

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## Prayer Movements Are Growing in Our Association

By Heidi Sorrels, Pastor Advocate • Healthy Church Solutions

This is the second in a series of articles focused on "Prayer For Our Association." Healthy Church Solutions, your BMA Global church health and leader health ministry, is partnering with the *Baptist Trumpet* and inviting your church to intentionally set aside time to pray for our association before the national meeting. As we prepare to gather in April to worship, unite, report,

fellowship, plan, vote, celebrate and send, there is much to pray for! There are more lost to be reached, more leaders and missionaries to be raised up, more churches to be planted and more gospel seeds to be sown. We believe God wants even more for our association and our ministries than we do, and we want to hear His direction and see Him move in power.

This prayer emphasis is really an extension of what we've been heading toward over the last six years. In 2018, Healthy Church Solutions began to focus heavily on prayer initiatives and look for ways to point pastors and churches to prayer. We created a three-part prayer training with content covering how to build a prayer culture, and we began to suggest that every pastor and every church, no matter what the need, begin with prayer.

Since then, Larry Barker has done many regional pastor prayer retreats with small groups of pastors and associational leaders. During these times, individuals practice deepening their own prayer life and leave ready to lead another group of leaders through the same kind of retreat. Not to be outdone, the ladies have also asked for this kind of training and practice. Shelby Barker and I have done several one-day retreats and have seen God move in many remarkable ways. We

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## CBC President Announces Plans to Retire

Terry Kimbrow, who has served as the president of Central Baptist College (CBC) since 2004, announced on March 11 his plans to retire in May 2025.

Kimbrow's announcement comes after serving since 2004 as CBC's ninth president. Kimbrow's decision to step down comes with a heartfelt message of gratitude and optimism for the college's future.

"I have been so blessed to serve as president for the past 20 years. I'm convinced it's time for someone to come in with a fresh vision and renewed heart for CBC. God has someone, and it's my prayer that He will reveal that to the search committee."

During his time as president, Kimbrow has been a driving force behind the growth and success of CBC. Under his leadership, the college has experienced significant achievements, including the construction of the Ratliff Bell Tower in 2008, which symbolizes the college's mission to transform lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Kimbrow's visionary leadership has been instrumental in spearheading a comprehensive rebranding effort, attracting million-dollar gifts, multiple capital campaign fundraising efforts and significantly increasing the college's endowment by over 300%. In 2011, he led his most successful capital campaign, Vision 2020: A Miracle in the Making. His dedication to fundraising peaked when a historic \$5 million contribution, the largest single gift in the college's history, kicked off the campaign. Vision 2020 raised over \$18 million.

Under Kimbrow's leadership and guidance, CBC has witnessed unprecedented growth and expansion, including the construction of the Watkins Academic Building (2012), the Story Library (2013) and Dickson Hall (2014). He also was instrumental in the renovation of Burgess Auditorium (2015) and the establishment of the MaryNed Foster Band Rehearsal Hall (2018).

During his presidency, academic excellence was a main priority. He successfully led the continuance of regional accreditation and the establishment of the Teacher Education program, which has helped significantly expand the college's bachelor degree offerings to over 40. In 2009, Kimbrow was able to secure a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant enabling the establishment of several science degree programs and the construction of the Judy Gabbard Science Center.

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## BMATS Executive Committee Accepts Resignation of President

On Friday, Feb. 23, the BMA Seminary Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Dr. Charley Holmes as president of the seminary. Dr. Holmes intends to remain affiliated with BMA Seminary as professor and development officer and will assist the new president in acclimating to the duties of the office.

Dr. Holmes has been a faithful servant of God and has done so much to ensure that BMA Seminary has a strong foundation of sound leadership, sound doctrine and sound finances. We are saddened to see him step down as president, but we are, at the same time, excited about what God has prepared for BMA Seminary in the future. Whomever the Lord desires to lead BMA Seminary, the goal of the seminary will be the same. Our commission since 1960, found in Jude 3, is to "earnestly contend for the faith."

As for next steps, during the April 16 trustee meeting, the Board will elect a search committee to begin the process of selecting the sixth president of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary. Please be in prayer for those elected and for the process itself. We want to be certain that we honor the Lord by following His guidance.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Holmes for 25 years of devoted service. Encourage your churches and the individual members to make a gift in his honor to the Seminary Sunday Scholarship fund.

*Respectfully submitted: Chairman Larry Geraldson, Vice Chairman Clif Johnson, Secretary Gary Murph and Assistant Secretary Elaine Beal.*

## To the Churches of the BMAA

By Dr. Charley Holmes, President • BMA Seminary

I began classes at BMA Seminary in 1989 upon the advice and recommendation of my pastor, Jack McDaniel, and a cherished friend and former BMATS trustee, L.H. Raney. Since that time, I have lived on campus, been a student, worked on the maintenance staff, taught classes, raised financial and prayer support and served as President/

CEO. In short, outside of my family, the seminary has been my life. With thanksgiving to God, I acknowledge that the seminary and the churches of the BMA of America have put food on my table and a roof over my head since 1989.

My greatest privilege, other than preaching the gospel around the

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Terry Kimbrow  
President



## CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

### Central Baptist College

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

## CBC Fine Arts Spring Schedule

It has already been an eventful semester for the CBC Fine Arts department, and there are still many more music events coming up.

This February, CBC students participated in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band and Arkansas Intercollegiate Choir in Hot Springs. The band members representing our school included Emily Gentry, Faith Grantham, Julian Lilly, Alejandro Mendoza and Aubrey Rogan. The choir members included Anna Battenfield, Caleb Claiborne, Heidi Maxwell, Jesse McGarrah, Joy Murdock, Olivia Solano and AJ Woodraska.

Senior Music Education major Julian Lilley presented his senior recital on tuba on March 5. After seeing Jeremiah Dodson receive his degree in December as CBC's first Music Education graduate, we look forward to two other Music Education majors graduating at the end of this semester — Alejandro Mendoza and AJ Woodraska.

The CBC Singers also traveled extensively over the school year. This year's Singers consist of the following talented students: Caleb Allen, Jaclyn Burroughs, Nathan Dodson, Mary Grace Hall, Heidi Maxwell, Drew Tiner, Abby Wilson and AJ Woodraska.

After finishing a performance at Garrett Memorial Christian School in Hope, the band and choir will be performing on Wednesday, March 27 at Columbia Christian School in Magnolia, and they will perform on Friday, April 5 at Westside Christian School in El Dorado.

The Fine Arts tour will be April 13-18. During the tour, the band and choir will perform at Bethel Baptist Church and at Calvary Baptist Church in Fulton, Miss. After this, they will enjoy two days at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.

The Music Department Spring Concert will be on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Burgess Auditorium. The CBC band, Worship Choir, Women's Chorus, Chamber Choir, Singers, String Quartet and Handbells will all be performing.

We are very proud of our Fine Arts department and the work that they do to represent our school, and we look forward to seeing their hard work pay off throughout the remainder of the semester.



**Sports  
News**  
By Erik Holth

### Baseball

• **Springdale, March 9** — Playing on the road in their final tune up before American Midwest Conference (AMC) play, CBC was at Shiloh Christian School for a doubleheader against the Ecclesia Royals (EC). CBC (15-6) swept EC (7-11), pounding out 20 runs and 25 hits in 11-6 and 9-7 wins. **Ruben Hernandez** made history in the first game, becoming the first player in program history to walk 100-or-more times in his career. **Jay French** held the previous record.

### • St. Louis, Mo., March 11 —

The AMC named their athletes of the week and, for the third time this season, CBC earned Pitcher of the Week recognition. **Gram Middleton** joins **Josh Albat** and **Jackson Pope** as Mustangs to earn Pitcher of the Week honors so far this season. Middleton pitched six innings on Saturday at Ecclesia, not figuring in the decision despite CBC winning 9-7 in extra innings. He struck out eight and allowed one earned run, running his team leading strikeout total to 35 this season.

### Men's Golf

• **Melbourne, March 11** — Teeing off for the first time this spring season, CBC was at the Cooper's



## CBC Men's Basketball Wins AMC Championship

Surviving overtime in their win on March 2, CBC hosted the Spartans of Missouri Baptist University (MBU) in the American Midwest Conference (AMC)

Hawk Golf Club for the first round of the Lyon Spring Invitational. CBC shot an opening round 302 and leads by 6 shots over Briar Cliff. Individually, **Suraprat Pareepart** has the lead after one round after shooting an even par 72. **Emmanuel LaBeur** and **Leopold Maes** are in a tie for fourth after both shooting 76's while **Jakub Slapal** shot a 78 and **Kitsakon Jairak** shot 80. **Preston Nestorenko** and **Paul Gomez**, who competed as individuals, shot 79 and 80, respectively.

### Softball

#### • St. Louis, Mo., March 11 —

For the second time this season, **Lauren Anderson** was selected by the AMC as the softball player of the week. It was also the fourth selection for CBC this season after Anderson (Week 1), **Jordyn Frederic** (Week 2) and **Abi West** (Week 3). Anderson had a huge day against Lyon, hitting .625 with 4 extra base hits and 12 RBIs. In the first game of the doubleheader, which CBC won 22-5, Anderson had a grand slam and a two-run single. In the second game, she doubled three times and drove in six runs again.

### Women's Golf

#### • Melbourne, March 11 —

Teeling off for the first time this spring, CBC was on course at Cooper's Hawk Golf Club for the Lyon Spring Invitational. CBC opened with a 373 in the first round to sit second, 29 shots behind the leaders Briar Cliff. Individually, **Alyssa Hagewood** sits in fifth after shooting an opening round 88. **Abby Kirby** is two shots behind her with a 90, while **Laney Crutchfield** opened with a 94 and **Thaylia Ramirez** shot a 101.

tournament championship game presented by Tandem HR. CBC (25-6) avenged A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, dominating from the start and cruising to their third AMC title, 105-72 over the Spartans of Missouri Baptist.

**Sage Borbon** led the way with a career-high 26 points, and he was joined in double figures by **Deshawn Corpew** with 16, **Kyle Harding** with 15 off the bench and **Wade Williams** with 12 off the bench. CBC shot 56% from the field, made 13 threes and out-rebounded MBU 43-42.

CBC has clinched the AMC's lone automatic bid to the NAIA Men's Basketball Championship Opening Round presented by Ballogy and earned a #14 seed in the Cramer Bracket and will play their first-round game against the

#3 seed Pioneers of MidAmerica Nazarene. Tipoff from Olathe, Kan., on Friday, March 15, is set for 8 p.m.

CBC is the #4 seed in their bracket, which also includes LSU-Alexandria and Bethel out of Indiana joining them in Olathe. The Mustangs are 25-6 and champions of both the regular season and postseason for the AMC. MidAmerica Nazarene earned an automatic bid as regular season champions of the Heart of America Athletic Conference, while LSU-Alexandria won both the regular season and conference tournament in the Red River Athletic Conference and Bethel earned an at-large bid out of the Crossroads League, a conference that got five teams into the national bracket.

## Heffentrager Hired as New Women's Basketball Coach

CBC athletic director Lyle Middleton has announced his replacement as head women's basketball coach for the 2024-25 season. Kory (Westerman) Heffentrager will take the reins of the program as Middleton retires after 20 seasons, but will stay on as golf coach and athletic director.

"I'm excited to have Kory back on the Lady Mustang coaching staff, this time as the leader of the program," said Middleton. "Kory was a great player and assistant coach during her time at CBC and I feel this is the time for me to pass the torch. This opportunity will allow me to focus on my family, athletic director duties, coaching golf and CBC athletics as a whole."

Heffentrager returns to CBC after spending two years as an assistant coach at two different area high schools — Conway Christian and Heber Springs. Prior to that she spent two seasons as the women's basketball assistant at CBC, helping lead the team to a 10-7 record in the COVID shortened 2020-21 season and a 15-16 record in 2021-22, including two AMC Tournament appearances.

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## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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

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

healthychurchpodcast.com • healthychurchsolutions.org



## Disciple-Making 101

Much is being said and written on disciples making disciples, but is disciple-making becoming a reality in our lives and ministries? Where is it being lost in the translation, and where is the baton of discipleship being dropped? Even with great glimmers of hope and transformation, why do we not see the follow through in this foundational truth that should be observable? Maybe we should step back and make sure we are defining the terms biblically and clearly. A disciple is a learner or follower who binds him/herself to Christ to acquire His wisdom, character and mission.

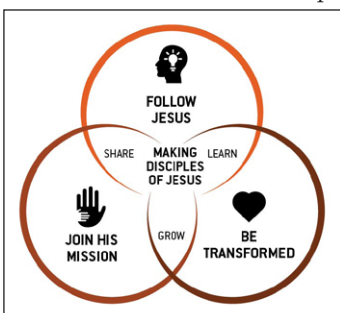
Discipleship is the expression of a relationship with Christ characterized by learning, obeying and following Him. Notice the word obeying because so much “discipleship” has become content, academic and information transfer, but true discipleship is about life transformation. Being involved in a discipleship relationship should produce change in the individual’s life. Paul said this to the church in Philippi, “Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me. Everything you heard from me and saw me doing...” (Phil. 4:9 NLT). Don’t miss the importance of “saw me doing” because modeling is crucial in discipleship.

Disciple-making is intentionally striving to make others as we are ourselves, followers of Christ. Paul told the Corinthians, “Follow me as I follow Christ.” One pastor stated that he saw discipleship simply as “helping someone take their next steps spiritually.” In *Leading Others*, Mac Lake states, “I don’t know about you, but when I hear discipleship defined that way, it’s not so intimidating. You don’t have to be a Bible scholar, you simply help people think through where they are in their relationship with God and help them identify a next step.” The good news is that disciple-making does not have to be complicated or intimidating. God’s plan is for you to help others on their spiritual journey, which requires a close personal relationship with them.

Mac Lake refers to “Five Circles

of Knowing” that can correlate with the five spaces of:

- Divine space (one-on-one with the Lord),
- Transparent space (3-4 people),
- Personal space (small group of 12-15),
- Social space (70 or so) and
- Public space (the larger crowds).



The circles enable you to get to know those in the crowds far more personally and intimately. The depth of the relationship is critical for discipleship that promotes life transformation to occur genuinely. This challenges you to move your discipling relationship from where people follow you because they have to a level five leadership, where they follow you because they respect you.

In the crowd space, you know the person’s face. You recognize them and associate them as a part of the larger group, and you are glad they are there. The social space is where you begin to learn some facts about the person, like their name, how many children they have, where they work and where they are from. You know the basic information about who they are. The personal space of 12-15 is where you begin to learn and know their feelings and opinions. You discover what they like and what they do not like. You discern their preferences and the things that are their favorites, such as hobbies, sports teams and so on.

The transparent space (3-4) is where you begin to truly know the person because you develop a trust where vulnerability is okay. A strong bond has been built, and you can now share weaknesses, struggles, anxieties, concerns, challenges and fears with one another. This step of closeness and camaraderie enables you, as a disciple-maker, to go even deeper in your relationship with them. Now, you begin to know their faith. You observe how central Christ is to the person’s life and what their level of spiritual maturity actually is. You see what God is doing in their life, what He has brought them through and where He is

taking them.

Here is a principle of discipleship that can be easily overlooked. It takes time to build this kind of relationship, and it requires sensitivity to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. You can go too fast, but you can also go too slow. The focus here is spending time with the one you are discipling, not just time for them. What is the difference? Quite often, you will spend a lot of time preparing materials or a lesson “for” the one you are discipling. The temptation is to pour information into them when what they really need is time with you. Iron sharpens iron, and that requires a closeness that can only be provided by spending time together.

The basic fundamentals of creating a disciple-making culture begins with making sure there is a constant movement toward those who are far from God. What rhythms are you building into your discipleship pathway for living out the Great Commission daily? Develop a prayer, care and share culture that seeks to BLESS (Begin in Prayer, Listen to them, Eat with Them, Serve Them, Share His Story) those who are not believers. This moves you into the next step of developing a relationship of love and influence. That takes time, and the process has already been described in the *5 Circles of Knowing* by Mac Lake.

The third element is remembering that what is taught must be modeled, and the ones you are discipling need to be coached along the way. That cannot be overstressed or overstated. As you lead others, you model spiritual growth by your own walk with Christ. Mentors pour into other people’s lives, but a coach pulls out of the disciple the challenges, concerns and struggles of the one being disciplined by asking good questions. Maybe a better term here than disciple is apprentice because you are sharing what you have discovered and learned on your spiritual journey. Discipleship is as much caught as taught when you make the journey together. People are not an interruption to your ministry — they are your ministry.

Now, ask God to give you two to three individuals to invite into your transparent space that you can disciple by modeling the spiritual journey you are on personally. Show compassion to them by knowing and feeling the struggles they are going through. Model comfort and support by observing their spiritual condition and taking the appropriate steps to walk with them on their journey. That requires time and resources, but is well worth the effort.

*Just Thinking...*

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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



## The Come and Go of the Gospel

I have always been fascinated with words. As a result, I was just thinking about two important words in the New Testament — “come” and “go.”

### The Word “Come”

The invitation Jesus extended to Simon Peter and Andrew is one believers today have also received: “*Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will send you out to fish for people*” (Matt. 4:19 NIV). It is an invitation to learn from Jesus and carry the gospel to others, and it requires a response. “*At once they left their nets and followed him*” (Matt. 4:20 NIV). Christian, that is a response of obedience, which is an integral portion of the Great Commission.

Another invitation is extended to believers who are weary, worried and worn. It is an invitation to find rest. “*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light*” (Matt. 11:28-30).

Then there is the assuring promise of our Lord Jesus. After He had the final Passover with His disciples, He told them, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am*” (John 14:1-3 NIV).

In every situation I’ve mentioned, Jesus does something for us. What we need to do is obediently respond to Him. He has called us to Him, and He wants us to go for Him.

### The Word “Go”

Every believer in Christ has the marching order from our Lord to go. It’s our responsibility to carry the gospel of Christ to our world. Sometimes that means putting forth extra effort. A testimony of humility goes a long way in impacting others with the gospel. Jesus said, “*If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles*” (Matt. 5:41 NIV).

Going the extra mile often means we do so with those unknown and in uncomfortable settings. The practice of loving our enemies is one of the most difficult decisions when it comes to going for the Lord.

There was a time during Christ’s ministry when many disciples deserted Him. Jesus asked the 12 if they would also leave Him. “*Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God’*” (John 6:68-69). That was a positive response — one of obedience to the Master’s command to go.

You and I have the same command, Christ’s marching order, to carry the good news to others who need salvation so badly. “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age*” (Matt. 28:19-20).

The “come and go” of the gospel demands responses from believers today.

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



## PRAYER

(Continued From Page 1)

are also working on a new prayer training we hope to have available this year, progressing from mature individual prayer to deeper team and congregational prayer.

In addition, the theme of Re-Charge over the last two years has been prayer, as pastor Bill Elliff shared beautifully, and often brokenly, how to be humble people of prayer. If we want God's strength, power, overwhelming peace and the sweet ministering of the Spirit, we must pray and pray more.

Prayer has always been part of the culture of the BMA. There have been significant moments marked by prayer at national meetings. Some include prayer breakfasts, evening meals and prayer meetings, huddles of older pastors praying with younger men and, through it all, consistent prayer from leaders at the podium over the work of the association being aligned to the gospel mission of Jesus. We open and close in prayer and aren't opposed to stopping in the middle to pray.

Our churches and missionaries stand on prayer, and our BMA Global office teams do, too. Over the years, many prayers for God's unity, saving power, covering, intercession and provision have been prayed through many different means.

Karen Keathley said this when I asked her to recall how prayer has been a thread throughout her ministry work at the Missions office: "Prayer has occurred my entire time in the office, which will be 35 years in August. When I began in the office, we all had lunch together most days and also had a lot of sharing and prayer about what was going on in the lives and on the fields of our missionaries. I think that sharing prayer together has probably occurred throughout the history of the Missions Office."

Dr. John David Smith mentioned ongoing weekly devotions and prayer as far back as he can remember. Even to this day, BMA Global and Lifeword staff gather each Wednesday to share a devotion and time of prayer for each other, BMA missionaries, BMA planters, BMA churches, BMA pastors and families, and fresh gospel opportunities around the world. New this year, Healthy Church Solutions has started an additional prayer focus called First Wednesday, to pray one month over a region of the world, missionaries and Changemakers there and also for a church plant and local church in North America. We want to be an office that models prayer and prays more often. A new prayer resource for you, the BMA Global Missionary Prayer Guide,

can be found at [bmamissions.org/prayerguide](http://bmamissions.org/prayerguide) and downloaded for free.

Why should we keep learning how to pray and calling ourselves to gather in prayer? Because we don't naturally lean toward the posture of prayer, toward adoring our Savior like we should, toward tarrying at His feet, toward confession and toward being compassionate to others. The disciples knew they had a long way to go to be men who prayed like Jesus, and they asked for His teaching. We are of the same need. The more we pray, the more we want to pray.

As we approach the national meeting, we invite all BMA churches and ministry leaders to join us in praying, at least for the two Sundays leading up to our gathering in April. At the national meeting, we will also continue to pray. We will have a prayer space available for you to come to pray over our association, missionaries, ministries, pastors, pastor families and the needs in our community.

Here is the schedule leading up to April 16-18. Be on the lookout for specific ways to pray for our association in the upcoming weeks, and start planning now how you will participate on the Sundays of April 7 and April 14.

- **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.

**Note from the Baptist Trumpet:** 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.

However you choose to participate, we would love to know that you will choose to do so. Please email Heidi Sorrells with Healthy Church Solutions at [heidi@bma-global.org](mailto: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 additional resources for organizing your church's prayer times, if needed.

## HOLMES

(Continued From Page 1)

world, has been to serve as president of this institution for 25 years. During that time the educational delivery systems have changed from face-to-face teaching to face-to-screen format. After months of deliberation and, especially, recently spending time in West Africa teaching in a face-to-face setting, I realize that BMA Seminary must have a president who is more in tune with the digital age.

With this in mind, I hereby submit my resignation effective at the end of the Spring 2024 graduation ceremonies on May 11, 2024. This will be my 25<sup>th</sup> graduation as president, and it has been my privilege to witness how the Lord has worked in these students' lives for a quarter of a century. I hope to continue serving over the next few years, assisting the new president, assisting in financial matters (i.e., investments and development) and teaching the next generation of pastors and missionaries.

There is no way I could express my thanks to each and every individual who has guided and supported me in my efforts to lead well, but I would like to publicly express my thanks to a number of people and groups. There is no way possible that I would have had the successes that God has granted without the wisdom and assistance of those whom God placed alongside me.

I first want to thank the Lord for His mercy, grace and the blessings He has provided since the day He brought me to salvation. I can do nothing without His strength. I want to thank my wife and my family for their support. Leading BMA Seminary has required me to be away from home on many occasions over the last 25 years. They held down the fort and supported and prayed for me while I was away from them. They are my biggest blessings apart from salvation.

The next group of people that I want to thank are all the members of the BMA Seminary family. I do not have time or space to thank everyone, but there are those who deserve special mention. Dr. Philip Bryan was president when I was initially hired to teach and work in development. When he retired, he left some mighty big shoes to fill, but he always had time to answer my questions and offer words of wisdom. Dr. John Gregson was also a consistent prayer partner and encourager in my duties as president. Dr. Philip Attebery has been the best vice president and dean that I could have asked to work alongside. The seminary would not function

## COACH

(Continued From Page 2)

"I'm excited to be back," said Heffentrager. "It's truly incredible to be back (at CBC) as the head coach. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to come back. A couple

as well as it does without his hard work day in and day out.

As Dr. Tony Cleaver would say, our faculty and staff are truly world-class, and I am grateful to have had their support over the past 25 years. The final members of the seminary family who deserve my thanks are the current and past members of the Board of Trustees who have faithfully served the churches of the BMAA by supporting me and the seminary.

Finally, to the churches of the BMA of America, I must say thank you for your support in so many ways. You have supported the school prayerfully and financially so that we have been able to consistently pursue the purpose for which BMA Seminary was established. You have invited me and others to speak in your churches and at your associational meetings to spread the word about what the Lord is doing and how you can help. You have sent us your students so they can be better prepared to do the work God has called them to do or to simply gain a better understanding of God's Word, what we believe as Associational Baptists and how to live out the Great Commission day to day.

of coaches have texted me and said, 'welcome home' and that's the best way to describe it. I met my husband here; I played here for three years and it's just like another home to me. The people are great and I'm super excited to be back on campus and get going."

Heffentrager, as a player, was a three-time AMC All-Academic Team selection and a 2017-18 AMC Honorable Mention selection. In 85 career games, she scored 726 points, shot 39% from the field (260-666), played in 2,163 minutes (an average of 25.4 per game), made 147 free throws, grabbed 571 rebounds, handed out 160 assists, blocked 35 shots and made 125 steals, while recording the only triple-double in program history — scoring 10 points, making 11 steals and grabbing 12 rebounds — on Jan. 14, 2020 against Crowley's Ridge. She ranks tied for 10<sup>th</sup> all-time in games played, 7<sup>th</sup> in points, tied for 6<sup>th</sup> in made field goals, 8<sup>th</sup> in field goals attempted, 5<sup>th</sup> in minutes, 10<sup>th</sup> in made free throws, 2<sup>nd</sup> in total rebounds, 1<sup>st</sup> in offensive rebounds, 5<sup>th</sup> in assists, tied for 10<sup>th</sup> in blocked shots and 3<sup>rd</sup> in steals, including 63 steals season as a senior, 4<sup>th</sup> most in a season in program history.

Heffentrager is married to Zack, a firefighter in Stuttgart and a former CBC basketball player. She joins Dylan Perdue (men's soccer), Thabo Masoga (women's soccer), Ally Swaim (running sports) and Halee Hensley (volleyball) as alumni that are coaching at CBC.

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

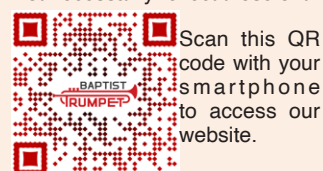
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**ALLAN EAKIN, Associate Editor**  
[associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com](mailto:associateeditor@baptisttrumpet.com)  
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# mission:world

## NEWS

# TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORS

By Stan Scroggins

Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator  
bmaglobal.org

In 1976 the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College in the Philippines began training the first Filipino pastors. The college has gone through many changes, most recently achieving CHED (Commission of Higher Education) accreditation. In addition to offering degrees in theology and pastoral leadership, the institution also provides training in religious education and music. The most recent program addition is cross cultural church planting to prepare Filipinos to take the gospel to all of Asia Pacific.

Today, closing in on 50 years of training pastors and missionaries, the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College can be proud of training over 90% of all pastors of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines. As alumni these men share a sense of connection, tradition, and heritage that uniquely binds them together.

As educational institutions grow they will invariably and of necessity need to also grow their financial base. The number one way to do this is by adding programs and degrees, bringing in new students and therefore a new financial stream. But history has proven that in doing so the institution slowly and almost imperceptibly loses the vision of its original mandate: “training missionaries and pastors.” Today when one thinks of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and even Oxford University, it is not theology and divinity training that comes to mind, which was exactly the purpose and intention for the founding of each of these great universities.

Revelation 2:17 begins Jesus’ admonitions to the seven churches of Asia, the first one to the Church at Ephesus. In a 2017 article, Got Questions Ministry explained the Ephesians’ dilemma like this: “Surrounded by paganism and false teachers, the Ephesian church would have had ample opportunity to correct false doctrine and confront heretical teachers. If they did so for any reason other than love for Christ and a passion for His truth, however, they would have lost their way.” In other words they would have “lost their first love.” Many Christian ministries and institutions are no doubt doing good and important work focusing on education, feeding programs, health programs, housing, all of which are basically attempting to alleviate the human condition. But, too often these ministries have “lost their first love”—the saving of souls, disciple making and church planting.

Training the next generation of pastors and missionaries must be the highest of priorities, especially for missionary sending organizations like BMA Global. The modern and renewed focus of disciple making is the key, but even more important is to which institution the mandate to do so is given. Mark Dever, celebrated founder 9Marks, avowed, “Seminaries are not made to make pastors. Churches make pastors.”

Training the next generation of pastors and missionaries in the Philippines is a church mandated responsibility. Care must be given to remember that the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College is a tool, an exceptionally good tool, available to Filipino churches to assist them in their preparation of their missionaries and their church planters.

How can the local Filipino church fulfill her mandate to raise up the next generation of pastors and missionaries? Here are a few suggestions, which many Filipino churches already do.

First, avoid the idea of making it the responsibility of the college to call preachers. God does the calling, churches do the sending. Send students who have been vetted, prayed over, and proven within the local congregation. Make it a priority to send students who have a confirmed call to ministry.

Second, provide informal training and internship experiences. Give young men opportunities to read, prepare expository sermons, preach locally with constructive critique, sit in on decision making, sit in on pastoral counseling, and make pastoral visits.

Third, support the students you send for training. Training is expensive, so invest in the ministry of training students by supporting those you send. Today it is ever so easy to stay in contact with students at school. Contact them and pray with them.

Next, let it be known to the congregation the challenges students face: traveling far from home, home sickness, financial needs, material needs.

Fifth, don’t overlook mistakes, but don’t crucify the student who made them.

Lastly, let the local church be a student’s first class room. Let them see the best and the worst. Don’t let a prospective pastor make the same mistakes his sending church has made.

The best ministry preparation takes place where there is a partnership between the Bible College and the local church. The Bible College merely puts on the finishing touches to the young men the local church has invested in and already trained and mentored. Some things are learned in the classroom. Some things are learned in the local church.

Many churches in the Philippines are doing good work “raising up the next generation of pastors.” May God bless these and touch the heart of every pastor and congregation to do the same.





# mission:world

## NEWS

## INVESTING IN LOCAL PASTORS GLOBALLY

By Charlie Costa  
BMA Global Middle East Coordinator  
bmaglobal.org

The dictionary defines the word invest as “to expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or material result by putting it into financial plans, shares, or property or by using it to develop a commercial venture; to devote one’s time, effort, or energy to a particular undertaking with the expectation of a worthwhile result.” Interestingly enough, the definition gives us more than the meaning of the words: It allows us greater insight into important realities when it comes to investment. If that is the case with investing in material things, how much more important is it to invest in people?

Please note the cost. Good investing is costly. It is the willingness to pay what it takes to achieve the desired result. Many times, the return is not immediate. Many times, it is not what we are expecting. Yet the willingness to pay what it takes is incarnational. Remember the investment in Calvary.

Pause for a moment and think about that. Was the return on investment quick and as expected?

This brings me to the second issue of not only cost but attitude. Patience is a virtue and also an attitude. Commitment to others and their success is also an attitude. It does take patience, effort, and energy to achieve the end result.

So with these facts in mind, the Middle East team held the very first Middle East-wide Baptist pastors conference last September in Lebanon. Forty-two pastors and their wives attended from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. BMA Global President John David Smith and BMA Global Vice President of Strategy and Training Larry Barker led the conference using the “Recharge” material translated into Arabic. At the same time, a parallel women’s conference was also held with Shelby Barker as the primary speaker.

Both conferences were a huge success as pastors listened, interacted, and asked questions.



The wealth of Bro. Larry’s and Dr. Smith’s experiences enriched the discussions. Breaktime chats brought to the surface issues that have hindered the work of these pastors for years.

Have all the issues in our region been resolved? Has the return on investment been achieved? Not by a long shot. The journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. We are on the right track, but patience is needed.

There was a monetary cost, and the people of our Middle East churches provided that. There was also the cost involved of commitment, effort, and energy that Bro. Larry, Shelby and Dr. Smith paid. Ultimately, nothing of worth is free. (I see you nodding your head in agreement.)

I know the pastors will not forget that experience; in fact we are being asked to make this a recurring event. Maybe the best summary of it all is what one of those pastors said to me following one of the sessions: “Could you please ask Bro. Larry and Dr. Smith not to stop?”

Case closed.



# mission:world

## NEWS

# LEADING BROKEN PEOPLE WITH A BROKEN PAST

By Brian Risner  
Missionary to Romania  
bmaglobal.org

I can close my eyes and recall the day perfectly: Dirty little black feet running everywhere, kicking up little puffs of dust as they zoomed by me. Their little bare feet were everywhere you looked. Nothing seemed to faze them, not even the golfball-size gravel they were darting across.

I stood in the center of the gypsy village with emotions bouncing around inside my chest. I stood still and took in the scene around me. The moment seemed unreal. I couldn't believe all that was going on.

I could see a kid carrying a puppy by the neck.

I could hear babies crying in the background and a mother yelling at someone.

I snapped out of my trance as a large crowd gathered around our ministry team, and we started singing worship songs. I prayed a small prayer asking God to speak through me as I preached his Word. Today, there was no five-point sermon, just the gospel message.

It would be difficult, but I would pray for the leadership necessary to show them Christ.

As I looked at the faces of children and adults, I could see them being drawn to the gospel. I presented the story of Jesus' sacrificial love for us as simply and clearly as possible. I was explaining the gospel to broken people with challenging and hard lives. They were people of few possessions and even less hope. My heart ached for them; I watched tears swell up in the eyes of some of them.

I desperately wanted them to hear and understand the gospel message I was sharing.

I desired to help them get out of the physical, emotional, and spiritual bondage that they were dealing with.

Despite a complete lack of leadership in the village, over the years we watched God as he changed many hearts in that tiny little gypsy village. Multiple people made professions of faith. Week after week, we watched as the children came to our children's program. It was not the average Sunday morning children's program by a long shot. We had kids running in and out of the little shed that we used for a classroom. We even had kids literally swinging from the rafters. One day we had two little boys bring their small fish with them to the program. The crazy thing was that the fish was still alive and moving in their little hands. They were so proud of their treasure!

But even when we thought no one was listening, there were several who were. We started to see a change in some of their behaviors. And our motto became, "It's not a sprint. It's a marathon." It was a true blessing to watch how the love of Jesus changed their lives.

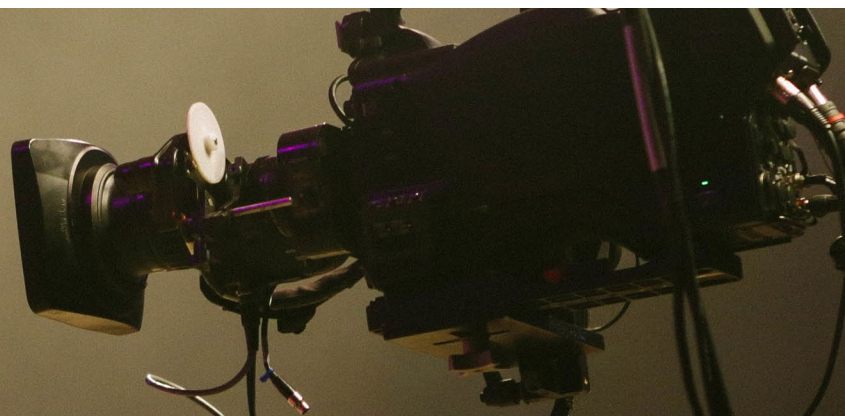
My passion for the lost increased during that time. I started looking at the people with the eyes of Jesus. I would tell people that until they had "Jesus' eyes," they could not clearly see the big picture.

I thank God for enabling me to lead those who never had strong-yet-gentle leadership and giving me passion for the broken people of Romania and around the world. And I pray for Him to raise up more leaders from the Roma.

The harvest is ripe, but the workers are few, so, as I like to say, "Let's roll!"







## TOPIC: ONLINE CULTURE

By Yalanda Merrell  
Lifeword  
lifeword.org

In 1994, hosts on the Today Show were asking the question “What is the internet?” It was so new to the general public that no one really knew the capabilities of the world wide web. And now, 30 years later, it’s developed its own culture, one that is unique and diverse in every way possible. It’s shaped the way we do business, communicate, advertise, and where we get our information. It’s where the people are. Everyone has access to the internet and it’s where we go for everything. Who uses a handheld dictionary or encyclopedia anymore when you can tap a few words into Google and have your answer in seconds? From song lyrics, to vacation plans, to answers to the tough questions in life, the bottom line is, people are going to the internet for answers.

And if it’s where the people are, then that’s where the gospel needs to go, too.

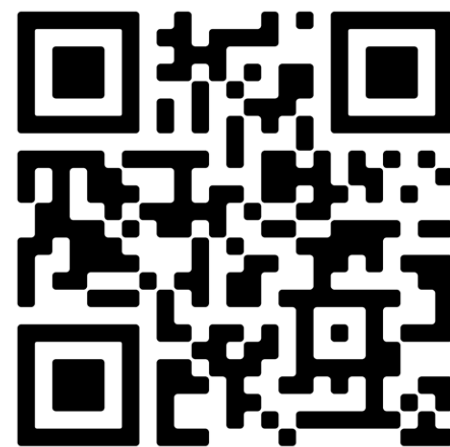
At Lifeword, we’ve created a digital discipleship tool to introduce people to what it means to be a follower of Christ, show them what it looks like to follow Him daily, and connect them to a



local discipling church. FOLLOW is an easy to use tool that allows someone to learn about Jesus on their own, with a group, or can even be used by a church to walk someone through the journey of discipleship.

When we began dreaming about what FOLLOW would look like, how it could be used, and who it would reach, we knew there would be challenges. In this culture, people move on quickly. It’s said that you have to catch them or hook them within 3-7 seconds. That’s fast! What could we possibly say to them to get them to hear the gospel and learn how to follow Christ in that short of time? We start with where they are.

They are online for a reason. They are searching for something, maybe answers to tough questions like “What happens when you die?” or “Why do bad things happen to good people?” or “How do I find true happiness?”

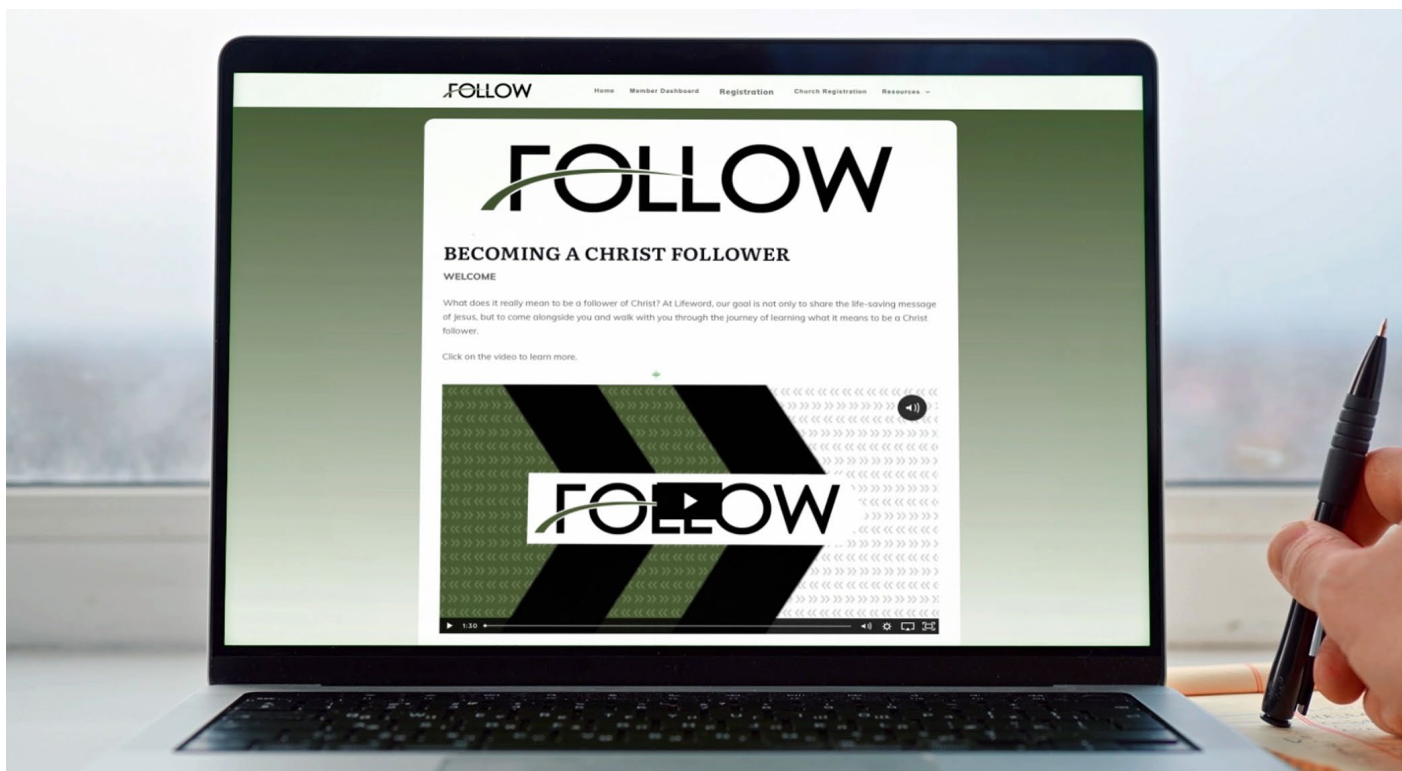


Scan the code to go to [follow.lifeword.org](https://follow.lifeword.org)

While the world has lots of answers, we can point them to the One true and living God that provides hope, healing, and peace, even when we don’t know all the answers.

Do you want to know more about the online culture? Just ask your kids or your grandkids. It’s a place full of hurting people struggling with addiction, fear, doubt, worry, and suicide. It’s a culture that thrives on influencers and the amount of likes or subscribers you have. It’s fickle and those you consider your biggest fans can turn on you in a second, and the fall is fast, furious and unforgiving. God has given us a great opportunity to speak into their lives – to grab them by the virtual hand and walk with them, showing them the way to Jesus. To be a light in the darkness. To point them to truth in the midst of deep fakes and virtual reality. What an incredible time to be a part of God’s Great Commission, to take His name to the ends of the earth via the “information highway”.

Will you pray with us for FOLLOW? That God would be glorified through every video watched, every article read, every button clicked, every conversation that takes place and every person who makes that decision to follow Jesus with their lives every day. And that more of our churches would join us to become disciple-makers. Go to [follow.lifeword.org](https://follow.lifeword.org) to learn more.





# Spinning My Gears

*a young pastor's perspective*

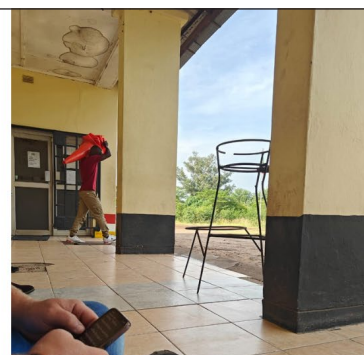
**Derrick A. Bremer, Pastor**  
**Denver Street Baptist Church**

derrick@dsmbc.org • (479) 544-7153  
P.O. Box 1669, Greenwood, Ark. 72936



# Spotlight On Missions

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## The Time I Didn't Want To Believe the Bible

In 2017, I met regularly with my pastor and another servant of God for discipleship. We met after the sun had gone down and would spend two to three hours a week being shaped by the Word of God and navigating the issues of life through its counsel. At the time, I sensed I had grown in the Lord but lacked a framework of understanding that adequately pulled all that I studied into a cohesive framework of understanding. Our discipleship triad began to work through Jimmy A Millikin's *Christian Doctrine for Everyman: An Introduction to Baptist Beliefs*. This was my first exposure to "systematic theology," and it was during this study that my heart was pierced with an overwhelming burden for missions.

Previously, like most good Baptists, I knew missions were important and integral to fulfilling the Great Commission. I loved (and still do) attending mission rallies our local association hosted and receiving reports from missionaries we supported. Also, like most Baptists today, I lacked a genuine sense of urgency to be a part of the work God was doing around the world.

During my discipleship-triad's study, the issue of man's inherited nature of depravity came to the surface. I distinctly remember reading I Cor. 1:28-32 and the conversation that ensued. Ironically (considering the passage), my human thoughts got in the way of understanding what God's Word taught. I was upset, even indignant, at the notion that people who had never heard the gospel, never had a preacher come to them, were condemned to Hell. Our meeting that night did not end with things resolved in my mind.

Our church had just hosted missionaries to Papua New Guinea who shared with us the distinctive language barriers on that small

tribal island. It was a mission field in which dialects are so specific that as little as 50 people benefit at a time from translation efforts that deliver the Bible in their heart language. It is a slow work, and while efforts continue, hundreds of tribes have not had the gospel proclaimed to them. If what the Bible teaches is true, people are dying without ever hearing about Jesus.

Today, 165,000 people will die without knowing Jesus Christ.

My disciple-maker concluded our meeting with a phrase that has never left me. Its echo bounces off the hollow cavity of my mind when I wake up. When I walk down the grocery store aisle, traces of that phrase are called to my attention. As I drive along the highways and by-ways of Arkansas, passing strangers in their cars, I hear those words still. It took two weeks from our initial meeting before I was able to appreciate what was said. Wade Allen, a former BMA missionary to the Philippines and pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Rogers, gently leaned into my frustration and said, "This is our motivation for missions."

On Feb. 25, our national work calls for a Special Emphasis on missions giving. The work we are involved in is biblical, practical, necessary and important. Our churches should give generously to the work with a cheerful heart. Our churches should give sacrificially to the work.

In this article, I would like to address how we give as participants in the work. Our role as churchmen is not limited to financing ministries. We're called to be active partners. Our missionaries worldwide, throughout our country and our state depend on our partnership. They ask for more than our financial gifts; they also ask for our faithful prayers. We should understand that our arrangement as partners

Life in Zambia moves slowly — in the majority of Africa, actually. Think of the story of the Tortoise and the Hare. As Americans, we are

also includes an obligation within our churches today. As those who have been sent to labor for the Lord where we cannot, they depend on us to labor where we are. They cannot proclaim the gospel here, just as we cannot proclaim the gospel there.

The director of State Missions for the BMA of Arkansas recently acknowledged that "at this time, BMA churches are closing faster than we can plant them" in the special column, "How Do We Associate? (Part 2)" published in the Jan. 17 edition of the *Baptist Trumpet*. Our missionary zeal as an association of churches is a core element of our identity as associational Baptists. Our passion and drive start at home. We are in desperate need of organized and intentional efforts to balance efforts of evangelism in our own backyard as well as through associational work.

I am reminded of the sacrificial giving and evangelical zeal that founded our work together. You may or may not have heard of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Glenn of Rockford, Ala. They operated a small country store and farm and attended Procter Creek Baptist Church. When Rigby Street Church organized and needed a property for their church house, the Glenns mortgaged their farm and store to provide the land for the church. Later, when Calvary Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala., organized, the Glenns again mortgaged their farm and store to purchase the property for the church. A third time when Wares Ferry Road Baptist Church in Montgomery organized, the Glenns mortgaged their farm for the church. When Mrs. Glenn was 98 years old, she commented, "I always told my husband that we couldn't afford to buy all that land, but we learned that God can always supply (our) needs."

often the hare in the story. I would like to think that, over the past years, we would have adapted and become accustomed to this life — the life of waiting. We know to allow extra time in our schedules for the waiting any place we go. We have recently had a couple of teams visit, and one of the first things we explain is what we call "Zambian Time." We aren't the only ones who call it that. Even the Zambian people use the term.

We explain that when we go into a restaurant, the waiter or waitress will take our drink orders. They will then go make all the drinks and return for any starter orders. Once those are placed, they will eventually return for the main dish orders. We also must remind them that food here is made from scratch, which takes time. A typical dinner out with a team will undoubtedly take two hours or more. It is something we have become accustomed to. Even our "fast food" restaurant takes at least 30 minutes to get your order.

After our last team left, it was time for us to take the driving portion of our practical tests to get our Zambian driver's license. This test is made up of two parts — the reverse course and the road test. The reverse course is simply cones set up in a T formation. You must drive straight in and turn one direction to the end of the T, then reverse all the way out, only to repeat it the opposite way. In order to move on to the road test, you must first pass the reverse course. We have a small car that we drive around town or if we need to go to Lusaka to pick up supplies, and we thought this car would be fine to do the course. There was no way I could have driven the course in our giant Land Cruiser.

We went to take our tests last Tuesday, but when we arrived, the instructors seemed to think even our car was too big. In addition, we drive on the opposite side of the car and on the road here as well, and my nervousness started to get

to me. Mickeal went through the reverse course with no major issues and also passed the road test easily. I, however, knocked over two cones! I was always the straight-A student, top-of-the-class, can't-stand-to-lose person, so, to me, this was a devastating blow. I was embarrassed, mad at myself and frustrated because the test made no sense to me. I understood that my failure was not a big deal in my head, but in my heart, it hurt. We also learned after the tests we were supposed to take both tests in a manual transmission vehicle in order to drive the Land Cruiser. They allowed Mickeal to get by, but I was told I would need to take both tests in a manual transmission car.

So, this past week, we searched for a vehicle I would be able to drive for the exams. We continued our week as usual, going in and out of the village, and each day, I found myself frustrated over little things. I could very easily just turn my American license in and receive a Zambian one, but I didn't want to have to do that. I was being short with people and becoming impatient the longer the week went on. I had to stop and realize that my impatience was in the waiting. I didn't want to have to wait a week to retake the test. I didn't want to retake the test at all, but it's what I would have to do. It took some quiet time with the One who is in control of all time for me to stop and take a breath. I had to realize that sometimes I need to be checked in my pride, attitude and spirit.

So, I put myself in timeout and used that time to pray for God's guidance, not just in the upcoming driving exams but in our daily life and our ministry. You see, we were supposed to be in the village for several days, but we couldn't make the trip because Land Cruiser was being repaired. God may have even been protecting me from saying something out of frustration that

**See SPOTLIGHT, Page 10**





## Prophecy Fulfilled Before Our Eyes (Part 2)

I'm still sharing about my recent trip to Israel. After Israeli after Israeli looked me in the eyes and said, "Please tell the truth of what you saw," there's nothing else I can do until I fulfill that responsibility. This current series of articles came as I met with officials, watching their slides and listening to their presentations. It was as if I was watching prophecies unfold before me. There were three that I felt I was seeing. The first I wrote about last week was that seeing the land where the red heifers will soon be sacrificed pointed to the prophecies about the restoration of the sacrifices and building of a new temple.

The second prophecy I felt I was watching unfold was from two presentations done by military leaders. One worked for the Alma Research Center, which specializes in the northern front, the border of Israel with Syria and Lebanon. Another was from the head of the strategic command of the Israeli Defense Force. They said the same things in their presentations and showed the same slides. They both said the attack by Hamas was nothing compared to what could happen from the north at the hands of Hezbollah. They expect Hezbollah to attack at any moment. These military experts took us down a terrorist rabbit hole that got deeper and deeper. It began with Hamas and how Hamas is the smallest and least armed of the terrorist groups that have their sights set on Israel. Hezbollah in Lebanon is the largest.

That rabbit hole then continued behind the scenes of the news headlines. Multiple terror groups across the Middle East serve as proxies for Iran. The ones that pose an immediate threat to Israel are Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Palestinian Jihad and the Houthis in Yemen. There are many more proxy groups. These

groups played a major in the Syrian Civil War. They have essentially conquered Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen have greatly impacted international trade.

As I listened, these men showed this more expansive network of terror that threatens Israel and beyond, as well as how Iran pulls the strings of each of them. I felt as if I was reading Daniel 8. I have written about Daniel 8 in the past, and it likely could be the most informative prophecy in helping us understand the current reality in the Middle East and where it's headed. Still, it is the one I am the most reluctant to talk about.

If Daniel 8 could inform us that clearly, then it should be talked about more often, but I waver back and forth on my understanding of the passage. Daniel is given a vision in that chapter, and the angel Gabriel is sent to explain it. The vision is of a ram with two horns that begins to charge and claim territory in the west, north and south. Then, in the west, a goat with one prominent horn appears and destroys the ram. That goat claims even more territory, but the horn breaks and turns into four horns. Then, from those four horns arises a little horn that grows in power, conquers territory and eventually comes against the Beautiful Land, which is interpreted as Israel.

Daniel is very distraught over this vision, so he prays and fasts for an answer. Gabriel is sent to explain, and he explains that the ram represents the Medes and the Persians, who would conquer in the directions mentioned. But then, another leader and nation would rise, represented by the shaggy goat with the prominent horn. The goat comes from what most translations say is Greece, but the actual word is Javan. Javan is more accurately

Asia Minor and north to ancient Macedonia and then Greece. The leader from there would arise and defeat the Medes and Persians, and then he would die, and that nation would be divided up. The little horn that would then rise and be against God and Israel is the Antichrist.

With just a casual reading through Daniel 8, you can see how informative it is. If you are familiar with history, you likely recognize that the Medes and Persians did arise. Their empire defeated the Babylonian Empire but was defeated by Alexander the Great, who came from Macedonia/Greece. He died in his prime and his empire was divided up. Of course, this happened long ago, but the part about the little horn has yet to happen.

This is how the chapter is typically interpreted, with the first half of the prophecy having been fulfilled in the time of Alexander and the little horn part to be fulfilled in the last days. I agree with this interpretation but if you take time to read through the passage, the chapter explicitly says these things will happen in the last days. A few years ago, some trusted prophecy authors and teachers I work with proposed that it was possible that, though it did happen in the past, the prophecy may be completely fulfilled in the last days, too. Though that may seem contradictory, that is how most Old Testament prophecy works. There almost always is a near fulfillment in the past, but it will be completely fulfilled in the last days. This is called pattern prophecy.

I feel like this completely futuristic idea has a lot of merit, though I am in the minority of those who feel that way. You probably can see why I'm reluctant to talk about it because it can be dangerous when you're on the minority side of an interpretation of the Bible. I desperately do not want to lead anyone astray, so I hope you will not take my word for it but will study it yourself.

If this passage will be completely fulfilled in the future, it means that Persia (which is modern-day Iran) will spread its power across the Middle East, but eventually, a leader will rise out of Javan (which is likely modern-day Turkey), who will likely have conquered the Macedonian area, and then will come against Iran and defeat her. Then, this leader would die, and the conquered lands would be split up. This split would be short-lived, and the Antichrist will rise from that. Therefore, you can see if Daniel 8 will completely happen in the future how much it can help us understand what is happening now in the Middle East and where we are in the prophetic time.

The verdict is out on whether that interpretation is true, but one

## SPOTLIGHT

(Continued From Page 9)

would have hurt a relationship. God made me wait, and I used that waiting to spend time with Him.

So today, as I type this with my Zambian driver's license sitting beside me on the table, I am thankful for the waiting. I am thankful for the great people we met as we were all waiting our turn to drive. I am thankful for the urge to pray for the woman driving before me and the wonderful conversation that ensued when she passed. I am thankful for the resounding cheering section as I finished my course without a single cone even being bumped. I'm thankful for having to wait two and a half hours for a signature to go pick up this license, only to be told to come back after lunch, because it gave me time to play with three little girls who reminded me of my grandbabies. I am thankful for a husband who encouraged me and didn't get mad when I was short with him as I was driving to the exam. Most of all, I am thankful for a God who loves me enough to make me wait and be still. Are you thankful today?

thing that is happening is that Persia (modern-day Iran) is spreading out across the Middle East and doing so now with the use of proxies that are in the form of smaller terrorist groups, and these proxies are at the forefront of what is happening right now in Israel and Yemen.

— 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](http://standfirmministries.com))



**Charlie Costa, BMA Global regional coordinator for the Middle East will be in the US from April 14 to May 19 (six Sundays). Please contact him at [chuckcosta58@gmail.com](mailto:chuckcosta58@gmail.com) to book him for your church (He has a special sermon for Mother's Day, May 12).**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.



**Oakland Heights, White Hall;** March 24-27, 7 p.m.; Mark Eaton and Charles Attebery, evangelists; Wes Woolley, pastor.

**Milligan Ridge, Manila;** April 15-19, 7 p.m.; Steven Sanders, evangelist; Mike Colvin, pastor.



**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.



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## Missionaries

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

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

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

www.bmaARmissions.com  
 Facebook.com/ArkansasMissions



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

## Who Done It?

There is a terrible misunderstanding of the origin of evil. Of course, God gets blamed for everything people don't like or disagree with. Many like Job, come to the conclusion that God is just not cutting it. If He is all powerful (and He is) and if He is all loving (and He is) then why all the evil and suffering in the world. After all, God is Sovereign. It is us humans that have the audacity to say that He is either not strong enough to prevent suffering and evil or that He is not all loving and doesn't want to.

Mankind has forgotten just how mean, evil and vile we can be on our own. First rattle out of the box, Cain killed his own brother. All the human atrocities, such as the holocaust, pedophilia and abortion were not God's doing but ordinary fellow spiritually lost human beings. Why? Man has a heart problem: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I try the reins (test the mind), even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings"* (Jer. 17:9-10). *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8). Evil is a lack of goodness. It is goodness gone bad. You can have good without evil, but you cannot have evil without good.

I John 1:5 says, *"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."* So then, where did darkness come from? *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph. 6:12). There are two words translated from the Hebrew that mean evil. For instance, when the Lord says in the KJV *"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things."* (Isa. 45:7). The Hebrew word for evil is calamity. The New King James Version and many other translations make this explicit with the translation, *"I make peace and create calamity."* The same word is used in Lam. 3:38, where the prophet Jeremiah declares that both "calamity and good proceed out of the mouth of the host on High." Another word the KJV translates as evil is rasha or moral wickedness to God. God bringing calamity is part of His eternal and sovereign plan. Also, at the same time it lends reason to Rom. 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* God has His reasons for weaving calamity into our lives. But He is not and cannot be the author of rasha (evil). *"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way"* (II Thess. 2:7).

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "On Saturday afternoon, we had the volunteer's induction for the spring break youth camp of the Arkansas Hispanic churches. We reviewed the schedule, handed out the devotionals, explained the functions of the volunteers and agreed that each volunteer would have to be ready with their materials and devotionals studied, by March 16. Please pray that God provides more female counselors. We need three ladies to complete the team.

"Daniel is a brother who has been attending Sunday meetings sporadically while his family faithfully attends every weekend and

during weekday meetings. Approximately three weeks ago, Daniel was reconciled with the Lord and has been coming every weekend. Last week, he proposed to several men from the church that they clean the church yards and, this Sunday, several church families were happily collecting leaves and cutting grass and bushes. By nightfall, we were tired but satisfied to have completed the cleaning. I thank God for the initiative of Daniel, who did not ask what he could do to serve in the church, but rather saw the need, asked if he could do it and invited the brothers to work."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "Our attendance increased this week. We are still not at the level we want to be.

Keep praying for our sick. It was a blessing to have visitors looking for a place to congregate. They have just arrived from Aguascalientes, Mexico and they have been married for two months. It filled us with joy to have them this Sunday. They found out about our church through the information we have in the social networks. Pray for Moises and Joselyn Rico, that God will bring them to Ebenezer and that they will consider us as their community of believers.

"Our sisters continue to organize and will have their first meeting next Saturday. Pray that God will lead us to also organize our youth and men of the church. One of the strong areas we have in Ebenezer is the teaching of the Word of God. Every week is an effort to prepare material and teaching in Spanish. Preparing visuals and printed material and going deeper into the biblical text takes time, but the results are wonderful in that new believers know about Jesus Christ.

"Thank you once again for your prayers, to God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had another great week at Faith Chapel! Type A Flu has been going through our community, and some of our members have had it and some have it now. It is going through the schools, and coming home to the parents, please pray about that. We still had a good number, with two first-time visitors and a great time of worship. One of the first-time visitors called city hall to get our number when they saw our construction from the bypass. I love the way the Lord works. We also added one to our membership



**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock** volunteers work to clean up leaves on the church property..

by letter, and we thank the Lord for bringing her here!

"Praise God, they started hanging sheetrock Friday, and they are back this morning, (Monday) just getting with it! Praise God again. They do say that they have to go finish another commitment tomorrow and it may take the rest of the week, but as soon as they finish, they will be back here until they finish us. Praise God over and over!

"I had another phone call on Saturday. A very kind couple from Louisiana called me (I don't want to say their name without asking them) and told me that they read the *Trumpet* and have been following my reports. They asked for my address so they could send us a love offering for our building. It is so humbling to see how these sweet people are so faithful to God and His mission work. We are so grateful to them, and so thankful to God for them! They asked us to pray for them, because they said that 'they were getting up there.' So we added them to our prayer list, and I ask you to add them to yours as well. God knows who they are!

"We thank you all for your support and your prayers for us, Faith Chapel and this community we are trying to reach for Jesus. Please continue to pray because God is answering in a mighty way."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "This week, we got to spend some good quality time out in the community visiting with people. I have been praying that God would give us more opportunities to meet people and speak about Jesus and Faith Journey Mission with them. When you pray expectantly, God will answer your prayers. In just one day, I was able to make a connection with at least 17 different people to talk with them about their walk with Jesus and about our mission family. It was an amazing day!

"We are enjoying having our core group come together each week to learn about Christ and love on one another at the mission. We are seeing a bond between our people as we pray for each other's needs, and as we learn about individual struggles and share the

praises that God is doing daily in our lives. God has a plan for Faith Journey, and we are in awe of watching His plan unfold on a weekly basis. We had two new visitors return this week, so please pray that we see more people added to this group as we move forward."

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We were able to meet in our Pea Ridge and Rogers small groups this week. But we were unable to have a meeting in our Springdale small group on Thursday as brethren attending this small group were still ill with flu and COVID.

"The strategy the Lord has given us in our Grace Groups is to start by talking about the sermon on Sunday, asking a series of questions about what they learned and what they are applying to their lives in a practical way from what they learned. It has been wonderful to see their answers and what the Lord is doing in them.

"Some of the brothers who were sick came back Sunday, and we had a good turnout. We were able to enjoy a beautiful time of worship of the Lord together and listen to His Word. Then we went into the fellowship room and shared coffee and donuts."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "We were riding high after the successful coaches' meeting last week and looked forward to that carrying over to our monthly Collective Gathering where we all meet together for worship. The Woodbridge and Garfield groups met during the week. Woodbridge was excited to see a new couple come back for the second time. Then we wrapped up the week with our Collective worship night. The momentum didn't carry over as it was one of the lowest attended ones we have had. We did have two new visitors attend. This new family was excited about what was going on with Epic Life and asked about joining a Connection Group. Another family returned for a second worship night, and they are also exploring coaching. We made plans to launch a Discovery Bible Study with them in a couple weeks. It's like we're doing the church planting two-step. We take two steps forward and one back, but at least there is a step of progress."

**El Faro #2 Hispanic Mission, Cabot/Jacksonville:** Michael Hight writes, "This week we are in Phoenix running tests. I can't tell you how grateful Jenifer and I are for the love and support you have shown over the last month. It is truly humbling.

"Please be praying for Dr. Michelle and Dr. Saperstein as they conduct their exams. I love you all!"



## RETIRE (Continued From Page 1)

Kimbrow has also been instrumental in the growth of the Mustang Athletics program. During his presidency, athletic teams have expanded from 5 to 16 in the American Midwest Conference (AMC) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Kimbrow is currently serving his third term as Chair of the AMC Council of Presidents.

Kimbrow has also been active in his community, serving on multiple boards and committees including Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC), Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities (AICU), Baptist Hospital Patient Safety Committee, Conway Police Department Chaplain, Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Rotary Club, Faulkner County Leadership Institute, Bank of America and Haven House.

During his career, Kimbrow has also been awarded or participated in the following: FBI Citizens Academy, Faulkner County Leadership Institute, Dan Nabholz

Leadership Award, Conway Area Chamber of Commerce Business Executive of the Year, Central Baptist College Employee of the Year, Central Baptist College Alumnus of the Year along with many others.

As Kimbrow prepares to step down, the CBC Board of Trustees expresses its deepest gratitude for his exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication and profound impact on the college. "It is with sorrow that the CBC Board of Trustees heard the news of President Kimbrow's plans to retire in May 2025. President Kimbrow informed the Board of his intentions at their meeting on March 2. We had begun to work with Bro. Terry last year on a succession plan but had hoped that it would still be a long way off," said Kirk Shelton Board Chairman. He added, "The college has been blessed with solid, visionary leadership for almost 20 years. I believe I speak for the entire Board when I say we would like to have him for 20 more."

The 20-member Board of Trustees has formed a committee to head the search for his successor to ensure a smooth transition for the college.

## 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

## Reports — from the — Churches

**Barney, Enola** added two by letter; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

**First, Gurdon** gained two by baptism and six by letter; Randal Murphy, 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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## Help us thank Dr. Charley Holmes for 25 years of faithful service!

Take up a special offering in your church or Sunday School class for Seminary Sunday on May 5th or May 19th, 2024. We encourage you to send \$25, \$250, \$2,500 or more in Dr. Holmes' honor to the Seminary Sunday Scholarship drive.



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## Come and Dine!

You are cordially invited to join us for dinner at the BMA of America National meeting. Dr. Charley Holmes will reflect on 25 years as president of BMA Seminary.

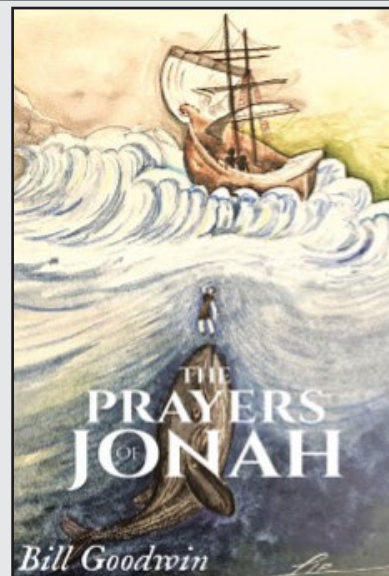


When: Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
Where: Heidelberg/St. Moritz rooms - Chateau on the Lake  
Cost: \$40/person - Contact Keri Southern to order tickets at 800-259-5673 or [president@bmats.edu](mailto:president@bmats.edu). Seating is limited.  
Deadline to order tickets: April 5, 2024



"There are some real gold nuggets in this book. You may read a number of commentaries on Jonah, but few really deal with the prayers embedded within Jonah's experience. This book could be used for personal spiritual growth or weekly small group meetings. The challenge that Jonah faces can lead to a lively discussion on prayer, generating a keener understanding of the how and why to pray."

*Dr. Joel Slayton  
Conway, Arkansas*



"Bill Goodwin, my friend and fellow preacher, has written a book (The Prayers of Jonah) that is immanently practical, simply stated and clearly articulated. It is a book for saints undergoing trials, believers struggling with their faith, people whose lives are a puzzle and even Christians enjoying God's blessings. The reader will be blessed as I have been!"

*Keith Lunceford, Pastor  
Searcy, Arkansas*



[www.theprayersofjonah.com](http://www.theprayersofjonah.com)