

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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A Call to Prayer For Our Association

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Do you agree that prayer is the key to any spiritual endeavor? Larry Barker shared, "We need more prayer individually, as churches and as an association because Jesus set the example of a life and mission fueled by prayer (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:19). The theme of the Scriptures is to pray without ceasing and don't ever stop!" Prayer should be at the

heart of all we do individually, as a church and as an association.

Over the last year, the *Baptist Trumpet* has sought to reinforce the importance and benefit of being connected through our association of churches by producing the "Why Do We Associate?" and the "How Do We Associate?" series of articles. The BMA is a family of autonomous (self-governed) Baptist churches working together to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We associate together for mission and ministry and are truly better together.

With the approaching 75th annual meeting of the BMA of America (April 16-18), we encourage you to make a special effort to pray for our association. Even if you cannot attend the meeting in person, will you join other individuals and churches and spend a season praying for our association and the meeting?

In cooperation with Healthy Church Solutions, the *Baptist Trumpet* will publish articles about prayer over the next five weeks leading up to the meeting. The purpose is not to tell a church that it must participate but to invite each church to join together in an intentional time of prayer for our association of churches as we prepare to meet together for encouragement and fellowship while taking care of the pressing business of our association.

In This Issue

Healthy Churches Multiply (pg. 2)

Healthy Student Ministry (pg. 2)

Prophecy Fulfilled Before Our Eyes (pg. 6)

Spotlight on Missions (pg. 3)

Triage in Ministry (pg. 6)

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.

The Southeastern Baptist College Board of Trustees has organized a Presidential Search Committee. If you know of a person(s) interested, have them contact Chairman of the Board Glen Pace at (601) 520-5376 or mrpmg@yahoo.com.

In this article, our goal is to let you know what is coming and encourage you to set aside some specific time in the weeks preceding the meeting for dedicated prayer for each of the ministries of our association and our leaders as they prepare for the upcoming meeting. After this introductory article, here is the plan for the next few weeks:

- **March 13** — An article highlighting the prayer movements in our association.
- **March 20** — An article from a pastor who has successfully launched a prayer initiative in his church.
- **March 27** — An article with specific ways to intentionally make prayer the heartbeat of your church and ministry.

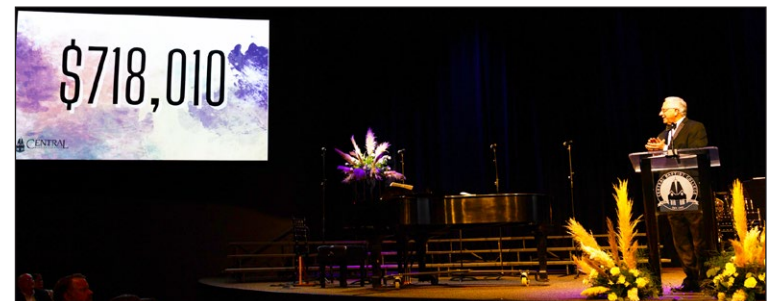
• **April 3** — Specific ways to pray for our association this week.

• **April 10** — Specific ways to pray for our association this week.

We ask every church in our association to commit to praying for our association. We invite you to devote a specific time of prayer during the morning worship services on April 7 and 14 (the two weekends before the meeting). If you are led to do more, other possibilities would be to organize a dedicated time of prayer (i.e., a special prayer service, all members commit to pray at the same time every day, 24 hours of prayer, etc.) outside the morning service sometime during one or both of those weekends—whatever would work for your church.

Prayer should be foundational to everything we do, and prayer strengthens unity. Larry Barker often says, "I've never heard anyone

See PRAY, Page 8



Central Baptist College Hosts 5th Annual Scholarship Gala

By Jessica Faulkner, Director of Public Relations

Central Baptist College hosted its fifth annual Scholarship Gala on March 1. The black-tie optional event featured Dr. Jack Graham as the keynote speaker and was held at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

At the event, CBC President Terry Kimbrow announced that \$718,010 had been raised through event sponsorships and private donations and that all proceeds would benefit student scholarships.

The theme of the event was "Enduring Faith," and the program focused on the mission and ministry of Central Baptist College, which is "the integration of Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment." The emcee for the night was Yalanda Merrell, director of Audience Engagement at Lifeword.

Kirk Shelton, chairman of the CBC Board of Trustees and lead pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, offered the opening prayer. CBC Dining Services, under the direction of Chef Billie Rodriguez, served a delicious meal.

Dr. Graham shared his testimony of growing up in Conway and beginning his walk with Christ at an early age. He also shared some of the tragedies he has experienced throughout life. He emphasized the

See GALA, Page 8

Southeastern Baptist College President Announces Retirement

By Dr. Scott Carson

After serving 30 years as a BMAA-endorsed U.S. Army chaplain, I began to teach as an online adjunct professor for Southeastern Baptist College in January 2016. In May of that same year, I was hired as the Academic Dean, with Danny Pitts as President. We were both appointed by the messengers of the BMA of Mississippi churches, with the primary mission set by the Board of Trustees to save the college from closure without compromising our Doctrinal Statement.

Bro. Pitts and I conducted numerous assessments and developed strategic plans that might help the future of the college. He and I had the same vision and fervor for the future of the SBC. However, the Lord took Danny home in December 2016, leaving us all in shock and with questions about the next president.

I did not desire the role of president, because I knew the stress it placed upon the previous ones and that the president's primary duties were being the face of the college and fundraising. I was little known locally at the time and was unskilled in fundraising activities. However, the Lord gave me a great deal of experience in the Army, assuming new roles with little training and with the expectation of figuring it out along the way to make the new mission successful. So, after much prayer, I took a step of faith into an unknown, trusting the Lord to lead the way, and I accepted the role offered by the Board of Trustees. To my surprise, I was accepted by a unanimous vote by the messengers of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi.

See RETIREMENT, Page 8





HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



Healthy Churches Multiply

Several books have been written on the “shifts” that need to occur in the Western church — the need to focus more on disciples, not decisions; sending capacity, not seating capacity; releasing, not keeping; and deploying, not accumulating. There must be a commitment to discipling every new believer from spiritual

infancy to spiritual maturity. This develops healthy adults who are able to leave “home” and start their own family. It requires being intentional and deliberate in multiplying disciples, leaders and churches. Healthy churches reproduce, and a lack of reproduction indicates something is broken.

The biblical pattern of the book of Acts is church planting, and it is easy to see what took place in the early church. You could argue that it is more descriptive of what was happening than prescriptive of what should be occurring now, but that would be a little short-sighted. There are at least seven great reasons to consider healthy multiplication: to follow the biblical strategy, to evangelize effectively, to gather in the harvest, to reach people groups, to fulfill the Great Commission, to obey His leadership in your heart and to make His name known. How can your church be more directly involved in church multiplication?

In *One Eighty*, Jeff Vanderstelt wrote, “The sign of a healthy church is not necessarily how big it gets, but how it raises up, equips and sends people who are mature enough to ‘leave home’ and start new spiritual families themselves.” That is the supernatural progression of multiplication from disciples who make disciples toward spiritual parenthood and beginning a new family. That is why we say so much about church health because healthy things multiply and reproduce. BMA Global’s vision statement says: “Sharing God’s glory and love to the nations by multiplying disciples, leaders and churches!”

Healthy churches will reproduce, and daughter church planting should be envisioned and planned from the beginning of the new church. Even churches that have existed for decades should also prayerfully adopt and surrender to a vision of multiplication. What is the

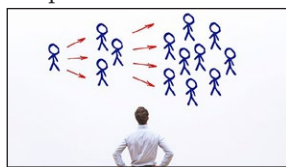
supernatural progression of multiplication? If disciples are spiritually healthy, leaders will be spiritually healthy, churches will be spiritually healthy and the natural by-product of health will be reproduction. It involves a commitment to strengthening existing churches and starting new churches simultaneously.

Your church is a family of baptized believers living on God’s mission. Healthy families aim to raise and develop

healthy children to become healthy young adults who are eventually able to leave their homes and start a new family. The goal is to **Go** (next door or wherever God leads), **Disciple** (from being spiritually dead to spiritual parents), **Plant** (churches planting churches) and then **Repeat** (it is a never-ending lifecycle). Are you engaging with unbelievers? Are you being salt and light in your community? Are you making disciples who are making disciples? How will you be involved in multiplying disciples, leaders and churches?

Your church needs to be equipped and ready to evaluate your spiritual health as a congregation and to challenge your people to embrace the mission of God. Koinonia is New Testament fellowship, and it is greatly enjoyed and celebrated in many of our churches and our association of churches. The problem is that koinonia can become “koinonitis.” This term, coined by Peter Wagner years ago, describes what happens when community inflammation blocks the blood flow of mission. It describes what happens when a church feeds on community but has no mission antibodies to fight inward, insular and self-absorbed community!

A local church cannot be truly healthy if a heart for mission is conspicuously absent. Even worse is when that omission is celebrated. Lifeway Research, Barna and Pew Report have all confirmed that 85% of all North American churches have plateaued or are on the decline. Of the 15% who are growing, 14% are growing because of membership transfer, and only 1% are growing because of conversion growth. This necessitates a call and challenge to every believer and every church to engage those who are far from God



and once again embrace God’s mission. John 20:21 (NKJV), “...As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Where do you start? Begin by getting spiritually healthy yourself with proper spiritual soul care. Oswald Chambers stated, “My worth to God in public is what I am in private.” Recommit to making sure what you’re doing for God flows out of your being with God. There is no substitute or shortcut to spiritual health and walking with God through surrender, self-denial and sacrifice. Staying in His presence will guarantee that you are not energized by a program, project or people, but instead by a person, Jesus Christ. This supernatural energy that comes from abiding in Him is not grounded in who you are but in where you are — in His presence.

Begin with prayer to the Lord of the harvest for Him to send forth laborers, for God to open doors that no man can shut, and for how your church could do more by multiplying disciples, leaders and churches. Then begin the journey of vision by preparing and making plans for your next steps. Be willing to do the groundwork of knowing and exegeting the community or region where God has placed you for His mission. Be willing to continue to learn and be trained in how to effectively communicate the gospel to those around you who are far from God. Begin at the starting point by focusing on making disciples where you are.

Now, you can begin looking for partners. Paul thanked the church in Philippi and prayed for them because of their partnership in advancing the gospel. It requires a conviction from the Scriptures that we are stronger together. Here is something to consider and evaluate in your present situation — are you practicing the very things that enabled your church to be birthed and grow to maturity in its history? Philippians 4:9 (NLT) says, “*Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me — everything you heard from me and saw me doing...*” There comes a time to “put it into practice.”

What things will you put into practice from God’s Word to make healthy disciples who make disciples, develop healthy leaders, strengthen your church to be healthy and then partner with others to plant healthy new churches? The vision is to raise up families from within your family that will be sent out from your church to start new families. Who is there that God has in your church that you need to be preparing to be your church planter or missionary? How can your church be more directly involved in multiplying disciples, leaders and churches?



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Healthy Student Ministry: The Worker and Their Family

As a student ministry worker, I know that my ministry would have been much less successful if it were not for my wife. Temple has been by my side for over 30 years of marriage and ministry. She has been invaluable as we have ministered to students in small and larger churches. She cares deeply for the young ladies in our ministry. She has also managed to be a great mom, get a counseling degree and become a leader in her area of expertise.



Balancing family and work is never easy. We often have to spend more time at our jobs than we do at home so we can afford the house our family lives in. The vocation of ministry and student ministry can be especially tough on families. Ball games, concerts, teen drama, late-night texts, conferences and lock-ins all pull us away from home and the people who live there. So, how do we navigate that balance? What can we do to make sure that as we invest in students, we don’t lose our families?

- **Connect with your family spiritually.** Those of us working with students need to realize that student ministry begins at home. We may repeat that truth to the parents in our ministry and encourage them to embrace that concept, but if we aren’t careful, it can just become words for us. Have spiritual conversations around the dinner table, pray together and read the Word together. You can even attend conferences together. Look for opportunities to make spiritual discussions and activities just a normal part of life for your household.

- **Have dedicated family time.** There are times in your ministry when family will have to take a back seat. There is no way around it. A student will have a real crisis that requires your time and attention. Someone will die, and you have to push other things out of the way. However, those are the exceptions. We need to look at our schedules and make choices that honor our family. Set time aside for day trips, vacations and even date nights. Don’t let just random things get in the way. Make these appointments on your schedule just like you would for any other important meeting. Your family will see that you are making them a priority in your life.

- **Communicate well with your spouse and family.** Communication is always important in your relationships, but it is extremely important in your home. Talk with your spouse about upcoming seasons of stress in the home and ministry. Talk about your children’s activities. Share when you are feeling overwhelmed. Allow your family the opportunity to express their frustrations with your ministry and even the church.

Talking was a big thing in our home. My poor children had a preacher and a counselor as Dad and Mom. Talking was always going to be important. When we moved churches during their high school years, we talked through it together as a family. It was not just a decision I handed down to the rest of the people living in my house. We needed to talk.

Another area of communication is just being sure that everyone is aware of the calendar demands for both family and the church. A shared digital calendar is a great way to work through some of these concerns.

- **Include your family in ministry opportunities when possible.** Take your children on home or hospital visits when appropriate. Bring them on a mission trip. If your spouse wants to serve in student ministry, great! If not, help them find another way to serve within the church. While your family isn’t on staff, it is important to include them as you serve the Lord together.

At the end of the day, finding a healthy balance between ministry and family is all about being intentional. Making small choices throughout the week will help ensure that your family doesn’t feel like they are always in second place.

Join the conversation at tiny.cc/SMMCommunity and let us know how you navigate this difficult area.

Spotlight On Missions

Send offerings to BMA Missions
P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878 • 501.455.4977 • www.bmamissions.org



Joshua & Meagan Phiri • Zambia

Warm greetings from Zambia! We trust this report finds you well and filled with the joy of the Lord. We are writing to express our deepest appreciation for your generous contributions toward our trip back to the mission field in Zambia. Your support has not only made our return possible but has also facilitated impactful projects that are transforming lives in remarkable ways.

• **Update on Water Wells** — In the Samson and Delevu villages, we've installed water wells to bring clean, life-giving water to the villagers. These wells aren't just about quenching thirst or watering gardens. They represent something deeper. They're symbols of the boundless love of Jesus, reflecting the essence of the living water He represents. With these wells, villagers can access clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing, improving their health and hygiene. Additionally, they can irrigate their gardens, ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce to nourish their families. These wells not only meet a basic need but also

carry a profound message of hope and love.

• **Providing Clean Water and Food Security** — Join us on a journey of empathy and change during this drought-stricken year in Zambia. We find ourselves at a crucial juncture, where your backing can usher in life-saving water wells and bolster food stability in vulnerable villages. Picture the ripple effect of your generosity — every well we establish isn't just a water source; it's a symbol of hope for families to cultivate their own sustenance. Within these gardens, amid the dry soil, sprouts not only nourishment but also resilience and a glimpse of a brighter future. Your participation extends beyond quenching thirst; it's about planting seeds of nourishment and progress. Together, let's shift the balance against drought, crafting havens of plenty and wellness. Join us and become the rain in someone's desert, the source of renewal for an entire village.

• **New Bible Study Groups and Audio Bibles** — In addition

to the water well projects, we have initiated new Bible study groups in various villages. Your support has allowed us to ship audio Bibles, providing a powerful tool for sharing the gospel and facilitating meaningful discussions. These groups are fostering spiritual growth and building a strong sense of community among the villagers.

• **Prayers** — Please keep us in your prayers as we embark on these new endeavors. Pray for the success and impact of the water well projects, the growth of the Bible study groups and for God's continued guidance in our connections and partnerships.

If you are reading this and are not currently part of our financial team, would you consider supporting us monthly? If you would like to give via check, please make checks payable to **BMA Missions—ChangeMaker**, write on the memo line, "For Joshua Phiri" and mail the check to P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033. If you would like to give online, use the secure BMA online giving page at tiny.cc/ZambiaPhiri. All gifts are tax deductible.



(R/L) Dr. Bon Etabag, Stan Scroggins, Donna Scroggins, Airish Claudio, Danny Ballard, Shirley Ladd, Dr. John Ladd, Coty Rosengrats, Carol Cain, Carl Bardwell, David Fleming, Dr. Nic Spagnolla; (kneeling) Mae Lahman and Cheryl Hughes.

Stan & Donna Scroggins • Asia Pacific Missions

Have you missed me? Well, as Arnold once said, "I'll be back." Since our last update, Donna and I have pretty much finished our "thank you" tour. We visited churches in Alabama, Mississippi,

Louisiana, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. I know there are many churches we did not get to visit and thank personally, but we are still willing to come. Just give me call.

This update will focus on news

from our BMA Global missionaries in Asia Pacific as well as reporting on our recent Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) trip to Leyte, Philippines, and

See SPOTLIGHT, Page 4

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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Where to Turn When Troubles Arise

Each week, I am around people from every lifestyle. I am often engaged with them from minutes to hours. I was just thinking about a common thread — most face troubles of varying sorts. I find myself still being a spiritual counselor long after I have retired from the pastorate.

Are You Any Different?

Many people wake up to a new day saying to themselves, "Woe is me! Another day of dealing with difficulties." However, not everyone is pessimistic. Some are aware that, despite being born-again children of God, they are not immune to dealing with the events of life, whether good or bad.

The wise man Solomon wrote, "*When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other...*" (Eccl. 7:14 NIV). Truthfully, you and I are no different from others. While they have a bad day, you may have a good one, but the next day, the situation may be reversed.

Avoid Being Angry at God

A cry often made by the troubled person is, "God, why are you allowing this to happen to me? It's not fair!" I have been with people who have been so mad at God that they shook their fists toward Heaven, only to be very embarrassed later.

Solomon said, "*Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools*" (Eccl. 7:9).

Resist Discontentment

The apostle Paul awoke to new circumstances daily. He had joy in preaching and seeing souls saved wherever he went. Yet, in those same places, he awoke to troubles, persecutions, ridicule, insults, beatings and dragging. He could have developed that "woe is me" attitude, but he resisted. He wrote, "*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want*" (Phil. 4:12).

Where to Turn When Trouble Arises

Let's admit it — too often, we turn to the wrong people who give us the wrong advice. As Christians, we should first turn to God's Word when troubles arise. It's not a matter of whether they will come but when they will come.

To a great extent, we can identify with Paul and his companions. He wrote, "*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed*" (II Cor. 4:8-9).

Here is a powerful truth: "*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Rom. 8:37-39).

Tomorrow, you will awake to a new day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad!

Guest Editorial: Who Is a Human Being? Responding to Alabama Supreme Court Ruling

By Jared Lincks

Who is a human being? This pressing question has seemingly plagued the world over its existence. Whether it is the Jews being treated as subhuman by Nazi Germany, black slavery or the issue of abortion today, this has long been one of our most important issues. Recently, the Alabama Supreme Court made headlines by saying that embryos developed by In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) are human beings by law.



IVF is the joining of a man's sperm and a woman's egg in a lab. This creates the embryo which can be placed in the woman's womb for her to become pregnant. These embryos are often frozen and left in that condition indefinitely. Horrifically, genetic testing is performed to see if these embryos have any sort of medical issues. If they do, then they can simply be discarded on a whim.

This leads us to the recent decision made by the court. Their hearing of the case was prompted by the loss three couples suffered when their frozen embryos were destroyed through the interruption by someone with no authorization into the storage facility. Are these embryos considered to be human beings? The court answered with a resounding "yes."

Alabama Supreme Court Justice James Mitchell wrote the majority opinion for the case saying, "Alabama law is really clear. A child is a child before and after birth." Indeed, it is hard to put it any plainer. For us as Christians, multiple moral issues arise from this particular case. Modern technology allows for developments of which our minds could never have imagined decades ago. The most pressing issue of this ruling is the reality that unborn children were legally declared to be human.

Biblically speaking, that fact is unmistakably clear. Exodus 21:22-25 requires a man to suffer penalty for both the pregnant woman and her child if he wounds them. Both the life inside and outside the womb are sacred before God, which means there must be justice if either, or both, are harmed. The death penalty was instituted against murderers in Gen. 9:6 because we are made in God's image. Born, unborn, male, female, regardless of any of these distinctions, or any others, all humanity is precious before the sight of our God. The duty and responsibility of our legal system is to protect all life by upholding the sanctity of life. Chief Justice Tom Parker made this clear in his opinion attached to the ruling, "even before birth, all human beings bear the image of God, and their lives cannot be destroyed without effacing his glory."

The question for us as believers remains, how do we respond to such headlines in our day? Many are losing their minds at the ruling decrying the restrictions on IVF procedures and the implications for abortion. Nevertheless, we must remain firmly gripped on applying the inspired Word of God to every realm of life. Our aim must be to abolish abortion in this land and see that every threat to human life is opposed according to the just standard of Scripture. Many companies and publications will be outraged at the impact on IVF because of the expenses they will incur to prevent the loss of life. Human dignity and the sacred gift of life before God does not have a dollar tag. Neither do women have any right given by their Creator to murder their children.

As Christians, we offer praise for a ruling that recognizes what we already know to be true — the sanctity of life. It seems in every generation the question, "Who is a human being?" must be answered. The great Christian politician William Wilberforce fought for the freedom of black men and women considered less than human by many of his day. We as Baptists have a history in this fight for human dignity and life. Charles Spurgeon said of Wilberforce: "I have been amused with what Wilberforce said the day after they passed the Act of Emancipation. He merrily said to a friend when it was all done, 'Is there not something else we can abolish?' That was said playfully, but it shows the spirit of the Church of God! She lives in conflict and victory — her mission is to destroy everything that is bad in the land!"

Indeed brethren, let us press on onward for the good cause of Christ Jesus our Lord!

— *Jared Lincks is the pastor at Vesta Baptist Church, Charleston, Ark. He is also a graduate of Liberty University with a Master of Theological Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He writes at the The Christian Manifesto (thechristianmanifesto.org) as well as hosts podcasts on Always Ready.*

SPOTLIGHT (Continued From Page 3)

one very important opportunity to have a "dream come true."

• **Jeremy & Mandy Hambrice, B.J. & Jill Sanders and Jack & Lael Crabtree** (Jack & Lael are not BMA Global missionaries but are a part of the Watikian Team.) — Working in the remote mountains of Papua New Guinea is isolated. The teams only means of support is quarterly helicopter supply drops. Due to extreme fuel shortages in Papua New Guinea Ethos 360 (the support team for tribal missions) will evacuate all tribal missionaries to base camp until the fuel shortage is over. Ethos 360 has an extensive security system in place to insure the health, safety and protection for tribal missionaries. The fuel shortage means safety measures would be compromised. Our team in Pengy will prepare the church for their absence and locate to base camp until the crisis is over.

• **Doug and Diane Lee** serve with the BMA Bible College in Talisay, Philippines on the Island of Negros. Doug and Diane will travel to Kenya to speak at a graduation and visit 150 pastors seeking theological training.

• **Danny and Rita Ballard** are serving on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Danny recently joined our BMMI team in Leyte. (More on this trip below.)

• **Cris and Alicia Samson** have relocated to San Carlos, on the Island of Negros, Philippines where they have planted a new church mission.

We have other American missionaries stationed around Asia Pacific who are designated as **Creative Access** missionaries.

Dreams Come True — Five years ago, missionaries Doug Lee, Jimmy Walker and I had a dream. Recognizing that God had uniquely gifted Filipinos with easy language acquisition, the ability to assimilate into other cultures and of course being Asians, we dreamed that God would send Filipinos with the gospel to Asia.

In June, with the help of former BMA Global missionary to Cambodia John Page, we will have our first vision trip to the country of Cambodia with three prospective Filipino missionaries — Juren Mamon, David Perez and Arnold and Divine Huelar. We certainly covet prayers for success and for the Lord's blessing. His timing is His business.

• **Baptist Medical Missions International, Leyte, Philippines Trip** — Plans for this trip have been in the making for over a year. While the trip itself was fabulous, we did have some challenges. What started out to be a team of 20 and ended

up with 16. Calvin Morris, from Brownsboro, Texas succumbed to a heart attack in January. Barbara Speer, from Carthage, Texas had some serious health issues and needed to stay home just one day before departure.

Dr. Jerry Dixon and Dr. Steve Warrick ended up in St. Luke's Medical Center in Manila. When they arrived in Manila, Jerry wasn't feeling well. So, he and Steve went to the hospital. (St. Luke's is a Mayo Clinic hospital with world renowned care.) Jerry continued to deteriorate with a final diagnosis of fast acting Leukemia, which compromised just about everything. While caring for Jerry, Steve fell twice, suffering two concussions and leading to his own admission to ICU. Steve is okay now, but Jerry continues to need our prayers. We sent Missionary Danny Ballard and Dr. Bon Etabag on an early trip to Manila to help once Jerry's wife, Janet and son, Jonathan, arrived. (*Editor's Note: Since this was written, Jerry Dixon has passed away from his illness.*)

God's Timing and Plans Are in His Hands — The island of Leyte is not one for tourism, but there is one historical spot I knew everyone would want to visit. During World War II, the Japanese invasion of the Philippines forced General MacArthur to evacuate the islands leading to one of history's most famous quotes, "I shall return." The beaches of Leyte is where he kept that promise.

In six days, we traveled the

entire island, completing 6 clinics, seeing over 600 patients and around 60 souls saved. As with all BMMI trips, our purpose was to help the local missions and churches reach the people of their communities and villages. The Lord especially allowed us to accomplish His will of doing this important work. Please pray for the pastors of the work in Leyte (Robert Groton, Danilo Rollo, Norberto Bullos, Noel Cartagena and Alfred (Jr.) Suico.) I am so thankful for the hard work they put in which made our work easier and successful. Congratulations on a job well done.

With a base of operations in the Philippines, BMA Global and the BMA of the Philippines seek to reach Asia Pacific with the gospel. Help us do it by volunteering for short term missions, career missions, medical trips or Volunteer Student Missions. A Volunteer Student Mission Team is set for the Philippines June 3-15.

I'll be on another trip to the Philippines departing June 3 with a VSM team of students and adults, then with our team for a Vision Trip to Cambodia. Remember us in your prayers. May God's missionary plan spread across Asia Pacific and the entire world.

Contact me and let me help you fulfill God's plan in your life. Our work is completely focused on sending the gospel to Southeast Asian countries. We love you all. (stanmusical@icloud.com)

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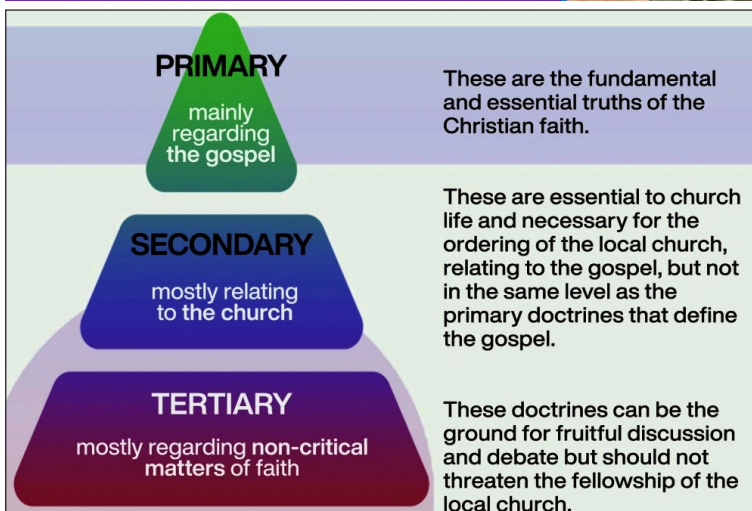
Spinning My Gears

a young pastor's perspective

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Triage in Ministry: Prioritizing Unity and Doctrinal Difference

Unpredictable wait times cause frustration among the people assembled in the local emergency department (ED). When we go to a restaurant and give the hostess our party size, we expect to be seated in the order that we arrived as long as a table is available. The ED is different, though. The person who has lost a limb will get to see a provider before the person who has a stomach bug and has already been waiting for two hours. The nurse in the ED isn't a hostess; she is a triage expert. The word triage refers to assessing individual situations to determine their urgency. Students of the Bible should be skilled triage experts, too! Such skill is necessary for anyone who desires to serve in ministry.

One of those things that keeps my gears going (as I've mentioned in previous articles) is our ability to work together. Unity is crucial to our success. In the local church, unity allows us to accomplish our mission and purpose. As an association, unity enables us to cooperate and partner to do more than we could ever do alone. If, as individuals, we are not skilled at triaging our preferences and beliefs, we will fertilize division.

Before studying Baptist history and church history in general, I sincerely believed most divisions among Christians came from differences in fundamental church doctrine. That assumption could not be further from the truth. Doctrinal division has rarely been the cause of Christians breaking fellowship with others. More of-

ten, and unfortunately, there are differences of opinion on something small that leads to broken fellowship.

You've probably heard a preacher talk about "secondary issues." Defining what is primary, secondary and tertiary is triaging the importance and priority of our teaching. When we allow trivial issues like personal preference to become a priority, it causes division in our families, churches and associations. So, how do we triage the urgency of our beliefs into primary, secondary and tertiary areas?

• **Primary issues determine salvation.** The contradiction of a primary doctrine is the only time the term "heresy" should be used. Believers and followers of Christ may disagree on secondary issues without compromising the biblical doctrine of salvation and falling into heresy. These issues include who we confess Jesus Christ to be. Jesus Christ is God, who existed before the creation of the world and was born of a virgin to dwell among man and pay the price of sin. Someone who denies the deity of Christ is a heretic because they have violated this primary issue of doctrine. Only some essential things we teach are primary issues. Some issues are secondary.

• **Secondary issues establish the boundaries in which we can have fellowship.** I couldn't serve or be a part of an association in which secondary issues are not agreed upon. I couldn't be a part of a church where secondary mat-

Deaths

Fred Smith, 87 of Magnolia, passed away Feb. 29. He was a former trustee of Central Baptist College and deacon at College View Baptist Church.

Addie Harrell, 107 of Magnolia, passed away Feb. 28. She was a member of College View Baptist Church.

Royal C. Stokes, 84 of Jonesboro, passed away Feb. 25. He was a veteran and a member of Herman Baptist Church at Bono.

ters are not defined. These issues usually pertain to the practice of our faith. The mode of baptism is a secondary issue. See, it wouldn't be possible for me to work alongside someone who sprinkles because there would be too much disunity between us. In practice, other differences in our teaching arise when considering a person who doesn't baptize by immersion. Those issues could be primary. Still, the mode of baptism by itself remains a secondary issue. It doesn't determine whether or not a person is a Christian. In our churches and our association, we should be united on primary and secondary issues.

• **The third area of triage is tertiary.** These issues neither set boundaries for fellowship nor define what it means to be a Christian. Christians in good fellowship with one another can disagree on these points. Some might say we shouldn't spend time wading into these waters if these issues aren't significant enough to define fellowship. Without tertiary subjects, we're limited to a shallow understanding of God. These issues should cause brothers and sisters to dive deeper into their Bible and contend from Scripture what we believe. These issues, for me personally, are the joy of Bible study. These questions tap into the mysteries of God. What do we mean by saying that man is created "in the image of God?" What is the order of events when Jesus returns? What is the *ordo salutis* or order of events in someone's salvation? The answers to these questions do not inhibit our ability to work together.

We can get unnecessarily fired up about some of these tertiary issues if we are not careful. And if we are not "sober-minded," we'll make them out to be of primary importance. Whether it is between church members or associational leaders, the consequence is that we will become the stumbling block for disunity. When we study God's Word, let's be careful not to sow seeds of division on issues that shouldn't inhibit our ability to work together.

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.

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

Reports from the Churches

Bridge, Mountain Home added three by baptism, three by letter, and two by statement; Hershel Conley, pastor.

Calvary, Stamps gained one by letter; Kenneth Bobo, pastor.

Charity, Ward received one by baptism and two by letter; Keith Lewis, pastor.

Church at Willow Beach reports one by letter; Roy Tilley, pastor.

First, Bald Knob witnessed one by baptism; Matt Grantham, pastor.

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

Kaley Hill rejoices over three by letter and one by statement; Jim Goodson, pastor.

Kingsland, Kingsland added three by baptism; Rick Bolin, pastor.

Sulphur Springs, Fordyce gained two by letter; Stan Hobson, pastor.

Zion, Fordyce received two by letter; Scott Smith, pastor.

Homecomings

Haynes, Haynes, April 28; 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship, lunch and singing to follow; Don Lewis, pastor.



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DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.

Greenbrier Dist. Men's Fellowship; April 13, 8 a.m.; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Mt. Calvary WMA; 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.; Hattiesville, Hattiesville

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet Our New Pastor; March 9, 6 p.m.; Dickinson, Harrell.

CBC Singers; March 10, 10:15 a.m.; meal following; Kaley Hill, Quitman.

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.

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baptisttrumpet.com



Prophecy Fulfilled Before Our Eyes (Part 1)

I believe what the Bible says will happen will truly happen, but when those very events seem to come across the news, it is surreal. On my recent trip to Israel, as I had the chance to sit in front of inside experts and government officials who weren't tracking with the Bible at all and hear what was **really** happening behind the scenes in Israel and the Middle East, I couldn't believe my ears because it was as if they were reading directly from Bible prophecy. They weren't, but the events they relayed were prophecies being fulfilled before our eyes. Of course, the fact that Jews are back in the land is already the fulfillment of prophecy, but on my trip, these prophetic events jumped out to me:

The first prophetic event I felt was unfolding before my eyes came during a debriefing from a Messianic Jewish leader who had a direct contact and had recently attended a meeting where blueprints were discussed. Those blueprints were of a new temple.

One of the major last days events prophesied in the Bible is that there would be a restarting of the daily sacrifices in the location of the former temples. Notice I didn't say there is a prophecy that the temple will be rebuilt or that a new temple will be built. There's not. Ezekiel tells of a temple that will be built in the Millennial Kingdom after Jesus returns, but there isn't an explicit prophecy that a temple would be built before that. Yet, many related prophecies make it seem highly likely that there will be a new Temple.

There are at least three times Daniel prophesies about the daily sacrifices, and, in those passages, he alludes to a new temple: *"And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he*

shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator (Dan. 9:27 ESV).

This passage shows that the ruler to come (Antichrist) ends the daily sacrifices. If you read the passage in a different translation, it may say that he sets up an abomination at the temple or in a wing of the temple, but that passage is not clear in the original language. In Daniel 11, Daniel again tells of the sacrifices ending and seems to be more clear about the temple: *"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation"* (Dan. 11:31 NIV).

Like in Daniel 9 and 11, Daniel 12 also tells of the ending of these daily sacrifices. Since Daniel wrote that the Antichrist would put an end to the daily sacrifice, it will happen, but for the daily sacrifice to end, it would have to start. Since the sacrifices will begin, we should also expect a new temple or at least a new tabernacle to be built. While on the ground in Israel, this was clearly happening.

A group called the Temple Institute has been working toward that. The furnishings for a new temple have been built. I have had the chance to see the golden lampstand/menorah twice now. The Temple Institute Museum has the others on exhibit. Along with the furnishings, they have also identified descendants of the Levites to serve as priests. They have been trained and have the biblically prescribed clothes made. Everything is done except for two things — the construction of the temple and, in particular, the ashes to purify the priests.

As I began, I can confirm from

a trusted source who saw them that there are plans for that temple. That source didn't confirm this, but I have heard that it is believed parts of the temple have already been prefabricated and will be put together modularly. I can't confirm that with any confidence, but it would be consistent with the work done already. The seemingly tricky issue in the rebuilding of the temple is the location. Israel doesn't have control of the Temple Mount — Jordan does. Also, on the perceived location of the temple sits the Muslim Dome of the Rock. This may not be as tricky as it seems, though. Some believe that a space on the Temple Mount next to the Dome of the Rock is the actual location of the original temple. This is possible, because the gates of the temple do not line up with the Dome, but instead align with the space next to it. The blueprints seen use that location.

Still, with Muslim control of the Temple Mount, this seems impossible, but from the military debriefing we had, the ongoing recent Abraham Accords and the conversations that were happening with Saudi Arabia immediately before the 10/7 attacks were likely headed toward some type of compromise or partnership that would lead to access on the Temple Mount. According to military experts, this was a large part of the motivation of the Hamas attack. This is revealed through the name Hamas gave their own "operation," which translates "Cleansing of the Al-Aqsa Mosque." This mosque is on the Temple Mount. Hamas says they attacked over the possibility of Israel gaining access to the Temple Mount and moving on a new temple.

The other factor that remains for building a new temple and beginning the sacrifices is the ashes of a red heifer. These ashes would purify the priest. Rabbinical tradition calls for these ashes to come from a pure red heifer. For 2,000 years there hasn't been a certified red heifer. Now there is. Those heifers became mature in October 2023 and have until October/November 2024 to be sacrificed. The land has already been purchased on the Mount of Olives to perform the sacrifice ritual. While in Israel, we had the chance to see this plot of land. It was surreal. The sacrifice of these red heifers could happen any time. Any political movement in Israel could lead to the start of the temple or at least the sacrifices.

Even more surreal is that the real reason for the Hamas attack appears to thwart the start of the temple and sacrifices. Not only is this truth realized in their own name for their attack, but the Hamas spokesman himself said, the aggression (of Israel leading to the attack) against "our path and



Cry Out to God

Have you ever felt like life has knocked you down? What do you do when you are overwhelmed, in despair and feel like no one seems to care?

The Psalmist David felt that way many times. As a shepherd boy, he kept wild animals from attacking his sheep. As a young man, he bravely killed Goliath with a slingshot and a small stone. He played the harp to calm the restless and tormented soul of King Saul. After Saul's disobedience, God chose this young man to be the new king of Israel, and that's when his problems began. Saul was not ready to give up his crown. He hated his new rival and pursued him relentlessly. David had won many victories, making Saul extremely jealous. While rising in popularity, he made countless enemies. He was, indeed, a warrior.

While David may have been renowned for his bravery, he was not fearless. When he was down, he was down all the way — mentally, physically and spiritually. Psalm 142 gives us a glimpse of his despair, depression and feeling of utter hopelessness.

At the time of that writing, David was hiding in a cave (I Sam. 22:1) to escape the murderous intentions of Saul and his men — *"I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way... Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.... Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need..."* (Psalm 142:1-4,6 NIV).

Can you sense his despair? He felt alone and helpless. We may have all felt that way at one time or another. Life seems to have lost its joy; we are sad, lonely, hurt, overwhelmed and aren't sure that anyone even cares. Our feelings often overcome the truth and keep us from crying out to God.

David's prayer wasn't an array of fine words and he didn't pretend he was just fine — because he wasn't. He cried out from the depths of his soul. It is okay to cry out to God like that — *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"* (I Peter 5:7).

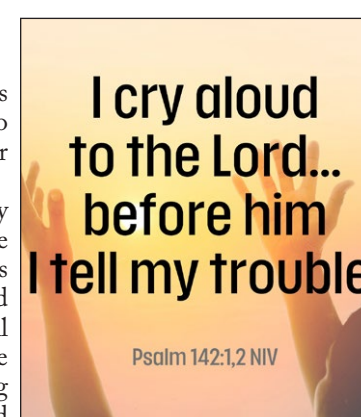
God gives us wonderful Christian friends and family who will pray for us and comfort us, but it is God who lifts us up — *"out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God"* (Psalm 40:2-3).

Years ago, I heard a troubled woman say that if she could just have a certain television evangelist pray to God on her behalf, she would make it through her trials. That is misplaced thinking. A renowned, popular TV personality has no better line to God than you and I have. We can go directly and boldly to God. Because of Jesus, we can *"approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"* (Heb. 4:16). Not only that, but *"...the Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down"* (Psalm 145:13-14).

David may have started his prayer in anguish, but he knew that when he was rescued from the things that weighed him down so heavily, the righteous would take notice of God's goodness. There would be a whole lot of praising going on that day.

Is there any doubt that through God's Word in our weakest need, **we have everything we need** to lift us up out of the deepest hole in which we find ourselves? All praise to God for His unfailing love toward us.

Al-Aqsa" reached its peak with the "bringing of red cows." Cleansing the Temple Mount and red cows are the reasons for the attack according to Hamas, all signs of the prophecy show the start of the daily



sacrifices returning is close.
— 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)



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Why is There So Much Evil and Suffering?

Perhaps one of the most difficult things to understand and accept is why there is so much evil and suffering in the world. I found this while studying and hope it will be a blessing to you.

The following content is provided by the C.S. Lewis Institute (8001 Braddock Road, Suite 301; Springfield, Va. 22151. Portions of the publication may be reproduced for noncommercial, local church or ministry use without prior permission).

Theodore (Theo): Good morning, Susie, how are you doing?

Susie (Su): Do you really want to know, or are you just giving the standard polite greeting?

Theo: Both. Politeness is always important, but it's only real politeness if it's backed by genuine concern for the other person. You don't look happy today.

Su: I'm not. To tell you the truth, Theodore, I've been feeling very shaky in my faith lately. I've been hearing so much on the news about all the tragedies and disasters going on all over the world, and all my atheist friends keep asking me, "If God is so good, why is there so much evil in the world? Why does He allow it?" until I'm almost ready to disbelieve myself. I don't have any answers for them.

Theo: I know how you feel. That question seems to be the most popular one brought up against the Christian faith lately, and consequently, it's one of the most important to have some responses for. However, the question of evil is not quite as problematic as it is often made out to be. It makes a lot of sense when you consider how much we influence each other as humans.

Su: What has that got to do with it?

Theo: Everybody can remember someone who has been unkind to them, and a time when they have been unkind to somebody else, for no good reason. Then there's a ripple effect — people think that because someone else has been unkind to them, they are now entitled to be unkind to everybody else. The wrongs done by previous generations can also result in consequences to us. These kinds of things just keep building — every huge instance of evil can be traced back to a number of little cruelties, twisted "white" lies and greedy grasping of which any one of us is capable. But when you put it all together and let it grow, it becomes unmanageable and unbelievably horrible. That's sin, and that's what is behind all the misery in the world. It's what sinful people do to each other, to themselves and even to the natural world.

Su: Yes, I get all this, Theo, but why does God allow us to go on acting like this, hurting each other and His Creation? Why didn't He create the world so that it would be impossible for bad things to ever happen, or for anyone to choose to do wrong?

Theo: Because God is love (I John 4:8). If God had created us so that we couldn't help doing everything just the way He wanted it, we would be mere robots, unable to trust Him or return His love, and God doesn't want that for us. It's the fact that we can reject Him, can be sinners and wreck the world, as we have done, that also enables us to return to Him, to love Him in faith and trust that the final outcome will far outweigh all the evil we have done and seen done. As C.S. Lewis put it in Mere Christianity, "Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way. Apparently, He thought it worth the risk... If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying... for making a live world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen... then we may take it it is worth paying." Remember, He paid all the price of that risk Himself, for our sakes, as it says in Isa. 53:4-5 (ESV): "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace...." We have no right to criticize God for taking a risk for which He bore all the pain, and which offered us the only possible opportunity for love and fellowship with Him.

Su: But it certainly seems that human beings still suffer as well.

Theo: When we and others sin, there are consequences that cause suffering, revealing to us that we have been wrong. Hopefully, that will lead us to repent and turn to a new life in Christ.

Su: And what about those who don't?

Theo: Their rejection of God's love leaves them in sin and suffering, which is why there is still so much suffering in the world, even after Christ's sacrifice for us. Christians often suffer because we still live in a world impacted by the choices of evildoers, as well as by our own mistakes and wrong decisions. But when God destroys all the evil in the world, after everyone has had a chance to choose whether or not to love Him, then there will never be any more suffering.

Su: So, it's better to live in a world where suffering can happen, because that gives us the opportunity to choose to love?

Theo: It's not just better; it's the only world God could have made that would fulfill His purposes for us. The end.

We humans place for more importance on this life of a few years at best than what God has in store for us in the life to come. The apostles Paul stated, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "The church is stressed over the issue of needing to replace the roof and the fact that the insurance company has denied the claim. To lower costs, we have decided to develop the project

with people from the church and their roofers and friends. We have also challenged church families to commit to contributing and raising funds in their social circle to obtain the necessary funds.

"In our meetings, we have been praying for God to provide for us. We have spread the word among friends,

fellow servants and the means we have available like the *Baptist Trumpet*. God has been good and a brother we don't know from a church outside our association has given \$25,000.

"We believe this is one more confirmation from God that He oversees this work, and He has opened a door for us in this city so we can continue

sharing the gospel. We must continue to work hard, be simple and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice. This work is not due to human effort but rather to the power of God, who convinces and produces the desires in the hearts of human beings.

"We are looking forward to what God will do in this city, and how He will use us for His glory."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "I thank God that our sisters met in my home to appoint their leadership. Now it is my turn to meet with them to pray and give them vision as to what a Woman's Missionary Union should be. In many churches, the sisters are a great help in educating, motivating and sustaining missionary work. I am very excited to see what God will do through the sisters at Ebenezer.

"Last Sunday, the attendance at Ebenezer was very low because of many sick people. I was sick from Wednesday afternoon until Friday with fever and a lot of discomfort in my body. The rest, soup and medicine helped a lot in my recovery. Although I am not 100%, I thank God that we were able to serve the Lord on Sunday.

"It is exciting to teach. At Ebenezer we try to go deeper into biblical truths and give each brother a basic knowledge of the gospel and an overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I see with enthusiasm when I ask questions and they begin to answer. It has been a work that has taken time.

"Keep praying for Neymar. Pray for the weather changes that affect health. Thank you for your prayers and support to continue in the gospel. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "Praise God! Happy March! What a great week we had at Faith Chapel! We had a good number for worship, even though we still had several out sick. Except for one cold day that snuck in there, the weather has been beautiful, too! Thank you, Lord.

"We are talking to a neighbor with a large family that the Lord put in our path this week. They are not saved and do not attend church, but we have planted a seed. Please join us in prayer that he will return for us to water that seed and that the Holy Spirit will make it grow and that the whole family will be saved and serve the Lord with us!

"Well, praise God, I finally get to tell you something different this week — the sheetrock has been stocked in the new building! They will begin hanging it soon, maybe this week. Please pray for that, too. After waiting for so long for that to happen, it seems now that things are going to start happening very fast again, but that's okay, too. Praise God, I love to watch Him work!

"Thank you all again for your support that is making this building and this ministry possible — especially for your prayers for us, this building, this community and for those God

is using this mission to reach. I am humbled by your faithfulness, and I can't thank you enough!"

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "We have had such a busy, blessed week at Faith Journey as we moved into March. I was able to get to spend a couple of hours with Paul White this week, visiting about Faith Journey and catching up with him. It is always a blessing to feel how much he and the BMA pour into their missionaries.

"Also, this week, I got the opportunity to go to another For King and Kingdom retreat for several days. This time I was a servant for new participants and was able to be there to help meet their needs as they were strengthening their relationships with the other men and ultimately their relationship with Christ. It was a humbling and rewarding experience for all the men involved as we watched them take on this journey. As always, when you want to be a blessing to others, you end up being the one blessed by them. Please pray for these men as they follow the path toward becoming the men God has appointed them to be in their families, their churches and their communities."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "This week, we had many COVID and flu patients. Even my wife and I were in bed with bronchitis and were only able to meet in our small group at Pea Ridge on Tuesday. We suspended Wednesday and Thursday due to the viruses.

"This week, we received a gift from the Lord. My daughter, her husband and my three grandchildren came from our country to live in the Northwest. It was eight years without seeing them and we did not know our youngest granddaughter, Renata, who is four years old. The brothers of our church helped us in the organization of the welcome of our family.

"In our Sunday service, we were able to introduce our family to the congregation and, although we had many absences, we were able to worship and exalt the Lord together."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "We did it! Finally, we had our first Coaches' Meeting. I've been wanting to do that since Sept. 22, right after we launched, but I've had to research and wrestle with what it should look like for us. After partnering with South City Church and attending their training with KC Underground in Kansas City, we felt like we had a direction. Six of our eight coaches made it, and we had three come to explore coaching. One of those exploring committed to be a coach and the others are planning to do so.

"This is the most important part of what we're doing in Pea Ridge. When someone commits to be a coach, they are committing to be a missionary in their neighborhood and network, as well as leading or assisting with

See MISSIONS, Page 8

PRAY

(Continued From Page 1)

complain that they were praying too much.” He also loves this quote from E.M. Bounds, “The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men! He does not come on machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer!”

However you choose to participate, we would love to know that you will choose to do so. Please email Heidi Sorrels with Healthy Church Solutions at heidi@bma-global.org and let her know that you will join in and how you plan to participate. She can also provide you with resources for organizing your church’s prayer times if needed.

GALA

(Continued From Page 1)

spiritual war that is happening in the life of every Christian and encouraged the audience to fight back by overcoming evil with good. “Because Jesus is alive, nothing else matters,” he said.

The Central Baptist College Fine Arts Department provided the entertainment. The CBC Choir, under the direction of Jim Turner, sang *Nothin’ Gonna Stumble My Feet*, by Greg Gilpin and *Wayfaring Stranger*, by Craig Courtney, featuring Jacob Claunch on the cello. The CBC Band, under the direction of Donna Bradley, performed *Celebration* by Randall Standridge and *Music of the Spheres* by Gary P. Gilroy.

In his announcement of the \$718,010 total that had been raised through this event, President Kimbrow acknowledged 59 event sponsors and many additional individuals and businesses who made contributions toward the total. “I am beyond grateful for the generosity of so many,” said President Kimbrow. “The Central Baptist College Board of Trustees, local businesses, not only in Conway, but across the state of Arkansas, and other individuals who are such faithful supporters of Central Baptist College, all came together to make this an unforgettable night for the support of Christian higher education.”

Contributions are still being accepted. To contribute, visit cbc.edu/gala and complete the online giving form. Checks may be mailed to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72034, with “2024 Scholarship Gala” on the memo line of the check.

MISSIONS

(Continued From Page 7)

Connection Group in that missionary context. One of our Connection Groups has met for two years and has

RETIREMENT

(Continued From Page 1)

It has been quite the ride over the last eight years, and experience has proven that the hand of the Lord is upon Southeastern Baptist College. He presented opportunity after opportunity to stabilize and grow the college. Each one required a great deal of trusting the Lord to provide the funding, equipment and personnel to achieve them. But we stepped out on faith and the Lord provided every single time! Some things took longer than others, and on rare occasions, I admit I got it wrong. But, again, with Army training, I understood that a setback is nothing more than an opportunity to learn, reset, adjust, and move forward.

The Lord has been good to SBC, and I want to thank each individual and every church that supports this vital ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. God has used you to advance your college and revitalize its grand legacy.

Retirement Plans

With mixed feelings, but with assurance that I am in the Lord’s will, I have announced my retirement to the Board of Trustees. In fact, I discussed my pending retirement with the Board Chairman in April 2023, but he asked me to remain a little longer before announcing my intentions, which I did. The exact date for retirement is not set, but I foresee it sometime over the next year. I have prayed about it, and the Lord has reassured me of my decision. It is “mission accomplished” with the reset, growth, and financial stabilization of SBC. I look forward to passing the presidential leadership on to the next qualified person who will take the school to greater success as the Lord leads. Please keep the board members in prayer as they begin the arduous task of finding the next president of Southeastern Baptist College.

What will become of Linda and me? We are relocating to Huntsville, Alabama, in order to come along side my daughter and encourage our four grandchildren who are living there. (scott.r.carson@gmail.com)

(The full article appeared in the March 2024 issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Excerpts of that article are being reprinted here with the permission of President Carson.)

seen over 60 people come through their home while launching 2 other connection groups and 6 coaches. The second Connection Group has met for 1 year and has seen over 25 come through their house and have now launched another coach. Each coach represents this type of potential! This week, we have our monthly Collective Gathering!”



Wrestling

• **Park City, Kan., Feb. 29** — Competing on the first day of the NAIA National Wrestling Championship, **David Corretjer** was on the mat at Hartman Arena representing CBC. Corretjer made history, becoming the first Mustang wrestler ever to win two matches at Nationals.

• **Park City, Kan., March 1** — Competing on the second day of the NAIA National Wrestling Championship at Hartman Arena, **David Corretjer** looked to advance toward the placement rounds at 125 pounds. Unfortunately, that did not happen, as he lost his first match of the day to #4 Brody Gee by fall at 2:35. Corretjer ends his season 23-8 with AMC Wrestler of the Year honors and an All-Conference selection at 125 pounds.

Women’s Basketball

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 29** — The American Midwest Conference (AMC) announced their all-conference selections at a banquet preceding the AMC Tournament Quarterfinal presented by Tandem HR. Three Lady Mustangs — **Rhys Anderson**, **Caroline City** and **Olivia Lambrigtsen** — were the record-tying three players that earned all-conference honors.

• **Columbia, Mo., March 1** — Returning to the AMC tournament after missing out last season, eighth-seeded CBC was on the floor at the Arena at Southwell Complex for an AMC Quarterfinal presented by Tandem HR matchup with the top seed, Columbia Cougars (CC). CBC (7-18) saw their season come to an end after trailing at the half before dropping the contest 90-45 to CC (25-4). **Olivia Lambrigtsen** paced the Lady Mustangs with 14 points, while **Rhys Anderson** also finished in double figures with 12. CBC’s season comes to an end early but not before they made the AMC Tournament for the third time in four years.

Men’s Basketball

• **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 29** — The AMC announced their men’s basketball awards prior to the opening game of the AMC Tournament. CBC earned two major awards and had a record six players selected to the various all-conference teams, headlined by **AMC Coach of the Year Sam Kohnke** and **Sixth Man of the Year Kyle Harding**.

• **Conway, Feb. 29** — Opening play in the AMCTournament pre-

sented by Tandem HR, CBC, the tournament’s #1 seed, opened the quarterfinal round by hosting the Eutectics of University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP) inside A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (23-6) never trailed, leading by as many as 46 en route to a 112-66 win over UHSP (1-26). The win propels CBC into the AMC semifinals for the seventh year in a row, the longest current streak among AMC members. **Wade Williams** led four Mustangs in double figures with 22 off the bench, while **Hykeem Hancock** notched his first career double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds and **Tomas Mikyska** adding 14 and **Deshawn Corprew** posting 11.

• **Conway, March 2** — Coming off a blowout win in the quarterfinal round, CBC hosted the semifinals of the AMC Tournament presented by Tandem HR against the Owls of William Woods University (WWU). CBC (24-6) needed overtime, but they took down WWU (12-16) to advance to their fifth AMC Tournament Championship game in the last six years. **Wade Williams** led all scorers with 22 off the bench, while **Sage Borbon** added 20, **Jonas Carlisle** had 15 and **Kyle Harding** added 12. CBC knocked down twice as many threes as WWU and outrebounded the Owls 37-34.

Baseball

• **North Little Rock, March 1** — Playing at Burns Park for the first time this season, CBC hosted the first two games of a four-game series with the Patriots of Mission University (MU). CBC (10-6) split the two games, taking game one 14-1 before dropping game

two 4-2 to MU (8-9)

• **North Little Rock, March 2** — After splitting the first two games of the series, CBC was back at Burns Park for the final two games of their series against MU. CBC (12-6) got the job done, taking three of four from MU (8-11) and winning by scores of 11-3 and 7-2.

• **Paragould, March 4** — Playing their fifth game in four days, CBC was at Pioneer Park for a matchup with future AMC rival Crowley’s Ridge (CRC). CBC (13-6) recorded their third straight win, beating CRC (6-7) 15-3. **Austin Teal** made history during the game, becoming the second player in program history to record a cycle. Teal had a home run in the first, a double in the second, a single in the fourth and a triple in the fifth. He joins **Brady Brashier** as the only players in program history to record a cycle, with Brashier’s coming on April 20, 2013, in a Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference game against Waldorf.

Softball

• **Gulf Shores, Ala., March 2** — After games at the Gulf Coast Invitational rained out, CBC was at the Gulf Coast Invitational for two games. CBC (8-8) dropped game one to Lindsey Wilson (4-3) 4-3 before beating Brenau (7-5) 4-1 in game two.

• **Gulf Shores, Ala., March 4** — Following a split on day one of the Gulf Coast Invitational, CBC took on Oklahoma Wesleyan (OWU) and Central Methodist at the Gulf Shores Sportsplex. CBC (8-10) dropped the first contest to OWU (12-5) 5-0 before a close loss to Central Methodist (13-2) 5-4.

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