted. Please pray for the effort of this new ministry, alongside other responsibilities that we already have going on.

•**Visitor/Ephesians 4 feedback**—As I preach each Sunday, it's not very often that people will want to keep talking to me and other members about the sermon they just heard. But since I started Ephesians 4, I praise God to see that He is doing some great work in the hearts of several people. The last few times I have preached, at least a few people have come up and shared how God has worked in their heart. A lady who lives nine hours south of where we are joined us one Sunday because she was in town for work. She told me, almost in tears, that she has been struggling in the areas that the sermon addressed that day. I'm excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in the rest of Ephesians 4 and the rest of the book. Please pray both for me and all those who will hear His Word.

•**Visitors**—Due to the distance, it's very rare that any of our supporters from the US happen to be in this part of globe, but we rejoice whenever it happens. Recently we got to see and spend some time with Sean and his family while they are visiting Thailand. They got to join us for worship and met several of our people. We are grateful for them, and all of you who are standing beside us in our lives and ministry. May the Lord bring some of you our way in the future!

•**Children's Day**—Children's Day in Thailand always falls on the second Saturday of January. The schools will not have teaching on that particular day, but provide a full day of fun activities and give away gifts for the kids. Our church was able to go to a school that one of our member's sons is attending and give some gifts to the kids on behalf of “North Bangkok Church,” as well as play some games with the students there.



Former Mission Burns Note and Praises God

By Hershel Conley, Pastor • The Bridge Baptist Church, Mt. Home

We had a wonderful morning service on Sunday, Feb. 4. It was set aside to praise the Lord for His wonderful mercy and help. We burned our mortgage note in front of our members and guests. Tears of joy swept over the congregation as it burned.

We went over our past, from the time we first started in April 2007 until now. The Lord put this church here, and we could see His hand in everything from the start. From starting in a Hospitality Room up 13 steps, then the strip mall until we bought our present location, God has blessed us. We have seen days where we didn't know if we could make payments, and now we are able to pay off our mortgage. We did not miss one payment, and for years, the payment was \$2,800 a month.

Many have helped us along the way. The Jonesboro Association helped us tremendously with financial support, along with other churches. Jerry Clements and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church gave us a baptistry, a modesty wall and financial support every month. Milligan Ridge Baptist Church also gave us financial support along the way. So many have helped, but I don't have space to mention them all.

Had it not been for IV Hight and the State Missions office helping me as a missionary, this place would not exist. As it happened, Paul White was my pastor at Highland Hills Baptist Church, our mother church, and then later became the executive director of State Missions.

All along, it was the Lord God to whom we gave all the credit. It was Jesus who stirred the hearts of all who had a part in the work. We have had many souls come to Jesus, and God is still blessing us in His work. People are in place doing the work of the Lord, and I am a truly blessed pastor to be able to pastor a church like this. Everyone who preaches here for me says the same thing.

Whenever I write about the Bridge, I still feel like your missionary. In a way, we are all missionaries in the place God puts us. *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."* (Psalm 127:1).

All of us here at the Bridge are thankful to the BMA for all the support and prayers you have generously given for us. As I used to say when serving as your missionary, "I love you all, your servant in Jesus, Hershel Conley."

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Missions Sunday, Feb. 25.
CBC Gala; March 1; featuring Dr. Jack Graham; Antioch, Conway.
Meet Our New Pastor; Mar. 8, 6 p.m.; Dickinson, Harrell.
BMA of America Annual Mtg.; April 16-18, 2024; Chateau on the Lake, Branson.
Mo. State Brotherhood Retreat; April 26-27; Camp Garwood.
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.

Reports from the Churches

Brister, Emerson added three by letter; Dr. Eric Goble, pastor.
College Hill, McNeil welcomed two by letter since last report.
Flat Rock, Quitman received two by statement; Myles Evans, pastor.
Herman, Bono gained two by letter; Randy Stimach, pastor.
Victory, Hampton received one by baptism and one by letter; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

Revivals

Woodberry, Hampton; Mar. 4-6, 7 p.m.; Reuben Weaver, evangelist; Lauren Stricklin, pastor.

Check Out The Trumpet Archives at
baptisttrumpet.com

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.; County Line, Marvell.

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

DECLINE

(Continued From Page 1)

from injury, coercion and death from abortionists.

"Just two days before, at the March for Life, ARTL announced our Decline to Sign Campaign to ask all Arkansans unwilling to sign a death warrant on innocent unborn children to politely Decline to Sign when approached by canvassers.

"If approved, the Arkansas Abortion Amendment will enshrine abortion in Arkansas' Constitution and gut Amendment 68, which says it's the policy of the state of Arkansas to protect unborn babies from conception until birth," said Mimms. She urges all Arkansans to decline signing petitions as they are being circulated across the state in the coming months.

"The women of our state and the babies they carry deserve better than to have our state constitution altered for the sake of the profit-driven abortion industry. ARTL urges all the people of our state to decline signing petitions as they are being circulated in the coming months," Mimms concluded.

For more information on Arkansas Right to Life's "Decline to Sign" campaign, visit artl.org/decline-to-sign-campaign.

Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information, visit artl.org.

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

10. CBC outrebounded WBU 42-39, but couldn't cash in on turnovers, scoring only 6 points on 13 Eagle miscues compared to 34 for WBU on 19 Lady Mustang miscues.

• **Conway, Feb. 16** — Playing in their penultimate home game of the season, CBC hosted the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP) in St. Louis in an AMC contest at A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (5-16, 4-11 AMC) led after the first and third quarters, but couldn't contain UHSP (14-11, 9-6 AMC) in the final stanza, falling 69-62. **Olivia Lambrigtsen** guided CBC with 21 points, while **Rhys Anderson** chipped in with 14. CBC was able to keep pace with UHSP thanks to second chance points and points in the paint, with 18 and 20 respectively, compared to just 3 and 8 in those categories for the Eutectics.

• **Conway, Feb. 17** — Playing for the final time inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse this season, CBC took on the Stars of Stephens College in an AMC clash. CBC (5-17, 4-12 AMC) couldn't stop Stephens (19-6, 14-2 AMC) from three, falling 85-57 to the Stars. **Olivia Lambrigtsen** had a career-high 26 in the game and was joined in double figures by **Caroline Citty**, who had 16 in her final game at Reddin. Lambrigtsen and Citty also placed themselves into the record books at the free throw line, where Lambrigtsen made 10 and Citty hit 7.

Baseball

• **Benton, Feb. 13** — Shifting their series from Burns Park to Benton High School, CBC hosted the Panthers of Philander Smith in their first "home" game of the season. CBC (5-1) won both games of the doubleheader over PSU (0-5) by identical 8-2 scores, finishing with 8 hits in both games.

• **Waxahachie, Texas, Feb. 16** — Heading on the road for the third straight weekend, CBC took on the Lions of Southwestern Assemblies of God (SAGU) at Lions Field. CBC (5-3) was swept in the doubleheader, dropping game one 23-6 and falling 11-2 in game two to SAGU (8-4).

• **Waxahachie, Texas, Feb. 17** — Looking to salvage a game from the weekend, CBC took on the Lions of SAGU at the SAGU Athletic Complex. CBC (5-4) trailed the whole day and couldn't complete the comeback, falling 8-4 to SAGU (9-4).

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19** — For the third consecutive week, a CBC has earned AMC player of the week recognition. This time, **Jack-**

son Pope was the recipient for the first time in his career. Pope made two appearances this week for the Mustangs. In 8 total innings against Philander Smith and Southwestern Assemblies of God, he allowed only 1 earned run and struck out 13 total, 4 against PSU and 9 against SAGU.

Softball

• **Conway, Feb. 16** — Playing at City of Colleges Park for the first time this season, CBC hosted the Crusaders of Dallas Christian College in a doubleheader. CBC (6-2) swept both ends run, ruling the Crusaders (3-7) in game one (9-0) before coming back to win game two (9-5).

• **Texarkana, Texas, Feb. 17** — CBC was at Bramlett Field for a doubleheader with the Eagles of Texas A&M-Texarkana (TAMUT). CBC (7-3) split the doubleheader, losing game one to TAMUT (3-4) 10-8 before winning game two 7-5.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19** — For the third consecutive week, CBC earned the softball player of the week. **Abi West** earned the honor this week, following **Lauren Anderson** in Week 1 and **Jordyn Frederic** last week. West had a great week in four games for the Mustangs, who went 3-1 in those four games. She went 4-13 with a triple, 2 home runs and 5 RBIs. She homered in both ends of the Dallas Christian doubleheader on Feb. 16, then tripled in the second game of the doubleheader against Texas A&M-Texarkana Saturday.

Wrestling

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 17** — **David Corretjer** made history for CBC as they competed in the AMC/Sooner Athletic Conference Championship inside the Carl & Delores Petty Student Recreation Center. Corretjer became the first Mustang wrestler to be named Wrestler of the Year for his performance all season as he led CBC to a sixth-place finish in the championship. Corretjer finished third in the 125-pound weight class, while also being named the AMC's all-conference selection at 125 pounds. He won two matches on the day, one by medical forfeit and one by a 15-0 tech fall. **Alejandro Mas** and **Isaiah Hendrix** both competed at 149 pounds, with Mas finishing third (true second) in the class, going 3-1 with all three wins coming via fall, while Hendrix went 0-2. **Inson Guerrier** finished fourth at 157 pounds, going 2-2 in his matches with wins by a 13-5 major decision and a fall. **Kyle Bahl** also competed at 157 pounds and went 0-2, while **Raymond Murray** placed fifth at 165 pounds, going 0-2 in his matches.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
STATE MISSIONS

Missionaries

Juan Carlos Posadas, Misión Creciendo en Cristo, NLR; (501) 712-8752
 Ruben Isturiz, Misión Ebenezer, West Little Rock; (501) 707-5388
 Johnny Shew, Faith Chapel, Flippin; (870) 421-1984
 Bryan Clay, Faith Journey, Benton; (501) 522-0079
 Roberto Marcelletti, Misión Gracia Soberana, NW Ark.; (936) 202-7988
 Jake McCandless, Epic Life, Pea Ridge; (501) 472-9079
 Michael Hight, El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville; (501) 326-0198

MICHAEL HIGHT, HISPANIC COORDINATOR; (501) 326-0198
DONNA WEBB, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

E-Mail: bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com • Phone: (501) 565-4601
 Office Location: 10712 Interstate 30 • Little Rock, AR 72209
 Mailing Address: PO Box 195514, Little Rock, AR 72219

www.bmaARmissions.com
 Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 arstamis@comcast.net

Take It At Face Value!

Since the beginning of man, God's Word has been under attack. Many today have attempted to deny God's existence or want to bring God down to our level — looking for fellowship with a friend rather than a relationship with a Lord. Some people want to serve a God that is just a little bigger and a little stronger and wiser than himself. Too many read or hear God's Word and consider it an opinion. Yet God does not beat around the bush when it comes to the authority of His Word.

Revelation 22:18-19 (NKJV) says, *"For I testify unto everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, and from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* These are very stern warnings that should get our undivided attention because any attack against the Bible is an attack against truth. We see this for the first time in Genesis 3. Satan comes on the scene, and we know who he is, right? John 8:44 tells us he is the father of lies.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Since verse is a reminder of the eternality of God's Word. The words of Jesus will last longer than anything else you see in the world around you. The words of Jesus will last longer than the world around you, and this world will pass away.

There's a New Heaven and a New Earth coming, but God's Word will remain. There is a tendency to dodge the tougher teachings in His Word to be less offensive or politically correct. It befalls our generation to be sure "thus saith the Lord" is preached, regardless of who it might offend.

I heard a preacher say the other day if his message didn't offend someone, it most likely was not very good. God's Word should rub the lost or the backslider wrong. The Bible says what it means, and it means what it says. May we carry on proclaiming the message of the effects of sin and the judgment it demands. God forbid we should think we are better than those we speak to. Paul makes this plain in Rom. 3:23, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Don't apologize for what God has to say! The Apostle Paul taught us to be bold in our testimony of the gospel. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:16).

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "With the initiative of Fernanda and Marlon, the Wednesday night youth meetings have changed format to make it more attractive. We have been in the new format for a couple of weeks, and some young people from our church have joined. They have also started a group for young people who have already left high school. They meet on Saturday mornings and will rotate the meeting place between Fernanda's and Marlon's houses.

"In addition, we have started a men's discipleship meeting on Monday nights in the temple, which complements the other existing women's discipleship meetings on Wednesdays and a general one on Sundays at 9 a.m.

before the general meeting.

"Something interesting to note is that the Saturday morning youth group is a second-generation discipleship, and Mrs. Sayra and I do not participate. We thank God for that, since seeing the reproduction of disciples is gratifying.

"I would appreciate it if you prayed that the congregation would be encouraged to share the gospel as part of their daily lives."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "This week was a time of prayer for our sick — Avelina, Neymar and Pedro. Last Sunday, Yecenia Barrera came to visit our congregation asking for prayer for healing, and it was a good time to show the love of Christ and pray as a congregation for her. I ask you to help us pray for healing that only a supernatural God can give. We have prayed for

each sick person, reminding them that the healer is God, and we are only interceding for them.

"Last week, we visited our son Ruben A. at the university. He had his first photography exhibition, and we went to support him as a family. It was a blessing to be in a class with him.

"Thank God, our mother church assigned a complete office for the Hispanic ministry. That allows us to work in a more stable place and to be able to minister better in Ebenezer. This has allowed us to paint it, buy furniture according to our needs and it is now easier to give counseling. This week, someone approached me to open his heart and talk about the emotional burdens and financial challenges he is facing. It was a blessing to welcome him into the office and talk. Thank God for the small steps we are taking to serve better and to be able to plant the church. Keep praying for us, To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had another great week at Faith Chapel! Our numbers for worship service were very good again. Like I have said before, if we ever get everyone here on the same day we won't fit in this little building, so please pray with us that those drywallers will get to us soon. We need that new building!"

"Praise God, for the third time in the past four weeks, the Lord has added to our number! Another couple, some more of our faithful visitors, joined us by letter, and we thank God for bringing laborers to the harvest! Karen and I have known them for a very long time (they were our neighbors at Cotter) and they are a welcome addition to our mission. Everyone already loves them, and they fit right in! Isn't it amazing how the Lord builds His church!"

"We want to thank you all for your prayers and support. Please continue because God is answering in a mighty way."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "1 Thess. 5:17 tells us to *"Pray without ceasing,"* and that is what we studied this week at

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.

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 mpmc.mineola@gmail.com.



George Ellis Benham, 85 of Benton, passed away Feb. 14. He was a deacon at Park Place Baptist Church in Bryant.

Faith Journey. We began a study of a *Prayer with No Intermission* by Bill Elliff with our people at the mission. We are excited to see the power of prayer and how God will use this study in the lives of His people. We are faithfully believing that learning how to pray and establishing a solid prayer life will strengthen our personal relationship with Christ and help the advancement of His kingdom.

"We were not able to visit and have our weekly Bible study with one of our nursing facilities this week due to illness. Please be in prayer for these residents and staff to feel the Lord's presence and for quick healing so they can enjoy getting back into the Word of God and fellowship with one another. Have a blessed week!"

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "The beautiful area of Northwest Arkansas is growing impressively. It is estimated that the growth is 36 people per day. We see this increase in the visits we have had the last month on every Sunday, and we are being intentional in engaging with our visitors. I ask for your prayers that the people who visit us, the majority of which are Catholics, will surrender their lives to Christ.

"This week we had to suspend our small groups in Pea Ridge, Springdale and Rogers because of COVID. Also, Patty, my wife, was diagnosed with bronchitis. Thank God, she is in treatment and is much better.

"In our Sunday service, we were able to have a good group and we had four visitors who heard the

CBC (Continued From Page 2)

Apply today and take advantage of the **free** application fee. Visit cbc.edu/apply to apply or contact Admissions at admissions@cbc.edu or (501) 329-6873.

PACE Enrollment

PACE is accepting applications for the next enrollment period. Block 3 starts on Monday, March 25. The deadlines for Block 3 are:

- Registration Deadline: Monday, March 11
- Financial Aid & Payment: Wednesday, March 13
- Block 3 Grades Due: Monday, April 29

If you have any questions about PACE, contact Corley Shumaker at cshumaker@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8940.

gospel and were challenged to make a decision for Christ. Now we wait on the Lord to see the fruits."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "I shouldn't have said last week was rough because this week was much rougher. Both of our connection groups were meeting, and we had our rescheduled leader meeting. I would miss one of the groups since I was in Israel, but we had a leader who was ready to step up to lead. The night before that group, Amanda's grandmother went into the hospital with congestive heart failure, and they called the family in. This impacted two families in our Woodbridge Group, and two families from our Garfield Group. She passed away Thursday night and the funeral was Sunday. It was the first death in Epic Life, and the first we experienced of our own family within the church we lead. It is hard to make it through a family death and all that goes into it without a church family. We didn't have to experience that because families from both groups took care of us. They picked up food for the family and set up to feed the 50 family members and friends who gathered to eat. Like everything we do, even the help and comfort at a death and family meal was done multi-generationally. They didn't just take care of the food and go, they stayed with us in our hurt. I was so proud to see Epic Life in action. Though we don't have the typical structure, we still rise to help and it's beautiful to see it done by a whole family. Since we are regularly in each other's homes, everyone knew where everything was!"

BMAA Meeting • April 16-18
Chateau on the Lake • Branson, Mo.
 For more information visit BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024

ISRAEL

(Continued From Page 1)

soldiers called up to duty. We talked to many wives and parents of soldiers called up. We met a father who just had come back from being called up, and he served in Gaza with his two sons. Another 200,000 people are displaced due to attacks and there are threats of more. Our hotel was full of those displaced. Children have not been in school for four months.

• **Israel is more than justified in eliminating the threat in Gaza.** It is important to stand alongside Israel because we stand with God, but that does not mean everything Israel does is right or pleasing to God. To think otherwise is to make Israel an idol. But when it comes to the justification of Israel's response, any sensible person can realize it is more than justified.

To travel within Israel, we had to download the "Red Alert" app. All Israelis use it. It is just part of life. This app gives real-time rocket/missile detection. Your proximity to Gaza impacts your reaction time. At some points we had only 15 seconds to take cover, and at others, we had 2 minutes. We went through training from our security detail on how to take cover. The Red Alert App has been in use since 2016. It went off every day we were there. Just this

morning, it went off as rockets went to 16 locations. Israel has lived in the rhythm of this app for nearly 10 years. Nearly every day there would be rockets, and residents would stop what they were doing and take cover or get into their safe room. Every home has a safe room/bomb shelter. They even had to have bomb shelters in the middle of the desert for the music festival.

That's only scratching the surface of what Israel has dealt with from Hamas. Hamas has been shooting rockets since 2001 and periodically attacking Israel since the 1990s. Yet through that time, Israel has sought to do good by Gaza. All Israelis moved out in 2005 and gave Arab Muslims the land. Those people elected Hamas to lead. From the mid-90s to today, Israel has helped and allowed \$40 billion dollars in aid to be given. Recently, Israel was allowing 20,000 Gazans daily work permits to work in Israel. Israel was convinced there was no way Hamas would attack.

• **There already are more than two nationalities living in Israel.** Through the news media, we keep hearing that Hamas attacked so the Gazans (Arab Muslims) would be free. First of all, they are not fighting for freedom. Hamas' charter says they exist to eliminate Jews from the land. In each home

BROWN

(Continued From Page 1)

Most of his former students will recall the "Bull story." Not everyone knows that when he returned home from that event and shared what had happened with his family, his mother-in-law asked, "What color was that bull anyway?" Be sure to find the whole story in the book!

in Gaza, the IDF has found maps of Israel that excluded Jews. They don't want freedom and peace with Jews — they want Jews eliminated. There are already many Arab Muslims that live among Jews in Israel. They live and function side-by-side in peace along with other people groups. The groups that are in Gaza and the West Bank are there because they support terrorism against Israel and do not want to coexist.

• **Israelis just want the truth told.** Every time we had the chance to meet with someone, I asked, "How can we help." Every person replied the same, "Please, go home and tell the truth of what you see here, for it feels the whole world is against us."

— *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)*

The first part of the book contains the stories he wrote about his early life. The second part has the stories recalled and collected by Judy and me. The storyteller may have died, but his stories live on for another generation to enjoy.

The books are available for a cost of \$15. Profits from the sale of the book will go to the Ken-

neth Brown Scholarship Fund at Central Baptist College. The Souths will have copies of the book available at the BMAA meeting in Branson, Mo., April 16-18. You may order a book to be mailed to you by sending a message on Messenger to Judy Brown South or call Judy at (501) 517-3203 or me at (501) 607-1234.



CENTRAL
BAPTIST COLLEGE

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

Director of Admissions

Personal Admissions Officer

TO APPLY, VISIT CBC.EDU/JOBS

DAVID T. WATKINS
ACADEMIC BUILDING

Sunday, February 25 is World Missions Day

BMA GLOBAL

JERRY KIDD MISSIONS OFFERING 2024

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

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

SENT

To The Nations

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