

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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Soaring Wings in Need of “Missionaries”

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

I recently had a chance to visit Soaring Wings Ranch for a tour and spend some time with Andrew Watson, the founder and executive director. Soaring Wings is a Christ-centered home for children that helps provide long-term resources to those needing a chance to “soar.” They aim to empower families through personal healing and child advocacy with a Christ-centered approach that includes resources and support for everyone involved. Soaring Wings currently needs

houseparents to serve as “missionaries” to the children that need to be cared for at Soaring Wings. While there is an immediate need for houseparents, the goal is to have a list of those ready to serve in this mission field to make a difference—often, an eternal one—in the lives of children who need help as they develop and grow. House parents are Christian husbands and wives. The wife is employed full-time by Soaring Wings in a salaried position (with benefits), while the husband serves in a volunteer capacity while maintaining daytime employment off-site. Houseparents must demonstrate strong character and embody the values of Soaring Wings—“Act Justly, Walk Humbly, Love Mercy” (Micah 6:8).

Soaring Wings is located on 195 scenic acres in Central Arkansas. There are currently four homes on the property, designed to provide comfortable, spacious and safe places for the children needing care. In each home, they can enjoy meals together, movie nights, board games and other activities that provide the environment to help the children “soar.”

They accept children who are not delinquent but need a new environment to thrive at a critical time in their lives. Children are admitted as young as birth and as old as 17. Once admitted, a child adapts to the program and may stay until age 18 or until they graduate from high school. If a child graduates while at Soaring Wings, they are helped through the next stage of life, such as

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

This is only a news column, and the publishing of a person's availability should not be considered a recommendation by the Trumpet. To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at www.BaptistTrumpet.com.

Bob Burch is the new pastor of Meadowside Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Kan. He will assume his duties in April.

First Baptist Church in Carthage, Texas, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Submit resumes to pastor@firstbaptistcarthage.com by April 5.

Garner Baptist Church in Garner is seeking a full-time or bivocational pastor. For more information, call (501) 726-3741 or (501) 658-4014.

vocational training or college. Typically, children are at Soaring Wings for 12 months or longer, depending on the needs of the child and family.

The children that live in the homes at Soaring Wings are supported in various ways. The campus director works to provide educational specialists, a case manager and interaction with the local community, along with the house parents who serve as the year-round parent figures for the children. Everyone involved focuses on helping the children develop and reunifying them with their families.

Regarding the need for houseparents, Andrew shared, “We see houseparents as missionaries working as part of a team to meet the needs of the precious children God entrusts us to care for. We meet the children where they are and provide what they need immediately, with our ultimate goal for them (and their families) to come to Christ. He is the One who breaks the cycles of abuse, neglect, dysfunction and crisis. If you want to learn more, I’d love to talk with you about houseparenting and take you on a tour of the campus.”

If you feel this missionary opportunity could be something you are called to do, reach out to Soaring Wings at (501) 849-2253 or through their website at soaringwingsar.org/ contact. You can also email Andrew at andrew@soaringwingsar.org.



(L/R) Three missionary couples that served in Honduras at the same time — Shelley & David Dickson, Rodney & Vicki Castleberry and Darla & Wayne Ely. Also pictured is David Dickson's sister, Beverly Dickson who spent some time in Nicaragua and Honduras as a medical missionary.

Missionary Care: Serving Those Who Have Served the Nations

By Holly Meriweather

When missionaries are on furlough, they enjoy being with their families and visiting churches. But when they say, “We’re going home,” they are referring to their mission fields back in their countries of service.

During a conversation with a missionary couple on furlough in the States, I apologized for “bugging” them with my questions about what was going on in their field. Not surprisingly, they said, “No, that’s okay. We love to talk about the people we serve and what’s going on there.” But what they said next was a shock — “Our families never bring up the subject the entire time we’re on furlough.” Much of that is understandable, given that family members are eager to spend time with the missionaries themselves and with grandchildren they have only seen on video.

But imagine a missionary coming off the field for the last time and not being able to talk about what happened there, what the challenges were or what kinds of feelings they have about leaving. For the fifth year in a

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BMA of America Ministers & Leaders Photo Directory



Digital BMA Ministers & Leaders Directory 2024

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

The *Baptist Trumpet* partnered with LifeTouch Church Directories for many years to produce a BMA Pictorial Directory. The goal was to update it at least every five years. The last BMA Pictorial Directory was produced in 2015. We were scheduled to take photos to produce a new one during the BMAA meeting at Farley Street Baptist Church (now Pathway Baptist Church) in Waxahachie, Texas, in April 2020. As you may recall, we could not meet that year due to the pandemic, so we could not produce the directory in 2020.

During the pandemic and accompanying shutdown of many churches, the LifeTouch Church Directory division shut down operations. Over the past few years, I searched for another company we could partner with to produce a new, updated pictorial directory. After talking to a few possible partners without success over the past few years, I received a phone call at the beginning of this year due to an online inquiry from Color Craft Church Directories, a division of Lifeway.

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CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

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Terry Kimbrow
 President

Update from Central Baptist College Mustangs

Men's Basketball—The CBC Mustang men's basketball team enters their final game of the regular season 22-5 overall and 12-1 in the American Midwest Conference (AMC). The Mustangs are the AMC regular season champions and will host the AMC Tournament in Conway beginning on Feb. 29. If the Mustangs win the quarterfinal round, they will advance to the semifinals on March 2, and the championship game is scheduled for March 5 if the Mustangs get that far.

Wrestling—Sophomore **David Corretjer** was named AMC Wrestler of the Year at last weekend's AMC/SAC Championships in St. Louis. Corretjer finished third in the 125-pound weight class and earned an automatic bid to the NAIA National Wrestling Championship in Park City, Kansas, at Hartman Arena, from Feb. 29-March 2.

Spring Sports—Baseball is off to a 5-5 start to their season with wins over Champion Christian, Dallas Christian, Texas College and Philander Smith (x2). The Mustangs are in action in Marshall, Texas, this weekend against Wiley College. Softball is off to a 7-3 start with wins over Dillard, Arlington Baptist, Texas Wesleyan, Kansas Wesleyan, Dallas Christian (x2) and Texas A&M-Texarkana. CBC is back at home this weekend against Evangel and the Mustangs head to Marshall, Texas for a pair of games on Monday. The golf teams start their spring seasons on March 11 in Melbourne at the Lyon Spring Invitational and the track & field team begins their season March 1 at the Hendrix Alumni Open.

For news and scheduling information on Mustang sports, visit cbcmustangs.com. You can also check out the CBC Sports News column in each issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

Spring Preview Day

CBC has two more Spring Stampede Preview Days scheduled: Homeschool Preview Day (homeschool students only) on Wednesday, March 6 and Spring Preview Day on Wednesday, April 17. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. and the events will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. Lunch from CBC Dining Services will be provided, as well as several drawings from the Mustang Outfitters campus store and more! RSVP today at cbc.edu/visit.



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Wrestling

• **Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20**—For the 10th time in program history and the 4th consecutive season, CBC has a wrestler that has earned a bid to the NAIA National Championship. **AMC Wrestler of the Year David Corretjer**, who is currently #21 at 125 pounds, earned one of 28 at large selections at that weight class. He went 25-6 this season, winning the 918 Open in Decem-

ber and placing 3rd most recently at the AMC Championships in St. Louis. He joins **Ben Freeman & Alejandro Mas** (2021), **Christian Richer** (2022) and **Darron Harvey** (2023) as national qualifiers in the past four years. The NAIA National Championship begins Feb. 29 at Hartman Arena in Park City, Kan.

Baseball

• **Texarkana, Texas, Feb. 20**—Playing their fourth straight game in the state of Texas, CBC was at Dobson Field for a midweek contest against the Eagles of Texas A&M-Texarkana. CBC (5-5) only



Hensley Named Head Volleyball Coach

CBC Athletic Director Lyle Middleton has announced the hiring of **Halee Hensley** as the new head volleyball coach. Hensley replaces Rick Brown, who resigned in January after two seasons.

"I'm excited to have Halee join the coaching staff," said Middleton. "Her leadership to expect excellence on and off the court, along with her Christian faith, makes her a perfect match for CBC volleyball and Mustang athletics."

Hensley was most recently the head volleyball coach for three seasons at Mississippi University for Women. In her three seasons, she won 17 games at the helm and coached 2 USCAA All-Americans and 19 USCAA Scholar Athletes. Additionally, in the team's first season in the SLIAC, she had 19 players earn All-SLIAC Academic Team honors.

Prior to her arrival in Columbus, Miss., Hensley spent two seasons as the head coach at American Midwest Conference (AMC) rival Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU). In those two seasons, Hensley won 11 games and had 3 All-AMC selections and coached 12 AMC All-Academic Team selections.

Prior to HLGU, she spent one season as a volunteer assistant coach at Hendrix and helped lead the Warriors to 20 wins in her lone season. She got her start coaching as a student assistant at CBC in 2017.


Hensley, a native of Mayflower, spent four seasons as a defensive specialist and outside hitter for CBC, graduating in 2017 with a degree in Kinesiology-Exercise Science. She becomes the ninth head coach of the volleyball program since CBC joined the NAIA in 2010.

"I love CBC," said Hensley. "I played here, and it was a great experience. I want to give back and essentially be at a place that is going to support me and my coaching philosophies."

mustered 4 hits and 1 run, dropping the contest 11-1 to TAMUT (4-8).

• **Marshall, Texas, Feb. 23**—Playing in Texas for the third straight series, CBC took on the Wildcats of Wiley University at Airport Park in a doubleheader. CBC (7-5) swept

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Signs of a Healthy Student Ministry



Healthy Student Ministry: The Worker & Their Spiritual Life

Last week, we talked about how a healthy student ministry must be led by a Christ-follower. I know that seems like an obvious statement to make, but good intentions of helping young people are not enough. Our service to the young people in our church and community should come from a transformed heart, not just a desire to make a difference.

This week, I want to discuss the need for student ministry workers to be growing in their faith. Again, I know this seems like an obvious statement, but too often, when selecting the leader of our student ministries, our top characteristic is willingness. While willingness is important, especially in a volunteer situation, it cannot be at the top of the list — much higher must be a growing faith. This person does not have to be a spiritual giant but must be making steps forward in their relationship with Jesus. What does this look like?

• **Prayer is a mainstay.** Many who love students are doers. "Let's get our students serving. Let's take our students on a trip. Let's have a lock-in!" While "doing" is definitely a normal part of working with teenagers, a healthy student ministry worker must be willing to slow down and talk to God on a regular basis. Among many things, prayer is a reminder that we can't do this all on our own. We need God's help.

• **Reading the Word on a regular basis.** The Bible is where God teaches us who He is in our lives and in people around the world. If we don't pick up a Bible on a regular basis, we don't need to be leading others. When interviewing men for the position of leader at the Association of Baptist Students, my friend, Wade Allen, would ask, "What has God taught you today?" In that question, we were able to discern if they were looking to the Word on a regular interval. A healthy student ministry worker will be growing in their faith because of their involvement in God's Word.

• **Connecting with believers on a regular basis.** First and foremost, this is a call to be involved with a church's Sunday morning gathering. Gathered worship will be a priority for the healthy student ministry worker. It is during this time of praise and diving into the Word that believers experience the "one-anothers" of Scripture.

• **Involved in a Discipleship Relationship.** The student ministry worker needs to find someone who can hold them accountable and who they can learn from — a Paul to their Timothy. Perhaps you need to meet with your pastor twice a month. Maybe you have someone else in your life you can open up to. Whoever that person is, they need to be able to speak into your life in such a way that you will listen. A healthy student ministry worker knows they need others as they navigate their spiritual life.

While this list could go on with other disciplines of the Christian life, it should be clear with these four that spiritual growth is intentional. It is not just something that happens by attending the right seminary or conference. If you are looking for someone to work with the students of your congregation, don't neglect to evaluate these areas of character. If you are serving or have a desire to serve in student ministry, remember that you need to be growing in your faith. It shouldn't be an afterthought.

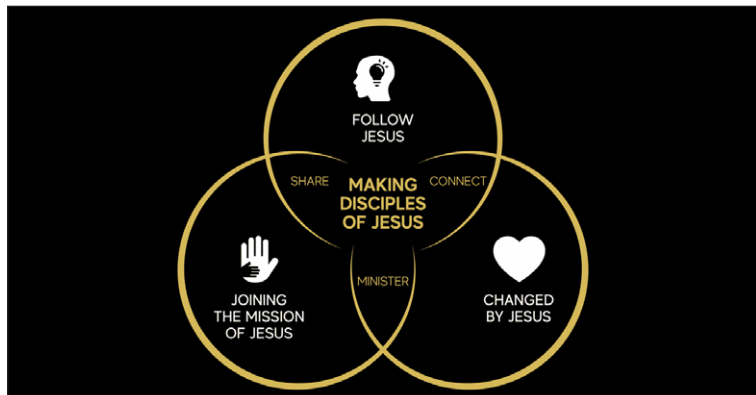


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5 + 1 Discipleship Spaces

Disciples are followers and imitators of the one they are following. A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who is being with Jesus (relational), becoming like Jesus (transformational) and doing what Jesus did and is doing (commissional). The church is to be a gathering of disciples who are “the people of God, saved by the power of God, filled with the presence of God, for the purpose of God.” Unfortunately, it is far too easy to focus only on those already coming and become unconcerned for those far from God. Discipleship is relational, and we need to work harder once again on building relationships with nonbelievers.

In *Made for More*, Todd Wilson and Rob Wegner stated, “The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling, then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and every sphere of society.”

Lee Strobel, the author of *The Case for Christ*, recently posted this while in the airport: “Leslie and I are at Gate E16 at Bush Airport in Houston. Stop by if you’d like to chat about Jesus. Spiritual seekers and skeptics are welcome! We’ll buy the coffee.” That is striving to reach out to “every corner of the culture” and into “every sphere of society.”

Churches have created moments for decisions, but are we creating pathways for making disciples? Church culture, if it is not very careful and intentional, will create immature “deciders” instead of mature disciples. You pray a prayer and move on, primarily on your own. Have you mapped out a pathway of how your church will intentionally and systematically move people from spiritually dead to spiritual infant, to spiritual child, to spiritual young

adult and on to spiritual parenthood? Does your disciple-making pathway put disciples of Jesus in ongoing, consistent, loving relationships with those who are yet to be saved?

Discipleship is commissional (the +1). Jesus’ disciples are to actively do what He called them to do — be “fishers of men.” What is your plan for teaching and showing other disciples how to do everything Jesus commanded? You cannot lead people to a place where you have not been and do not plan on going. You must lead by example because you normally will not lead people to do what you are not doing yourself. Making disciples implies that you are making them from scratch and not just reteaching, reorganizing and retraining those who have been in the church for years. Create relational space in your life for nonbelievers (the +1).

Here are the other five biblical spaces the Scriptures describe:

• **Divine Space** — This is illustrated by the relationship of Jesus with the Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; John 5:19). This is learning to abide in Christ through silence, solitude, sabbath, fasting and other spiritual disciplines. This daily walk with Christ is imperative because your external life is always the outflow of your internal life. Yesterday’s manna will not sustain you today.

• **Transparent Space** — This is demonstrated for us with Jesus’ relationship with Peter, James and John (Luke 9:28-36; Mark 1:35-45; Matt. 26:36-38). This “transparent space” is where the beauty of God’s truth is driven even deeper into the hearts of disciples. The individual who was spiritually dead becomes a spiritual infant and requires someone who is ready to show them what they need to know and learn. If you are not careful, your ministry could

easily produce spiritual orphans if you do not create spaces where basic Bible truths are taught, demonstrated and lived out. Discipleship requires a more mature disciple who is ready and prepared to share with the new disciple their life, biblical truth and the godly habits they need to learn, build upon and exercise daily. The goal is that every disciple of Jesus will make disciples for Jesus who obey all that Jesus commands. Sadly, this is not what we normally see or focus upon. Disciple-making disciples are seen more as the Ninjas (Green Berets) of Christianity. Yet, II Tim. 2:2 clearly states, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” What better way to learn to pray than to have a prayer partner? What better way to learn how to share your faith than to have someone who knows how to show you in real time?

• **Personal Space** — This is focused on the biblical group size of 12 (John 13; Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 8:27-33). This is your small group ministry where a close community is built by studying the Scriptures together, planning ministry service projects together, fellowshiping together, practicing the “one anothers” together and doing life together. Small groups are the “first responders” to everyone’s needs. They often know about the challenges and struggles of those in the group sooner than a pastor, deacon or another leader. This enables the leaders of the church to know that everyone is being cared for and loved.

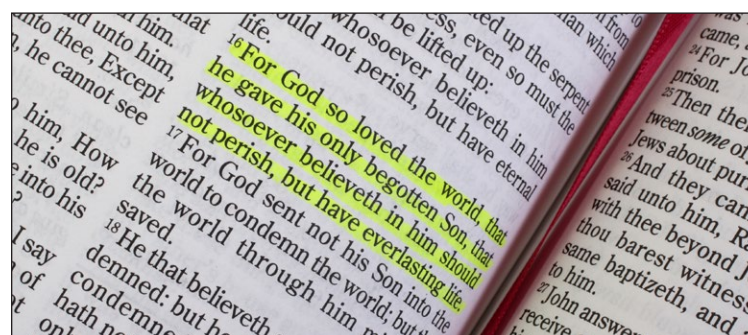
• **Social and Public Spaces** — Social (around 70) and public represents Jesus and the crowds. According to several surveys, most churches put the majority of their energy, time and resources into these two spaces. They are good and needed spaces, but do not make the mistake of believing these spaces can accomplish more than they actually can. Do not accept the lie that just because your crowd is growing, Jesus’ mission is being accomplished. The beauty of understanding all five +1 spaces and their purpose is being aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

Evaluate how you can improve and make more disciples by connecting each space to the next. Ask great questions about what you are doing well and where you need to improve in each space. How can you train and model disciple-making by focusing more on the relational space with nonbelievers? Do you have clear next steps to help disciples thrive and flourish in all six spaces? Following Jesus is not an achievement but rather a process and a journey!

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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A Mandate for Missions

I was just thinking about how prone many of us are to overlook spiritual truth in Scriptures we have known for most of our lives. Let’s consider, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16 NIV). Have you ever associated that verse with our mandate for missions? Here are some thoughts about that:

• **The heart of missions is divine.** God so loved! The Father didn’t express the depth of His love with “so,” He revealed the manner by which He demonstrated His love. That was by sending His Son to die that we might live. Missions is about sending, and God did exactly that. The Lord wants His believers to love like He loves — unconditionally, without prejudice and, definitely, with great concern for those who are lost.

• **The scope of missions is global.** God loves the world! When I think of that truth, I am reminded of that Sunday School song we learned as children: “Jesus Loves the Little Children.” A part of it says, “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight.” The colors of people who need salvation can be found around the world. God doesn’t just love children; He loves the young and old, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, and He loves all, even while they are still sinners!

• **The cost of missions is sacrificial.** God sent His Son, not to be a goodie-two-shoes, but to be a sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind. Jesus was not murdered by a rebellion. He was sacrificed by His Heavenly Father for the rebellious, lost world. When it comes to finding the mandate for missions in John 3:16, we need only recognize that the cost of global missions is great and often requires sacrifices. Missionary families sacrifice their lives of comfort in the

U.S. to serve all around the world. While we may not go ourselves, we should be willing to sacrifice by supporting missions with times of intercession and monetary gifts to help them remain on the mission field.

• **The need for missions is universal.** Whether in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East or right here in the United States, people need salvation from the condemnation of sin. We know the truth: “*As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one’*” (Rom. 3:10 NIV). Then, there is: “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23 NIV). The truth is that people need the Lord everywhere — in every nation, in every neighborhood.

• **The reward for missions is eternal.** The greatest missionary ever left His place in Heaven to come to the largest mission field in existence — planet Earth. He came to seek and save those who are lost. What would we do if He had not come? What would we do if someone had not told us about what Jesus did when He died for us? The missions work of Christ, taken on by a believer, reached out to us who now believe, and the reward is eternal life with Him who loved us so. Friends in Christ, we must answer the mandate for missions — share the good news!



Broadway Ave., Bay added one by baptism and three by statement since last report; Rick Jensen, pastor.

Letona, Letona gained one by baptism; Jackie Manasco, pastor.

New Mt. Zion; Mineral Springs received seven by letter and one by statement; Marcus Caudle, pastor.

Trinity, Stamps welcomed two by letter; James Cox, pastor.

Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions

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Brandon & Brittney Lingle • Thailand

We are so thankful for those of you take time to read this update, check on us and pray for us. Here are a few updates about our ministry:

• **We Found a Place** — It's clear for us that God answered our prayers. We found a great place to live and do ministry in. It was a two-in-one deal. We were able to take a survey trip to the new city we will be moving to and, during that time, searched for places to live. Before we left for the trip, every time Brandon prayed with the kids about moving, he would pray God would give us a peace that this is the city He wants us in, and that we would find the right house. At the end, he would joke, saying may the Lord give us a sign and let it have a mango tree (because the house we live in now has one we love, and we always talk about how we will miss it).

When we got to the new city, we drove for hours several days in a row searching for every house that had a sign for rent. We contacted them and went to look at them, and each time, Brandon would check the yard and jokingly say, "Nope not the place, no mango tree." Finally, the last place we scheduled to look at before our trip was over turned out to be the place we will be moving to. The owners are very interested in why we are moving there and about church. He had many people interested in renting the place (because the location is really good) but he said if we were interested, he wanted us to have it. He has a daughter the same age as Josie (she was very excited about that). There are a couple of renovation things we have to do before moving in. I could go on sharing so many cool details, but I'll end with this, when they came to cut the grass, we found a mango tree in the back yard!

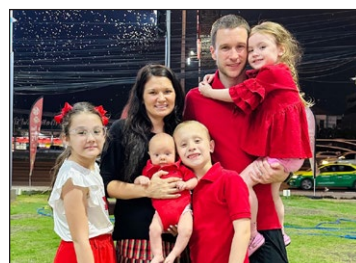
The place used to be a small factory and the upstairs will be used to live in and the downstairs for an office and place to gather as a church and do outreaches.

• **Village Visit** — The village that has drawn us 7 hours east of Bangkok is about a 30-minute drive from the city we are moving to. When we move to this area, we plan to visit the villages often. (Our kids love the village life.) We hope to continue to build relationships with people in villages around the area and pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them. This time, out on the farm, the kids were pleasantly surprised for someone to show them how to make fun things out of banana tree limbs/leaves. They made swords and a riding horse.

• **Interns Update** — Jay officially started his internship in December. He has been busy reading through the good Christian books available in Thai, started working his way through the Bible in a year, memorizing Scripture and meeting with me two to three times per week to discuss what he is learning. We pray together and also discuss what we will do when we move to Sisaket next month to start a new church together. He is going as a helper/intern. Lord willing, some day he will become an elder/pastor of the church we are going to plant. Please pray for us.

Rote just finished up his internship. He is now back in his hometown (Buriram) and preparing to go to a seminary for two years in Chiang Mai. Jay and I went to visit him and discuss/pray about future ministry. Please continue to pray for Rote and us as we continue to encourage him and think through how we can support him.

• **Visiting Churches** — The past month or so, we have had the opportunity to visit some churches our friends have started here in Thailand. It's exciting and encouraging to see what God is doing through them and to see Thai people come and hear the gospel and have their lives changed and enjoy the community there among other believers. Just a small



glimpse of their work has made us even more excited to start a new one in the Sisaket province.

• **Sorrow** — This past Saturday we attended a funeral for a fellow missionary here in Thailand that just lost their nine-month-old son. In Thailand, the rain is usually predictable — if it's rainy season it rains; if it's not, it doesn't. Right now, it's not, but as we drove yesterday morning to the funeral, it sprinkled for just a few minutes. Brandon and I looked at each and asked, "Was that rain?" As we drove, we reflected just a little over a year ago as we drove that very road as it was raining and flooded to our son's funeral. The funeral was at the same place that Judah's was held and as I watched the mom sitting in the very seat where I sat not so long ago, my heart ached because I know she is entering the journey through grief that many have gone through, but you wish no one had to. It was a very hard day for Brandon and me as we hurt with this family and also remembered the pain of our own loss. But during it all, I looked down holding sweet baby John in my arms. Seeing him smile at me and knowing that, no matter what pain this world may bring, we have hope. That hope is in Jesus Christ! And with that, we know that, by His strength, we can do the next thing for today and as many days as He will give us. We long for things to be made right but, until that day, we press on and share that hope with all those around us that they, too, might have hope!

• **Pray** — Please pray for the missionary family who just lost their precious son and for us as we finish up things here in Bangkok and move to Sisaket, Lord willing, sometime toward the end of March. Also pray that we can extend our visas without any problems this month. (We have to renew our visas once a year.)

• **Praise** — Join us in praising God for the living/ministry space and for the Lord guiding our steps to the next place.

By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring



Journey
with
Jeff

It's That Time!

You may or may not have noticed, but I haven't been able to include a Journey with Jeff article in quite a while. The reason is simply because there was no room! The priority is getting the needed informational and inspirational articles out to our readers in a timely manner. I still have things on my desk that we haven't had room to run in the paper yet.

Even so, I wanted to have this short note to remind you that the time set aside for Special Emphasis for the *Baptist Trumpet* to raise needed ministry funds is the months of March and April. Packets are on the way to the churches that includes a letter explaining our needs and some flyers that can be used to promote our Special Emphasis over the next two months. Please don't just "file" the envelope in "file 13" when it arrives.

As always, if you would like me to come and share about the ministry of the *Trumpet* with your church, ministry group (men's meeting, ladies' meeting, etc.), I would be glad to do so. Please reach out to me at (501) 565-4601 or editor@baptisttrumpet.com so we can find a time that will work best.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we begin this time of Special Emphasis on the ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*.



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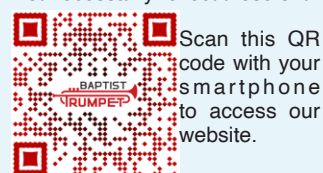
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Southwest GMA Meets

By Madison Miller, Recording/Corresponding Secretary

The Southwest District GMA met on Saturday, Jan. 27, at College View Baptist Church in Magnolia. The theme for 2024 is "My God," taken from John 1:12-13.

The theme for our meeting was "Waymaker," and the verse was John 14:6.

The meeting was opened by President Lilli Medlin with the opening prayer by Valarie Fish. The welcome was given by College View and the response was given by Pleasant Springs. Lilli led the GMA Watchword, Aim and Allegiance and Song Leader Abbie Burchfield led in the GMA song. Abbie then led in our theme song, "Waymaker" by Michael W. Smith, followed by "God Will Make a Way."

2023 Alternate Jr. Miss GMA Kaylee Camp gave a devotional related to the theme, followed by an object lesson about snowflakes by Abbie Burchfield and Madison Miller. They talked about how snowflakes are all different, just like God created us all to be different and have different talents that we need to use to serve Him.

The treasurer's report was given by Goal Chairman Dixie Almand. We gave a total of \$2,343.80 to the 2023 project — Missionary Care, and we have \$217 left in our account. The attendance board was updated by Attendance Chairman Kati Williams. There were 33 girls, counselors and visitors present.

Old business: we decided to change the name of our project, Israel Relief, to Middle East Relief (in care of Charlie Costa) because we don't have a contact person for Israel.

New business: we discussed "Fun Day" for our next meeting in April, but nothing was decided for sure yet. Possibly, we will go bowling in Mufreesboro.

Louise Johnson talked about the state meeting, which is coming up Feb. 22-23 in Conway. The theme will be "Library of Legacies."

1st Vice President Brooke Hanson talked about our new district GMA T-shirts. Ana Wilson presented our 2024 District Jr. Miss from Antioch West Baptist Church — Dixie Almand. Valarie Fish explained to the girls that striving toward the goal of Jr. Miss or Miss GMA is a worthy goal because it will, hopefully, draw them closer to Jesus as they learn more about Him.

The dismissal prayer and blessing on the food were given by Lilli. Lunch was provided by College View.



SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

the first two games, taking game one 3-2 before winning game two 9-6 over Wiley (2-10).

CBC Head Baseball Coach Dr. Aaron Brister reached milestones in each game of the doubleheader. He earned his 450th win as a head coach with the victory in game one and earned his 300th win at the helm of CBC with the win in game two.

• **Marshall, Texas, Feb. 24** — Looking to keep the momentum from the previous day's doubleheader sweep, CBC was back at Airport Park looking for a sweep of the Wiley University Wildcats. CBC (9-5) completed the sweep, winning game one 8-2 before taking the finale 12-5.

Women's Basketball

• **Fulton, Mo., Feb. 22** — Knowing they are locked into the number eight seed in the AMC tournament, CBC began their regular-season ending road trip to Missouri for a conference tilt against

the William Woods University (WWU) Owls at Anderson Arena. CBC (6-17, 5-12 AMC) led the entire way, jumping out to a 12-point first quarter lead before winning 50-41 over WWU (13-13, 7-10 AMC). **Olivia Lambrigtsen** was the lone Lady Mustang in double figures scoring with 20. CBC's first quarter and defense were the story of the game as the Lady Mustangs held WWU to 9 made field goals and 18% shooting from the floor. CBC also dominated on the glass, outrebounding WWU 47-39 and outscoring them in the paint 22-10.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24** — Looking to continue their streak after winning on the road Thursday night, CBC took on the Missouri Baptist University (MBU) Spartans in an AMC clash inside the Petty Student Resources Center. CBC (7-17, 6-12 AMC) led for the majority of the game, carrying a 6-point lead into halftime before defeating MBU (11-16, 9-9 AMC) 70-62. **Olivia Lambrigtsen** led three Lady Mustangs

in double figures with 22 points while **Caroline Citty** chipped in with 13 and **Aliya Grotjohn** added 11. Turnovers were the key to the game as CBC forced MBU into 27 miscues, which they turned into 26 points, while MBU only saw CBC turn the ball over 13 times for 7 points.

Men's Basketball

• **Fulton, Mo., Feb. 22** — Having wrapped up the AMC regular season title and the #1 seed in next week's AMC Tournament, CBC was on the road at Anderson Arena for an AMC tilt against the William Woods Owls. CBC (22-5, 12-1 AMC) never led, losing for the first time in 2024 by an 84-68 margin to WWU (17-8, 9-4 AMC). **Sage Borbon** and **Deshawn Corprew** finished in double figures for the Mustangs with 23 and 13, respectively. CBC made more three-pointers (7) and free throws (25) than Woods (6 & 14), but struggled shooting the basketball, making just 33% of their shots compared to 53% for the Owls.

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24** — Looking to bounce back from their first AMC loss of the season, CBC was inside the Petty Student Recreation Center for a matchup with the Spartans of Missouri Baptist. CBC (22-6, 12-2 AMC) struggled shooting and dropped the finale 84-75 to MBU (19-9, 10-4 AMC). **Kyle Harding** led five Mustangs in double figures scoring with 17, while **Devin Foster** and **Sage Borbon** both had 13, **Jonas Carlisle** added 12 and **Deshawn Corprew** had a double-double of 11 points and 13 rebounds. CBC shot just 38% from the field, 31% from three and 46% at the free throw line while also dropping the battle on the glass 51-45 and committing 15 turnovers to forcing just 10.

Softball

• **Conway, Feb. 23** — Playing at home for the second consecutive Friday, CBC hosted the Valor of Evangel University (EV) at City of Colleges Park. CBC (7-5) nearly came back in game one before losing a lead to nearly come back in game two against EU (4-0), losing 5-4 and 9-8 in 10 innings.

• **Marshall, Texas, Feb. 26** — Playing a pair of NCAA Division III opponents, CBC was at Taylor Field for games against the Yellowjackets of LeTourneau University (LETU) and the Tigers of East Texas Baptist University (ETBU), who are currently ranked #16 in Division III. CBC (7-7) was unable to muster much offense, falling to LETU (1-4) 7-3 before dropping the second contest 7-0 to ETBU (3-0).

DIRECTORY

(Continued From Page 1)

After explaining what we wanted to do and how it has worked in the past, the Color Craft representative, Mark Roddy, agreed that he could do what we needed. So, I am excited to share that he will set up his studio services at the 2024 BMA of America meeting at Chateau on the Lake Resort in Branson, Mo. to photograph all BMA ministers, pastors, departmental directors, music, youth and education directors (and a photo with their spouse if desired).

Everyone who stops by and has their photograph taken for the directory will receive an 8x10 retouched copy of your photo. After the meeting, we will be able to provide a mobile digital directory available at BaptistTrumpet.com.

In addition to getting your photo taken, you will also be able to update or add your information to the database we have on file for many of our pastors and leaders in the BMA. Our goal is to keep this as up to date as possible by allowing you to access it and provide the latest information. Please watch for upcoming information on how you can do this.

We hope everyone will stop by and have their photo taken during the meeting. In order to give you a little more incentive, we will be drawing for three \$50 restaurant gift cards at the conclusion of the meeting from those who participate.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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; March 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.

Mt. Calvary; April 13, 10 a.m.; Worden, Bald Knob.

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



Retired BMA Pastor Dies

Ray Duane Turner, 87, of Hughes Springs, Texas passed away on Feb. 22. He was saved July 1947, and surrendered to the ministry during the summer of 1954. In 1956, he began his ministry, which spanned 60 years. He served as a missionary in Denver, Colo. for BMAA Interstate Missions and pastored several churches in Texas. His last pastorate at Ebenezer Friendship Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Texas. He earned a Master of Religious Education from the BMA Theological Seminary in 1983.

Survivors include: four children, Candy (Ricky) Thompson, Cherri Eichel, John (Angela) Turner and Theron (Cindi) Turner; siblings; Ronald (Clel) Turner, Anne (James) Walker and Lissa (Eddie) Twitty; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at 10 a.m. Feb. 26 at Ebenezer Friendship Baptist Church in Pittsburg with Charles Johnson and Keith Graham officiating. Interment followed at Ebenezer Cemetery, under the direction of by Erman Smith Funeral Home (ermansmithfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name may be made to the Texas Baptist Home for Children (tbhc.org) and/or Jacksonville College (jacksonvillecollege.edu).



Benjamin Allen Pulley, 73 of Fordyce, passed away Feb. 18. He was a member at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church.



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On the Ground in Israel: Why I Went

It turned out that my trip to Israel was very safe. The most dangerous part was searching for the true Chicago-style pizza in Chicago on a layover, but as you can imagine, my family and I debated for a while about me going. We had told our immediate family and connection group, but we kept a lid on the trip. I started posting pictures on Facebook a few days into the trip. My wife and I would leave videos for each other on the Marco Polo app each day since our wake times didn't match up well. After posting the first picture of Israel on Facebook, my wife left a video saying she had received several messages about how stupid it was for me to go. She said, "Jake, I know you're going to be excited to share images from your trip, but just know most people just think you're stupid for going and we're stupid for letting you."

Again, it was an incredibly safe and smooth trip, but the idea of going to Israel at this time does sound crazy. In case you're thinking the same, I thought I'd share why I went:

• **You go where the Lord leads — period.** This should be all that has to be said for us as followers of Jesus. We go where He leads. Along those lines, according to the examples in Scripture, those leadings aren't always going to make logical sense. We all need a list of questionable life steps in which we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. With this trip, I didn't necessarily have an **acute** word from the Lord to go. I'm stealing the language of "acute" and "chronic" from medical terminology. Acute pain is a pain that comes up suddenly, and it may be a one-time thing. The opposite of that is chronic pain, which continually exists and persists. We've likely all experienced an acute prompting from the Lord, whether that be as small as to say hello to someone or to go on a particular mission trip. The leading of the Lord on this trip was from a chronic leading.

When we were in Israel in July,

we felt led that one of our family missions was to support Israel. We had spent a lot of time searching and praying about how we could do that. After Oct. 7, we saw we could help by sharing the truth on Israel. So, when I got an email asking if I'd come to see the truth in Israel and come back and share the truth, it seemed like there was already an existing calling on the table for that one. Still, we prayed over it, and all felt like the Lord was leading.

This reason should be enough, but there are a couple of passages in the Bible that drive me to continue sharing the truth about Israel.

• **The Prophet Joel's Warning** — That is the reason for this article. The prophet Joel relayed from God that, "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink" (Joel 3:1-3 NIV). God warned through the prophet Joel that, at the end of this age, He would judge the nations or Gentiles (non-Jews) according to how they dealt with the people and land of Israel. There is coming a judgment based on how we deal with Israel.

This isn't just an Old Testament idea, but one that Jesus returns to in Matt. 25. Jesus quoted Joel 3 as He talked about the judgment of the sheep and goats: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats... Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world... Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed

Opportunities For Service

Ronnie Johnson is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He has been pastoring churches for 21 years. Contact him at (870) 659-7774 or his wife, Barbara at (870) 659-7274.

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.

you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'" (Matt. 25:31-40).

We're familiar with this passage in Matthew 25 but tend to think about it concerning anyone. It may, but it is referring to the same judgment of the nations and/or Gentiles as found in Joel 3. There will be judgment according to how we deal with Israel and, in particular, how we deal with Israel at the end of the age. Unfortunately, we already have a template for what it looks like when the world turns against Israel and how a few who are righteous in their dealings with Israel stand out. Today, Israel celebrates a group of people called the righteous among the nations. These were non-Jews who rose to the occasion to help Israel during the Holocaust. Those few are the example of how we should deal with Israel in the times to come.

I don't know how this judgment regarding Israel relates to the other judgments, such as the Great White Throne of Judgment, which is whether we have been saved or not. Then the Judgment Seat of Christ is where believers are judged according to their faithfulness. Again, I don't know how this works together, but I do know this judgment on our dealings with Israel reveals God's heart.

I want to make sure I'm on the right side of God's heart and faithfulness to His Word. Because of that, I sought to do what I could to deal rightly with Israel, and I hope to help relay that to other believers.

— *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)*

"...Everything We Need..."
II Peter 1:3

By Karen Mitchell

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God Knows Us

Who knows you best? Most of us feel like we know our spouses well enough to predict their responses and reactions most of the time. We even find ourselves, on occasion, finishing their sentences. In reality, we do not know them completely, nor do they know us completely. Our minds and thoughts are so complex I doubt we even understand ourselves. So then, who does know us best — our very being, the good, the bad and the ugly? God does! And He loves us unconditionally.

God knows **everything** about us! The Psalmist David penned these words: "You have searched me and you **know** me. You **know** when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you **know** it completely" (Psalm 139:1-4 NIV). Isn't that amazing and wonderful? David added, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain" (Psalm 129:6).

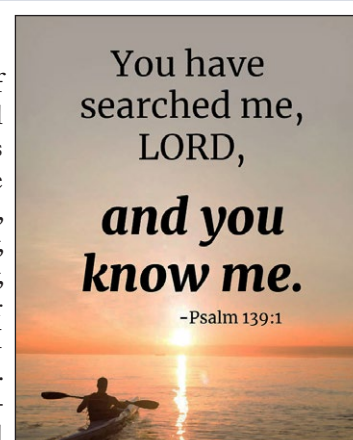
David continues by saying there is nowhere he can go that God is not there. In verses 13-15, he acknowledges that God knew him before he was even formed and had created his innermost being, having knit him together in his mother's womb. He praised God because he knew quite well that all of God's works were wonderful. "How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand..." (Psalm 139:17-18). That should be a **wow** factor to us!

What does such marvelous knowledge mean to us personally? For one thing, it is of tremendous encouragement and comfort to know that the **Creator** of the universe knows and understands every aspect of our lives. We don't fall beneath the cracks and are not deemed useless or unworthy. His love for us is unfailing!

Because we are human and live in a sinful world, such knowledge can also be somewhat daunting. He knows where we go, what we say and what we do. We cannot hide from Him. Therefore, we should be careful in our deeds and actions — what we watch, what we read and the entertainment we choose. The things we say should be gracious and uplifting, not thoughtless or unwholesome in any manner. Paul tells us in Col. 3:12-13 (NIV), "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." A plaque hanging on the wall in my childhood home had this message: "If wisdom's ways you wisely seek, Five things observe with care, To whom you speak, Of whom you speak, And how and when and where." It is good to remember that.

We fail at living a life that is always pleasing to God, but pleasing Him should always be our desire. David finishes Psalm 139 by saying, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24). God already knew David's heart and thoughts, but this was his prayer. In light of God's knowledge, he **wanted** his life to be an open book and, therefore, pleasing to him.

It isn't just His knowledge of us that makes us desire to live a life pleasing to Him, but in prayer and Bible reading, our knowledge of Him gives us all we need to live a life of godliness. "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our **knowledge** of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (II Peter 2:3).



You have
searched me,
LORD,
and you
know me.

—Psalm 139:1



Missionaries

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You Stand for Something Or Fall for Everything!

All through the Bible, time after time, we find that the sinful and rebellious nature of man has decided to deny that God exists or believes there is no way to know if He does and end up labeling themselves as atheist or agnostics. But should we expect less from them? Yet even among those who claim the name of Jesus, some continue to be challenged by “thus saith the Lord” to the point that some try and change the Word of God to better suit their interpretation or that of another. That does not mean they are evil in their love for God.

Theirs is not a problem of believing that God is, but in believing what He has said. His Word can be made to almost mean whatever one wants it to mean. Little wonder there are so many so-called religions. Often, this is accomplished by taking a few problematic Scriptures to discern the more easily understood ones. This is the reverse of the general practice. It is accepted that the preponderance of revealed truth in which the Scriptures are consistent is considered truth. It is quickly coming to the point that we find ourselves not only battling against the forces of evil, but we are increasingly finding opposition to each other. How the Lord must wring His hands in disgust. *“And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand”* (Mark 3:25).

Many are discovering a whole new way to interpret God’s Word — not knew in and of itself because it has been around for centuries, but new to them. They call it Calvinism and, in doing so, they are turning away from the very truths of the gospel message that many of them and the vast majority heard and accepted for the forgiveness of their sin.

I personally and publicly cannot accept their presentation of God in such an unscriptural manner. Their interpretation of God’s character presents a very different God from the One I know personally. I am first to admit that I am no debater or theologian or even a very good preacher. But as the Apostle Paul stated *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”* (I Cor. 2:2).

I want to leave my Calvinist friends with a question. II Peter (NKJV) states, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* It is the word “longsuffering” which means patient, forbearance, tolerant. The word longsuffering in the Bible is a word made up of two Greek words meaning “long” and “temper.” So literally, longsuffering means “long tempered.” Why? I love you in Jesus.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “Our Sunday meeting was very varied. Like most churches in our association, we developed

our meeting with an emphasis on BMA Global Missions. The songs were related to missions and the children had a special song.

“German Galindo, whom we supported in prayer and financially as a missionary in Mexico City,

shared the word with us via Zoom.

“We also presented a lot of information about the work being done in our association worldwide and collected the Jerry Kidd offering.

“After the program, we proceeded to inaugurate the recently completed playground. We thanked God for His provision for the children, the brothers and sisters who worked voluntarily in the construction and especially Oscar López, who directed the project. Additionally, we appreciate the funding from the BMA of Arkansas Revolving Loan Fund, Inc.

“Of course, we couldn’t miss breaking a couple of piñatas celebrating with the congregation.

“Finally, the youth made food, desserts and drinks available to the church to raise funds for the Youth Camp in March and the SOAR Student Conference in July.

“We are very happy with the attendance on Sundays. In the last two months, we have been experiencing growth. We thank God for His work among us as the Holy Spirit is moving, and it is not going unnoticed in the congregation. Let us pray that God continues to add those who are to be saved and bless the congregation.”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “It was a great blessing to see Sister Avelina return and congregate in Ebenezer. She is one of our most faithful members. At 87 years old, she has a contagious enthusiasm. Because she has been sick, she could not congregate but joined every week via our online broadcast. Last Sunday, she was full of joy to be able to come back. She said, ‘Pastor, it is never the same to be here than to see everything through a screen.’ She is a grandmother to all of us, a beloved sister and an example to everyone at Ebenezer.

“It was an inspiring service last Sunday. We prayed for missions and made a special emphasis for BMA Global Missions. We prayed for the 10/40 Window, and it was our time to collect a special offering for missions.

“Pray for the plans we have in the following weeks. We have a special activity together with the American

church for the day of the solar eclipse. We also have Easter activities coming up. Keep praying for the Berean Groups (home groups) and our mission field in central Arkansas; but above all things, may God’s name be glorified. To God be the glory!”

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, “We had a wonderful week at Faith Chapel! This has been a great February, with the warmest weather I ever remember. We added four more to our number. Praise God! We keep having several out sick, but it has been different families each week, so we had the same number each week. Like I always say, if we were all here at the same time, we wouldn’t fit in this little building — we barely do now.

“We did hear from the dry-wallers. They said they have just been covered up, but they hope to get our building stocked this week and then will be able to begin soon. Please join us in prayer for that.

“We are busy working on adding the classroom expansion, so please join us in prayer for that, too.

“We were blessed this past week when we received a church van as a gift from First Baptist Church in Waldo. It is in great condition. They took really good care of it, and we will, too! We can’t thank them enough for this generous donation to our ministry, and we pray that it will help us continue growing and ministering to this community. Our members have lovingly named it Waldo out of appreciation.

“We are truly humbled by the support we have received from all of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We could not do this without you, and we especially thank you for your prayers! Please continue. God is answering them.”

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, “It’s been a busy week at the mission. We have been collecting items for one of the local schools that said they needed personal hygiene items and asked if we could provide these for their students. We are so thankful for our folks at the mission with their generous hearts and willingness to serve others in helping to provide these things for this school.

“We still have a significant number of residents out with illness at the nursing facilities that we minister to, as well as some in our Faith Journey congregation. Please keep all those people in your prayers.

“This week, we were able to spend time with a faithful follower who was in the hospital. He comes to our small group every week at the nursing facility. He was so happy to see a familiar face and enjoyed being prayed with while he is healing from an illness. I feel so blessed to be able to be a small part of people’s lives and to be able to bring Jesus

to them wherever they are!”

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, “More people continue to join our Grace Groups (small groups). My wife invited a woman who works with her to our Rogers group and she brought her sister. These two women had never been to a Bible study or read a Bible. It is beautiful how the study of the gospel impacted them and, at the end, when we prayed for them, there were tears in our eyes. We ask for your prayers for Lupita and Diana.

“In our Sunday School, Patty had 13 children. She is training another teacher to divide the group and have two classes.

“We ask for your prayers since we need to set up two classrooms with TVs, things for children and a photocopier since we do it with the printer at home and we spend a lot on ink every week.

“We want to thank you for all your support and prayers.”

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, “Still, it has been a challenging week as we ended up with COVID in our house this week. Over the last four weeks, we’ve had the flu, a loss in our family and COVID. But we were still able to have our Connection Groups. Woodbridge had first-time guests return and voice interest in eventually leading a group.

“We’re praying that we can finally have our leader meeting this Sunday! Pray that we can pull that off.

“This week opened up several doors in the community. I volunteered to share about being an author at Career Day. I failed to read the whole email. I thought I’d be sharing it with my daughter’s class. It turned out it was four school assemblies in which the whole school came through, but that meant I got to share books about Jesus with the whole intermediate school. That night was the intermediate school’s Daddy-Daughter Dance. Several students went home and told their parents about my career day presentation, which opened up many conversations with parents.”

El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville: Michael Hight writes, “This week has been very humbling. I made some more contacts, and on Feb. 28, we have a team of Hispanic pastors that will meet in Cabot for a special prayer meeting for the mission work and my upcoming medical trip to Arizona.

“I have received many calls, texts and even love offerings to help with this, so I thought I would explain what is happening and ask for your prayers. Early last year, I was bitten by a tick, and the bite got really

See MISSIONS, Page 8



Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock holds ribbon cutting ceremony for their new playground.



CBC Hires Vice President For Finance

Central Baptist College (CBC) is pleased to announce the addition of Nelson Ortiz as the new vice president for Finance.

After coming to the United States from Paraguay in 1995, Ortiz received his Bachelor of Marketing from Ouachita Baptist University and his Master of Public Administration from Arkansas State University. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of finance, having spent several years working in the United States and Paraguay. Most recently, Ortiz worked at Asuncion Christian Academy in Asuncion, Paraguay, beginning as the Christian Education coordinator before becoming the director of Finance and Operations in 2010. During his time in the US, Ortiz held many positions, most recently as the director of Educational Services for the Arkansas Board of Election Commissioners in 2008.

Ortiz was also heavily involved at First Baptist Church in Asuncion as chair of the Church Council and Finance Committee and as a Sunday School teacher.

MISSIONS

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infected. The bacteria caused my immune system to kick into overdrive and it began attacking itself. This landed me in the hospital for six days, and they treated it with infusion treatments.

"They told me I would return to normal within two months, but that didn't happen. I continued to have symptoms and just kept trying to push through, thinking it would get better. After moving to Cabot and starting this new work, things really took a turn for the worse, and now it is affecting my heart and respiratory system. They tried to get me into UAMS, but the soonest date available wasn't until December 2024. When I went to my cardiologist, he said, 'You can't find the treatment you need here in Arkansas. You need to go to the Mayo Clinic or somewhere like that.' The Mayo Clinic advised me that they had no appointments available, and we kept researching doctors who specialize in these types of illnesses.

"According to the cardiologist, COVID-19 plus the tick bite put my body in a very compromised position. Our research led us to the Center for Complex Neurology in Phoenix, Ariz. They reviewed my records and said they could see me, but it would take some time. Then they called and said they had an appointment open up for March 12. I told them to put me down for that date.

"The out-of-pocket expenses will be around \$11,000. But God is already moving in this area. People and churches I didn't know were aware of my situation began sending offerings to help. We are

GLEANERS

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row, BMA Global has honored our legacy missionaries at the national meeting, one deceased and one living per year. They are the ones

not there yet, but we have full faith that God is in this and will provide for our needs.

"People have asked how this is affecting the mission work. I would be lying to say that it hasn't affected my ability to work as hard as I would like, but we have made some crucial contacts I think will bear fruit in the future. I have become more convinced through this that we are where we need to be and that Satan is trying to kill the vision.

"I still believe in a miracle-working God and ask that you pray for me and especially the doctors during that week of testing that they can properly diagnose me and have a plan of treatment that will get me back to 100% soon.

"Thanks for all the prayers and love offerings. You will never know how much they mean to Jenifer and me!"

on whose shoulders we stand. It's a chance to be reminded of their service and sacrifice, but what if we went a step further?

Missionary Care Director Jonathan Montgomery has been planning the Gleaners initiative to focus on our former missionaries. It is an alumni association of sorts that not only honors them but also helps them stay in touch with each other. Jonathan said, "We want our legacy missionaries to know we still care about them and their service, plus their continued importance to our association. There is so much more they have to give, so much wisdom they can impart to us."

Soon, you will learn more about Gleaners and what that means as Jonathan and the Missionary Care team formalize this exciting initiative. In the meantime, pray for wisdom and discernment for those who will be part of the planning and implementation.

(If you know a legacy missionary, thank them for their service and sacrifice, then ask about their former mission field. Their story will bless you, and your care and concern will bless them.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet Our New Pastor; March 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.

Revivals

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

BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMILA LOAN ASSOCIATION

Does your church need a loan?

The Baptist Missionary Loan Association Church provides loans to churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Baptist Missionary Association of America for new construction, remodel projects and property purchases (both land and existing building purchases). Answers to frequently asked questions are below:

- 1. Who are you?** The Baptist Missionary Loan Association is a department of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas that provides loans to churches within the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Baptist Missionary Association of America.
- 2. What types of loans do you make?** We make loans for numerous purposes such as land and church building purchases; remodeling and renovation projects; construction of a church sanctuary, educational building, children's building, fellowship hall or family life center.
- 3. Who do you serve?** We serve the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.
- 4. How much can our church borrow?** The only way to get a true borrowing capacity amount for your church is to complete and send a church loan application to our office.
- 5. Do you take collateral on church loans?** Yes. We take the first lien on all church property and improvements.
- 6. How does our church start the process?** Someone authorized by the church simply completes an application and emails or mails it to the Baptist Missionary Loan Association.
- 7. How long does it take to get a response?** When we receive your church's completed loan application, we will contact your church either by email or phone within two to three days.
- 8. What are your current rates?** Please call for interest rates.
- 9. Do you make personal loans or auto loans?** No. We only make loans to incorporated churches for real-estate purposes.

For more information, contact us today by emailing me at jerry@bmatexas.org or calling 972-923-0756.



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