

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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A House of Prayer

By Larry Barker, Director • Healthy Church Solutions

Executive Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of six articles focused on "Prayer for Our Association." (See the March 6, 13 & 20 issues for the first three articles.) The Baptist Trumpet is partnering with Healthy Church Solutions and inviting your church to intentionally set aside time to pray for our association before the national meeting. See more details at the end of this article.

Jesus was devoted personally to prayer, challenged His disciples to

pray and called for His house to be known as a house of prayer. Have you devoted yourself and your church to the same passion and pursuit of prayer without ceasing? In Col. 4:2-3 (HCSB), Paul challenges the leaders and the churches there to "Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message...." The word devote translates "ceaselessly active" and is a challenge to never stop or quit praying. It is a call to courageously persist, to hold fast and to not let go.

Samuel Chadwick said that "Prayer is the acid test of devotion!" What a privilege it is to be able to pray for one another, other churches, ministries and the mission purpose of the BMA. As we approach our national meeting, April 16-18, this is a call to be "alert" and accept the challenge to be known as a house of prayer. Now is not the time to be lethargic or sluggish in prayer, but to look for opportunities where you can actively engage in petitioning the throne room of God. The goal of this prayer initiative is simply to develop and deepen the habit of believers, leaders, churches and our association coming before Him daily and persistently.

Here's the problem: we talk about prayer, we encourage others to pray, but do we pray? Because of the supernatural element of prayer, it is an unnatural lane for us. That is why we must learn to pray, and the

greatest classroom for prayer is praying. Apparently, God believes we need to pray with no intermission (1 Thess. 5:17), to "never" stop praying and to be constantly in fellowship with Him. Prayer in our spiritual life should become as normal as breathing is in our physical life. The key to your spiritual life and ministry is to maintain uninterrupted time in prayer with your Lord.

Henry Blackaby states it well, "Prayer is not getting God to help us with what we are to do, it is getting us in line with what He is about to do!" God desires to do great and mighty things through you, your church and our association. Are you willing to commit to a laser-focused season of prayer for all of the above? The heart of Jesus while He was here on earth was to learn His assignment in communication with the Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Luke 22:42), and to reverently surrender to it. Henry Blackaby reminds us, "Knowing the heart of God is to know the will of God." Jesus taught us to pray "Thy name," "Thy kingdom" and "Thy will."

Here are some prayer commitments penned by Dr. Thom Rainer:

• **Commitment #1:** God, open my eyes that I might see my church as You see it. Let me see where change needs to take place, even if it is painful to me. And use me, I pray, to be an instrument of that change, whatever the cost.

• **Commitment #2:** God, please let me be part of the solution and not the problem. Show me what I need to see. Open my eyes to Your reality, and give me the courage to move forward in the directions You desire.

• **Commitment #3:** God, give me the conviction and the courage to be like the heroes of Hebrews 11. Teach me not to hold onto those things in my church that are my

See PRAYER, Page 8

**MOVING
with Ministers
and Staff**

To view previous listings
from this column, visit
our website at
www.baptisttrumpet.com.

**First Baptist Church of Ro-
land, Okla.** is seeking a bivoca-
tional pastor. Interested candi-
dates can contact Harold Smith
at (479)806-0880.

National Meeting Information

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

To make sure you are informed and ready for the upcoming national meeting, we have placed all available information regarding the national meeting on one page for easy access. When you visit BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024, you will find links to every article we have run about the national meeting, the department director's video reports, *2024 Recommendations and Reports*, the most up-to-date schedule and much more.



Final Reminder to Validate Your Church Information

By John Meriweather, Director of Operations • BMA America

We want to make sure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information for **all** our churches. You can help us by visiting bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey to review and update your church information.

When you select the name of your church, the information for it will be made available for you to review and update. Even if all church information is accurate, please confirm. (You may also request a copy of your church information by email.)

For assistance, contact Sidney Vines at sidney@bmaglobal.org or (870) 826-7757. If you have questions for me, contact me at (844) 262-8637 or john@bmaamerica.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

BMAA Department Recommendations

The *2024 BMA Reports and Recommendations* has been made available online and these recommendations are shared here as published in the book found at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. You can find the recommendations from the Coordinating Council at BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024 or in the March 20 issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*.

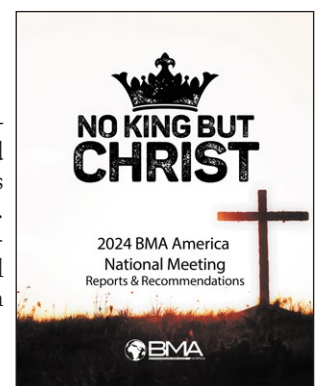
BMA GLOBAL

1. We recommend the election of the Jarred Etheridge family as missionaries to South Africa.
2. We recommend John David Smith stand as a nominee for President of BMA Global

Lifeword

1. That the proposed 2025 Lifeword budget be approved and accepted. (See pgs. 46-49 of the *2024 Reports & Recommendations* book.)
2. That Oct. 20, 2024 be designated as Lifeword Sunday across the BMA of America and that every church be encouraged to pray for the ministry of Lifeword and take a special offering to expand Lifeword's ministry footprint around the world.

See RECOMMEND, Page 4



In This Issue

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CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow
President



SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

cbc.edu/visit

It's Tour Season at CBC

Though you can tour Central Baptist College any time of the year, early spring is one of the best times to take a look at all CBC has to offer. That's when high school juniors and seniors, and their parents, are thinking about the next chapter in their lives. I pray daily that God will lead many more students to choose CBC. I want to invite you to visit the campus. Here are some of the tour opportunities we offer:

Personalized Tour

Even though we call it a "one-on-one" tour, we invite you to bring your family and friends, and let us show you all that CBC has to offer. This is what you can expect on your personalized tour:

- Reserved parking spot with your name on it in front of the Watkins Academic Building;
- Tour the Mabey Student Services Complex to get information about Student Services and visit to the Mustang Outfitters to shop for your CBC gear.
- Tour the Cooper Educational Complex to see the Computer Labs, Departmental Offices and Burgess Auditorium.
- Tour the beautiful Story Library and Café 52, where you will enjoy a cup of coffee or soft drink of your choice on us.
- Tour the Watkins Academic Building to visit the Financial Aid Office.
- Personal visit to the President's Office, where you will receive a special gift. (I would love to visit with you if I am in the office.)
- Tour of Dickson Hall Lobby.

To register online for a personalized tour, go to cbc.edu/visit and simply fill out the online form and hit "submit." You will be contacted to confirm your scheduled tour date and time. For questions, additional information or to schedule a visit by phone, contact the CBC Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873.

Group Tour

It's our honor to host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private) or any other group you may have. We do our best to make any group feel welcome on our campus. You will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tour listed above. Prior to the start of the tour, admissions personnel will speak to you as a group to answer your initial questions about the college and provide you with an admissions packet, view book and a CBC T-shirt. To register for a group tour, contact the Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873.



Sports News

By Erik Holth

Men's Golf

• **Cabot, March 18** — Coming off a win in their first tournament this spring, CBC teed off for the first two rounds of the 2024 CBC Invitational at Cypress Creek Golf Club. CBC shot a two-round score of 606, 13 shots behind the leaders, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

• **Cabot, March 19** — Looking to move up one spot, CBC teed off for the final round of the CBC Invitational at Cypress Creek Golf Course needing to erase a 14-shot deficit. The Mustangs shot the second-best round of the day at 298, but it wasn't enough to take down the winners from USAO.

• **West Point, Miss., March 25** — Playing for the third straight week this spring, CBC teed off for the first 36 holes of the Blue Mountain Christian Spring Classic at Mossy Oak Golf Club. CBC shot 310-302 for a 612 over the first 36 holes and sits in 6th place, 23 shots behind the co-leaders.

Women's Golf

• **Cabot, March 18** — Playing on a chilly day, CBC hosted the 2024 CBC Invitational first round at the Cypress Creek Golf Club. The Mustangs opened with a 371 and sit in 4th place, 50 shots behind the leaders from Bethel University.

• **Cabot, March 19** — Looking to move out of fourth place in the final round, CBC teed off on the final round of the CBC Invitational at Cypress Creek Golf Club. CBC improved by 7 shots on day two, but couldn't close the gap, finishing the tournament in 4th place with a score of 735.

• **West Point, Miss., March 25** — Teeing off for the first two rounds, CBC was on the course at Old Waverly Golf Club for the Blue Mountain Christian Spring Invitational. CBC shot 384-372 for an overall score of 756, good for 12th place through 36 holes.

Softball

• **Arkadelphia, March 19** — Playing an NCAA opponent for the second straight week, CBC was at Langston Field for a doubleheader against the Ouachita Baptist Tigers (OBU). CBC (10-14) fought back in game one, but lost 8-3 and they hung with OBU (7-22) for seven-and-one-third before falling 3-2.

Men's Basketball

• **Kansas City, Mo., March 21** — Playing in the Round of 16 for the first time in program history, the #14 seed CBC took on the #2




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Signs of a Healthy Student Ministry



Healthy Student Ministry: The Worker's Physical Life

Over the last several articles, we have looked at many aspects of a healthy student ministry worker — their relationship with God, their pastor and their family. The health of a student ministry worker is often expressed in their relationships. However, it isn't only relationships that we must be aware of because we are created as body, mind and spirit. We need to take care of ourselves in a variety of areas. This week, we need to think about our physical life. There are times that I have done very well in this area. As of late, that hasn't been the case. So today, I write to myself as much as to anyone else. These are some simple, but often ignored, keys to physical health we all should embrace:

• **A student ministry worker should take time for exercise.** Over the years, I have done a variety of things for exercise. I have walked, run, biked and worked out in a gym. Perhaps my favorite exercise has been martial arts. It is full of body-weight exercises like kicking, punching and jumping. There is strategy and comradery with the others that are training. Whatever you choose, we must start moving our bodies.

• **A student ministry worker should do their best to sleep.** Sleep seems to be elusive to many of us in ministry. The stress of being on call 24/7 can make it difficult to rest. In addition, we make poor choices and feel like we can make it up through a steady diet of coffee and Mountain Dew. Go to bed a little earlier this week and see how it feels. It is an investment in you, your health, your family and your ministry.

• **A student ministry worker should embrace a good diet.** A diet of pizza, Skittles and Doritos is not going to ensure optimal performance. A basic diet of whole foods with less sugar is one where you can't go wrong. One of the other keys is one we all know — everything in moderation.

We often don't think about our physical health until things start going wrong. We need to embrace a physically healthier lifestyle earlier in life so we can extend the length of our ministries and time with our families. In addition, being physically healthy is a great example to our students. Let's take some steps toward better health. I know I must make a greater effort in this area myself.

Pastors and church members, if you want to help your student ministry worker pursue a healthier lifestyle, make room for it in their daily schedule or even provide a gym membership. Look for opportunities to encourage your youth worker toward better health.

seed and #4 team in the nation, the Eagles of Oklahoma Wesleyan (OWU). CBC (28-6) overcame a 10-point deficit with 5:04 left to play to upset OWU (31-3), winning by a score of 84-79 to advance to the NAIA National Quarterfinals.

• **Kansas City, Mo., March 23** — Looking to continue their run at the NAIA Men's Basketball Championship, CBC, the #14 seed in the Cramer Quadrant, took on the #1 seed and #5 team in the nation, the Lions of Freed-Hardeman

(FHU), in an American Midwest Conference (AMC) rivalry renewed on the national stage. CBC (28-7) raced out early, but couldn't stop a hot shooting FHU (30-4), falling 85-74 to end their season.

Baseball

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 22** — Facing an opponent for the first time in program history, CBC took on the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy

See SPORTS, Page 3



HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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LARRY BARKER, By Larry Barker, Regional Coordinator
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Jesus Modeled Prayer

Resurrection Sunday reminds us of Christ's victory over sin, death, Hell and the grave. As Jesus faced His final week before the cross, there were many last-minute details, yet there was one constant in Jesus' life that did not change — prayer. The night of His betrayal and arrest

was another opportunity to spend time with His Father, seeking strength and direction. One author stated about this agonizing time of prayer by Jesus, "When He hurt, He prayed. When He really hurt, He really prayed." Jesus modeled prayer, and no one has ever prayed with the power, effectiveness or authority He demonstrated.

Observing the prayer life of Christ teaches us many things about what prayer meant to Him and what it should mean to us. Prayer is much more than petitioning God for what you need or even interceding for the needs of others. In *Prayer 101*, Warren Wiersbe quotes Charles Spurgeon as saying, "Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the kingdom." Wiersbe stated, "Asking humbles us, and it glorifies God." Prayer has a spiritual dynamic that is a mystery and beyond our understanding that interconnects God's providence, power and presence with His people when they pray. There is much to learn from Jesus.

Jesus sought continual communion and communication with the Father. Wiersbe also stated, "Prayer isn't bothering God, bargaining with God, borrowing from God or burdening God." True prayer is spending time with Him because you love Him, trust Him and want to know Him better (Phil. 3:10). You become like the ones you spend the most time with so, how much time are you spending with Him? Wiersbe continued, "The purpose of the spiritual life is not for us to become great Christians, whatever that may mean, but to glorify a great Savior by revealing Him in our character and conduct."

Jesus prayed to discern and discover the Father's agenda. How did He accomplish that? Through communion with Him. He always kept the communication lines between Him and the Father open. Jesus' daily rhythms and habits included

prayer. Even in Luke 3, when Jesus was baptized, the Scriptures say, "As He was praying, Heaven opened." This intimacy and closeness kept Jesus in step with the Father's plan. Prayer has been referred to as a war-

time walkie-talkie on the battlefield, and the battle of the ages was about to occur. Prayer is God's primary means of revealing His distinctive will for your life.

Even at Jesus' greatest moments, His habit of seeking the Father did not lessen but increased. Prayer gives clarity to the task God has called us to by discerning His will in every situation. "But the news about Him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet He often withdrew to deserted places and prayed" (Luke 5:15-16 HCSB). Jesus was able to discern the importance of boundaries and limits in ministry through His commitment to prayer. Even though His popularity was increasing greatly, He withdrew from the crowds for clarifying prayer.

Prayer is for communion with Him, clarity from Him and composure in Him. Luke 22:42-43 makes this clear, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening him." Jesus surrendered to the will of the Father, and when He did, immediately, strength was provided for the task. Jesus is now resolved to face the cross and drink this cup. In John 18:4 (HCSB), we see Jesus ready to face the mob led by Judas, "...knowing everything that was about to happen to Him..." Agonizing prayer is where He found strength.

Prayer not only produces sweet fellowship with the Father and discernment for your next steps, but also the discovery of the resources God provides to accomplish the task He has for you. Prayerless people have no idea what they are missing out on. God's power and strength come through persistent, earnest, surrendering prayer, but it is even better than that. God delights in our prayers. Proverbs 15:8 states, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight." On this

Prayer in its highest form
is agonizing soul sweat.

Leonard Ravenhill

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

(UHSP) in St. Louis at Stars Park on the Harris-Stowe campus. CBC (19-7, 4-1 AMC) took care of business, scoring a combined 21 runs in two wins, beating UHSP (7-14, 1-4 AMC) 8-4 and 14-3 in seven innings.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 23 —**

Looking to secure their first series sweep for the weekend, CBC was at Stars Park for the finale of their AMC matchup against the Eutectics of UHSP. CBC (20-7, 5-1 AMC) pounded out 11 runs on 11 hits to beat UHSP (7-15, 1-5 AMC) 11-2 and sweep the series!

truth, Wiersbe stated, "For us, prayer should mean not only delighting in God but bringing delight to God."

When Judas shows up to betray Him, Jesus is centered, anchored, laser-focused and in control with a godly calmness. In prayer, He received the Father's plan, purpose and, most importantly, His presence. The disciples were clueless because they had fallen asleep and did not know what was going on. Once again, prayerless people do not know what they are missing out on. The disciples were unable to see God's plan and, because of this lack of prayer, they were confused, agitated and angry. They began doing things they should not have been doing and making plans they should not have been making.

You do not receive communion, clarity and godly composure while asleep. That requires persevering prayer. Do not expect this to happen instantaneously. It is cultivated over time by seeking God's face daily and continually. As you dedicate yourself to spending time with Him, He releases His power into your life, not in seconds, minutes or hours but in years. God is calling us to go deeper in our prayer lives with Him. Jesus asks us to join Him in what He is doing. Are we willing to watch and pray for an hour, two hours, three hours or all night? Or will we fall asleep?

The memory of their prayer failure would remain with these disciples for the rest of their lives. Failure has a way of either defining us or refining us. Which will it be? These disciples later become very diligent in prayer, realizing that the prayerless followers of Christ are missing out on what God desires to do in and through their lives. The key to getting God to listen to you is making sure you are listening to Him (Zech. 7:12-13). The angel ministered strength to Jesus after He prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done." Psalm 145:18 (NIV) says, "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."

Just Thinking...

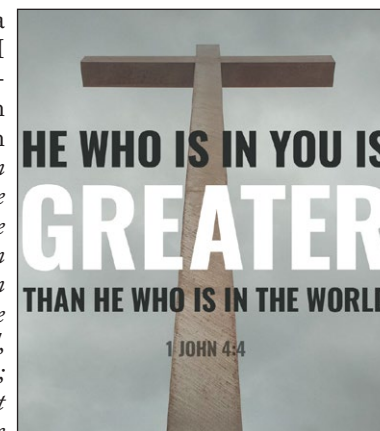
By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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False Teachers Versus True Teachers

After reading an answer to a question regarding a Bible passage, I was just thinking about how prevalent false teachers are among us in these last days. John, by inspiration wrote, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehoods" (I John 4:4-6 NIV).



The Actions of False Teachers

• **They Desert** — In these last days, as God's Word says, so very many have fallen away; becoming apostate. The apostates teach that which is contrary to truth. They may have been taught correctly, but choose to desert such instruction. We are warned to mark them and stand against them. Paul wrote, "As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be under God's curse" (Gal. 1:9).

• **They Distort** — By playing on people's emotions, false teachers will distort the truth. They make things sound close enough to the truth that people fall into believing lies.

• **They Deny** — Those who teach falsehoods today deny they are doing so. They say they have received new revelations directly from God. However, their greatest denial is that of the truth of God's Word itself, rather they devise and teach human concepts.

Believers are instructed to avoid such people. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Col. 2:8 NIV).

• **They Divert** — False teachers are servants of Satan. The devil and his demons use heretical teachers to divert new believers and immature believers from adhering to God's Word. They can do this because, "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1-2).

The Actions of True Teachers

It is essential that, in these last days, churches ensure that truth is taught from the pulpits and lecterns in worship and study.

• **They Disciple** — To do that effectively, they are prepared personally so they can instruct both publicly and privately. The goal of true Bible teachers is to lead unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Further, it is their responsibility to ensure the new converts receive proper biblical instruction to help them mature spiritually.

• **They Defend** — Jesus Christ, His Word and His followers are under attack today, and it will only get worse in the last days of this age. Paul told Timothy that evil men and imposters would go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. Bible teachers and Christians of all ages must take a stand for truth amid a world of false teachers. "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have..." (I Peter 3:15).

• **They Discern** — Again, Paul wrote by inspiration: "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (I John 4:1-2).

• **They Direct** — As the day approaches when Christ will return, the truth must not be hidden. We must direct others who need to be saved to the gospel, the truth of Christ. We must also discern who are false teachers and give directions to others to avoid them. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (I Thess. 5:11).

RECOMMEND (Continued From Page 1)

3. That the messenger body offer thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for His provision and blessings on the ministry of Lifeword this past year.

4. That each church belonging to the Baptist Missionary Association of America be encouraged to support the ministry of Lifeword through prayer and by placing Lifeword in their monthly budget.

5. That the messengers attending the 2024 BMA National Meeting give a rising vote of thanks to Sonny Foster for his years of dedicated service to Lifeword and the BMA of America by serving as a member of the Lifeword Board of Directors.

6. That Donny Parrish stand as nominee for the Executive Director of Lifeword.



1. Affirmation of the proposed budget. (See pg. 35 of the 2024 Reports & Recommendations book.)

2. Pray for the Presidential Search Committee

3. That each church observe Sunday, May 5 or May 19, 2024, as Seminary Scholarship Sunday with:

- a. special prayer for our graduates, and
- b. receive a special scholarship offering in honor of Dr. Charley Holmes' 25 years of service to support the training of future BMA ministers and missionaries on that Sunday.



1. Recommend the adoption of the 2024-2025 Daniel Springs Baptist Camp Budget. (See pgs. 25-27 of the 2024 Reports & Recommendations book.)

2. Recommend and encourage all churches of the BMA to participate in the Camp Sunday emphasis on June 2, 2024, by praying for and considering taking a special offering to help Daniel Springs Baptist Camp continue to broaden the opportunities to be a ministry extension of the local church.

3. Recommend that Jason Pre-witt stand as the nominee for the position of executive director of the Department of Camp Ministries.



1. We recommend the adoption of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. (See pg. 23 of the 2024

Reports & Recommendations book.)

2. We recommend that the executive director be paid a salary of \$61,152. Benefits include one-half of Social Security, \$250 per month for healthcare expense reimbursement, retirement at 6% of salary and travel reimbursement.

3. We recommend that \$8,000 of the executive director's salary be designated as a housing allowance.

4. We recommend that Jordan Tew stand as nominee for executive director.



1. That we adopt the proposed operating budget for Fiscal 2025. (See pg. 18 of the 2024 Reports & Recommendations book.)

2. That our churches approve the proposed amendment to the BMA Statement of Principles of Cooperation to reduce the size of our board from 15 members to 9 to reduce operating expenses.

3. That we express appreciation to the following outgoing board members for their service to our association: David Ashby, Eddie Ballard, Brian Gunnels, Charlie Legg, Pat McCown and Van Widger.

4. That we classify \$20,000 of the executive director's compensation as housing allowance.

5. That Steve Crawley stands as a nominee for executive director.



1. That Dr. John M. Adams stand as a nominee for executive director of Moral Action.

2. That the Moral Action Financial Statement be approved.

3. That our churches and pastors, embrace and support our nation by participation and promotion the National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024, and join other Americans in praying for our nation. Meetings can be conducted at town halls, city halls, courthouses and state houses.

4. That our BMA churches schedule June 30 and July 7 as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sundays. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials for soldiers, both present and past. Offerings may also be given to the Adams Scholarship Fund through the BMA Theological Seminary.

5. That our local associations, local and state WMAs and Brotherhoods and local churches be encouraged to give a budgeted monthly gift to Moral Action. These funds strengthen this ministry.

6. That Dr. John M. Adams, executive director, represent the BMA of America in Washington, D.C. by encouraging and contacting our United States senators, congressmen, congresswomen

and other Christian moral organizations such as the American Family Assn (AFA), Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, and the Heritage Foundation.

7. That our Baptist Missionary Association of America reaffirm and approve the following Moral Action resolutions.

8. That the BMA churches recognize and honor our grandparents and great grandparents on Grandparents Day, Sept. 8, 2024.

9. That our churches and Christians vote in all elections. Prior to casting votes: pray daily, study God's Word and focus on standards and morals that God's Word teaches. Cast your votes accordingly. Once officials are elected, do not consider your job done. Pray, pray, pray daily for these officials. Call their names in prayer and send them notes of encouragement.

• Resolution #1 — Reaffirmation of the United States government to support and help protect the Jewish nation of Israel, God's chosen people

Whereas we believe Jehovah God attested to both the existence and continuing existence of the Jewish people and by the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas we pray for peace in the Middle East; and

Whereas we Christians believe that Israel has a divine right to the land given to Abraham;

Therefore, be it further resolved that the messengers and the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, meeting in Branson, Mo., April, 2024, urge the United States government to maintain and recognize Israel and her right to exist as God's people.

• Resolution #2 — Recognize the need to elect godly leaders in America

Whereas elected leaders are always anxious to appear to be strong supporters of God and His churches, and

Whereas some corrupt elected leaders attempt to use religion for their own agenda, and

Whereas the types of elected leaders are guilty of selling faith for power;

Be it therefore resolved, that born again believers in Christ pledge to elect good and godly men and women who share our common biblical values and support morality; and

Be it therefore resolved that we urge these elected leaders to care for the public trust; and

Be it therefore further resolved that the messengers meeting in Branson, Mo., April, 2024, work diligently to elect good and

By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring



Journey
with
Jeff

Limited Space

We are almost an entire month into our time of Special Emphasis, and I haven't had enough room to share more details about our goal for this year due to the many pressing news items and information to get out about the national meeting. I hope you will take some time to visit BaptistTrumpet.com/SE2024 and read about our goals for the year and prayerfully consider donating to help.

Thanks to each of these churches and individuals who have already given:

2024 Special Emphasis • Goal — \$30,000

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Bill Hoggard | \$300 |
| Anonymous | \$500 |
| Friendship, Greenbrier | \$100 |
| Springhill, Greenbrier | \$1,000 |
| Immanuel, Greenbrier | \$144 |
| Jim Tapley | \$100 |
| College Ave., Magnolia | \$5,200 |
| Total | \$7,344 |

godly men and women to public offices in the United States.

• Resolution #3 — Resolution to stand for the longevity of life and against euthanasia and physician assisted suicide

Whereas believers in Christ do not believe in the elective death approach to the end of life by euthanasia and physician assisted suicide; and

Whereas elective death as a health care option is perceived as a source of ruin to the sanctity of

human life; and

Whereas the Bible prohibits any decision or procedure which is to be construed as elective death;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the messengers and churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Branson, Mo., April, 2024, resolve to stand for the longevity of life and against the so-called elective death promotion by society.

• Resolution #4 — Reaffirmation
See RECOMMEND, Page 8

Baptist Trumpet

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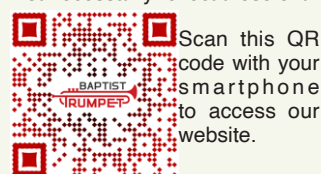
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Cris & Alicia Samson • The Philippines

2023 was a great year! A lot of things happened and a lot of changes came our way. Sometimes, change can be an unwelcome and unpleasant experience, but for us, it has proven to be pleasant.

We first arrived back in the Philippines in May of 2023. We knew what we would be doing once we returned, but we didn't know exactly what it would look like and from where our work would primarily be done. Before leaving the Philippines in 2022 to return to the U.S. for a complicated pregnancy and the birth of our third son, we had begun working with a pioneering church plant in the city of San Carlos in the northeastern corner of Negros Island. We looked for housing in this area multiple times and found nothing available except small one-room apartments. We knew this wouldn't work for our family, so we had settled on living in one city and driving to San Carlos as often as possible until, Lord willing, we could find proper housing for our family.

Although we were committed to this idea, it did not work as well as we thought. It turned out that Cris would often travel alone, while the boys (Benjamin, Asher and Judah) and I stayed behind for them to attend school. The drive was two and a half hours one way, and weather conditions, at times, would not allow Cris to travel by motorbike on the days he was scheduled to travel. Before long, we began carrying a heavy burden regarding our ministry and the work we longed to be a part of.

Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo were living on the field and continuing to spearhead the work in our absence, but we longed for more. We decided to look for housing once again. To our surprise, we began finding multiple places available. We were in shock! As of October 2023, we have been living in San Carlos City, and it could not feel more like home.

It didn't take long for our life in San Carlos to settle into a routine. The boys began attending their new school, while Pastor Cris, Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo began meeting together twice a week for discipleship training and prayer. Bible studies were scheduled in two different villages on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and children's outreach programs were conducted in three villages on Saturdays.

Then came the holiday season. The Christmas season was a very special time. Little did we know that a new ministry would soon fall into our laps.

At the start of December, we began having many visitors at our gate in the evening. Groups of kids, teens, adults or a combination of different age groups would walk the neighborhood streets, stopping at each gate to sing Christmas carols. They were not singing for the mere pleasure of singing and blessing our hearts, but instead, they were singing in hopes of receiving a generous monetary reward. At first, I couldn't help but feel that this would get annoying after a while, but then the Lord softened my heart. I shared with Cris the possibility of allowing the carolers to sing for us and us giving them a "small" monetary donation if they were willing to allow us to share the gospel with them in return. Of course, he was more than willing to do so, and we could never have imagined what this would turn into.

Every night for the next month, at least three to five groups of people would visit our home. We greeted and welcomed them, letting them know we would be happy for them to sing for us. Before allowing them to sing, we always informed them that we would like to share the gospel with them in return. Not one group rejected our offer. We do not know the full effect of our time spent with Christmas carolers, but we know many people heard the gospel message of Jesus' saving grace. We also know that between 15 and 20 people publicly expressed receiving Christ as their Savior during the time we spent sharing with them.

Carolers were not the only exciting part of our December. Three large boxes of toys and gifts were sent to us from two of our supporting churches in the U.S. for us to distribute to children in nearby villages. During the last week of December, we collaborated with members of our mother church to conduct mini-Vacation Bible Schools in three different locations. During these two days, we were able to minister to over 100 children and families. We distributed the gifts and toys and sacks of rice, sardines, spaghetti and noodle packs to each family. We pray that these efforts have truly blessed the hearts of each person.



The months of January and February have been much slower than December. We have been able to focus on relationship-building and more in-depth Bible studies. Over the last year and a half, the outreach ministries here in San Carlos have been quite dispersed. Ministering here has been a challenge as the traditions and roots of Catholicism run very deep, it has often been hard to reach adults. Focusing on children has proven to be the right strategy for this area. Mothers are happy to have their children learning about the Bible instead of wandering from place to place, leaving their mothers to worry about their safety. These children's Bible studies have led to the development of relationships with the parents of the children in attendance, and, little by little, the walls of Catholicism seem to be crumbling.

Please continue to pray for the efforts here in San Carlos and the people's hearts to be receptive to the truth.

Returning to the States

Over the last few years, our family has faced quite a few challenges. As a result, we will leave the field later this year. We do not believe this is a permanent leave, but we do not know how long it will be. One of the main reasons for leaving is to pursue Cris' U.S. citizenship, which is quite involved, so I will spare you all the details, but it is expected to take about three years. A second reason is for me (Alicia) to complete my medical licensing in the U.S. As many of you know, I attended medical school in the Philippines

and graduated in 2017. For me to have a license to practice medicine as a doctor, I need to complete a residency training program in the U.S., which will take three to five years. This is the time period in which we are currently looking at before revisiting a return to the field.

We do not know what God has planned between now and then or if He will direct our hearts in a different direction by the end of this supposed time period. What we do know is that we are open to His leadership, and we are willing to follow Him wherever He leads. After months of prayer and consideration, our hearts are at peace with the direction the Lord is leading us.

That said, we will continue to be a part of the work in the Philippines. Cris will communicate with Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo as often as they feel necessary, and financially, we will continue supporting the ongoing work in San Carlos.

We covet your prayers as our life changes from our current field to our new field. I (Alicia) began my journey as a student missionary to a medical short-term missionary to a full-time missionary 20 years ago as of June 2023. Transitioning back to the U.S. full-time is going to be a major life change for our family, but we are looking forward to it in anticipation of what the Lord has in store.

We will be returning to the U.S. in June 2024. After this time, we will be available to share with our supporting churches and other churches interested in the ongoing work in the Philippines. (alicia.ramshur@gmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter Sunrise Service, March 31, 8 a.m.; Breakfast to follow, everyone welcome; Banks, Banks.

BMA of America Annual Mtg.; April 16-18, 2024; Chateau on the Lake, Branson.

Mo. State Brotherhood Retreat; April 26-27; Camp Garwood.

Hot Dogs and Hot Rods (Water for Life Fundraiser); May 18, 10 a.m.; LifeSong, Greenbrier.

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.

Re:Charge Leaders Oasis; Oct. 1-3; Calvary, Fayetteville.

BMA of Arkansas Mtg.; Nov. 7-8; Central Baptist College, Conway.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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.

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

Central Ark. Dist. Brotherhood; April 15, 6:30 p.m.; Church at Willow Beach, No. Little Rock.

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.

Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest; April 22, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.

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

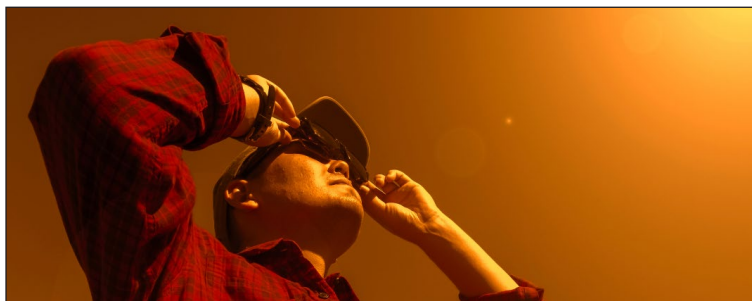
Mt. Vernon Dist. Brotherhood; June 3, 6:30 p.m.; Grace, Wynne.

United District WMA; July 13, 10 a.m.; Hattiesville, Hattiesville

Opportunities For Service

Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville is in search of a pastor. For more information, contact Rodney Cooper at (870) 278-1797 or cooperr@manilaschools.org.

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



April 8 Eclipse: How Should It Be Interpreted? (Part 1)

How should we biblically and prophetically interpret the second of the “x” Total Eclipses that passes over the US on April 8?

I don’t know, but many YouTubers and that guy at your work seem to know. That’s why I’m writing about it. I really don’t want to write this or even wade into this discussion, but I just keep seeing what I believe are biblical interpretative errors in how this eclipse is being addressed.

Nearly all the viral videos proclaiming this eclipse is prophetically significant present supporting evidence that was arrived at in a faulty approach to Bible prophecy. But on the other side of the argument, all I’ve heard speak against those viral videos have completely dismissed the eclipse, which I believe is an error as well — much less of an error, but an error still. I’ve not heard anyone suggest the truth could be found in the middle, as it usually always is found. In this case, “the middle” might be stretching it though. Because of this, I’m leaning on my conviction to rightly divide the Word—including Bible prophecy, the prophetic narrative clearly given in Scripture and what I’ve learned in my journey over the past 10 years in understanding Bible prophecy to wade in.

First, the approach used to state this eclipse coupled with the one seven years ago are a sign from God of judgment on our nation is faulty. If we must dig and dig through hidden details, zoom in and zoom in on a map or do some Einstein-like calculations to prove something is a prophetic sign, then that which we are trying to prove is not a sign. Prophecy will be clearly and obviously fulfilled. God doesn’t need our help or calculus skills to help Him fulfill His Word. When Bible prophecy is fulfilled, it will leave us with no doubts. If there is

any stretching to make a prophecy fit something, then we’re barking up the wrong tree.

I’ve seen this with the April 8 eclipse. Some have concluded it is a sign because it passes seven small towns called Ninevah. Now God is such a master author of this life He does work in details like that, but they’re icing on the cake, not details for us to use ahead of them to assume prophecy. This hasn’t been done with only Ninevah, but others have pointed out all the Egyptianish named locations in which the path passes. Some have argued that since the “x” of the two eclipses is over Carbondale, Ill. and because the atomic numbers of carbon are 6-6-6, this must point to the end. Again, God doesn’t need us to do secret calculations to figure out prophecy. Many other minor details are being used to explain that the eclipse is prophetically significant, but any time there has to be a “code breaker” that has the “secret key” to a prophetic matter — run!

Second, while I’m on the subject of Ninevah, another angle those videos have used is the eclipse is the “sign of Jonah.” Jesus is recorded using this phrase in Matthew 12, Mark 8 and John 14. I believe Jesus clarifies it even more so in John 2 when the “Sign of Jonah” is connected to the account of the bronze serpent in the wilderness. The Bible is clear that the sign of Jonah is the resurrection after three days and, I would add, the giving of oneself as Jonah allowed the men to throw him overboard and as Jesus gave Himself on the cross to save us.

Third, many verses that tell of an end-time eclipse are quoted in those viral videos. The verses given do talk about the sun turning dark, which likely could be an eclipse, and there are many of those passages, like Matt. 24:29, Mark

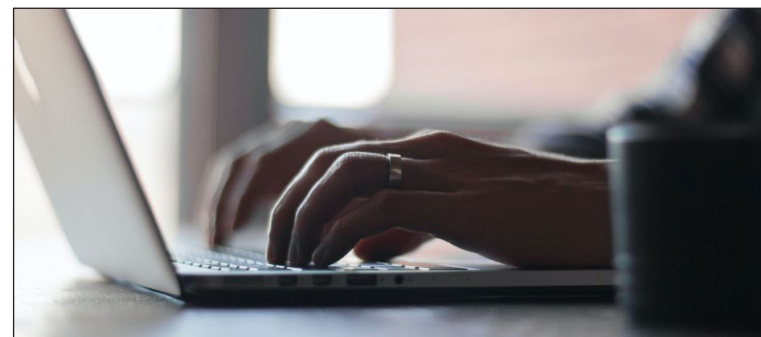
13:24, Joel 2:31, Amos 8:9, Zech. 14:6, Acts 2:20 and Rev. 6:12. As you can see, the sun going dark is mentioned many times, but each of these references tell of the same event and they’re all in the same context of other end-time events. Matthew 24 lays out the timing of this possible final eclipse, along with very clear and obvious other signs that must happen first. The April 8 eclipse cannot be that eclipse because those other signs haven’t happened and likely won’t in the two weeks between now and then.

It would seem that I don’t see any biblical basis for this eclipse to be a prophetic sign and that would be nearly correct. I definitely don’t see this eclipse fulfilling any foretold biblical event, but there is a sliver of room within the prophetic story in Scripture and some biblical principles that keep me from dismissing the possibility completely. In this case, I don’t think the truth is exactly in the middle, but I’m still keeping a “12.7% possibility” that there is some significance to this eclipse. That number is given in jest, but hopefully it describes how I’m viewing this. I will write in more detail next week, but for starters, we must recognize what the Lord declared in Gen. 1:14 (ESV): “*And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons (or appointed times) and for days and years.’*”

In this passage, the Lord proclaims that the sun and moon are signs. God speaks through them. Along those lines, the Jewish Talmud, which is a set of ancient teachings and commentaries on the first five books of the Bible, states that eclipses are signs or bad omens for the world and/or Gentile nations. The Talmud isn’t Scripture, but it does reveal ancient Jewish thought. Other ancient cultures viewed eclipses as the same, and we shouldn’t write them off as just not knowing science. It’s easy to say that science proves eclipses are just the natural order of things, but if we do that we would be saying the same about rainbows, which were declared by God to be a sign. In the case of the rainbow, we see how God uses the natural order to still speak as a sign to us.

I reached my word count a couple of paragraphs back, so I will finish this discussion in my next article. You just will need to read your *Trumpet* quickly to get that one in before the eclipse!

— 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)



BMA Financial Webinar

BMA Financial invites you to join this quarter’s financial training webinar on **April 3**. The webinar topic will focus on the **Minister’s Housing Allowance**. Steve Crawley will be discussing this topic with Amy Artiga, Certified Financial Planner, speaker and author of the Pastor’s Wallet Blog (pastorswallet.com).

You must register for the webinar to attend. Once you register, you will be sent the Zoom meeting link and a calendar request invitation so you can add it to your calendar, for your convenience. In addition, you will be able to enable captions for your specific language, if needed.

The event will start promptly at **3 p.m.**, and the recording of the webinar will be sent to all who register for the event. *If you attend live you will be able to submit questions for our panelists to answer. If you are subscribed to the BMA Financial emails, use the registration link in the webinar email. If you are not subscribed or need the registration link, email cherie@bmaamerica.org.*



Mary Jones, 78 of Sutton Community, passed away March 16. She was a member of Union Baptist Church in Bodcaw.

Thomas Clyde Whaley, Sr., 79 of Newport, passed away March 7. He was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church.



Grace, Gurdon; April 7-10, 6:30 p.m.; Sun.-Micah Carter, Mon.-Ken Beaver, Tue.-Mark Clements; Wed.-John Howard; John Woods, pastor.

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

Antioch, Hampton; April 21-24, 6 p.m.; The Master’s Voice; Mike Nutt, pastor.

Kingsland, Kingsland; April 21-24, 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Wade Totty, evangelist; Rick Bolin, pastor.

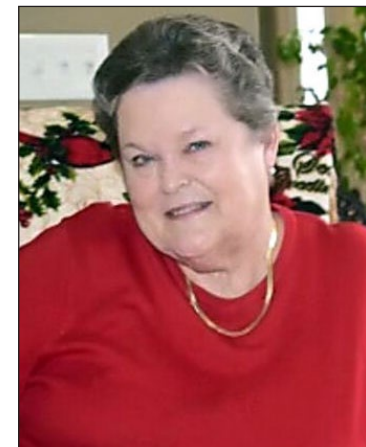
Barney, Enola; May 15-18, 6:30 p.m.; Verlon Wood, evangelist; Reagan Shearer, pastor.

Union, Rosston; May 25-27, 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Joe Brown, pastor.

HOMEcomings

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

Check Out The
Trumpet Archives at
baptisttrumpet.com



Pastor’s Wife Dies

Janelle G. Seat, 71 of Jonesboro, passed away Feb. 26. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, where her husband of 54 years, Don Seat, serves as pastor. He previously served as pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Jonesboro and Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Janelle was an active member of Women’s Missionary Association. She served as the pianist/organist for the churches Don pastored. She also developed children’s programs for Vacation Bible School and was a member of the Oak Grove Extension Club.

Other survivors include: two daughters, Kandi (Robert) Rodriguez and Elisa (Phillip) Kifer of Jonesboro; and three grandchildren.

Services were held on March 2 at Emerson Memorial Chapel, with Jerry Jolly and Randy Stimach officiating, and burial was at Jonesboro Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Emerson Funeral Home (emersonfuneralhome.com).



Missionaries

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 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
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Church Trouble

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21).

I mentioned a while back the extreme evil that mankind is capable of enacting upon his fellow man. Today I want to share a thought on the church. Many complain that today's churches are weak and watered-down versions of her former glory. It appears that the church is taking a beating from the world; but then, it always has. *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world..."* (John 15:18-19).

The world hates Jesus and His church and always will, and while the church has her share of problems, that is not new news, for the Apostles wrote to many of the first-century churches about such. I have heard it said that if you find the perfect church, do not join it, or it will not be perfect anymore.

Someone stated that there won't be any mosquitoes in Heaven, Amen! But here, they are quite an annoyance, but life goes on. Yes, the church has annoying problems, and we will until we get to Heaven, but that does not lessen our responsibility to carry the message of Christ to a lost and dying world. Like the children of Israel, we may have to swat with one hand while working with the other. And while it may slow our progress, it will not stop it.

Problems in churches are just one more tool Satan uses to lessen our effectiveness. As long as churches are made up of people, the church will never be what it ought to be in this world. God established His church and loves His church but does not love all the things that go on in it. The church member is but a sinner saved by grace, and while some take their responsibility to serve very seriously, sadly, others do not. Jesus said that he would *"build his church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it"* (Matt. 16:18).

The church has her marching orders; may we be faithful in fulfilling His desire. Men are trying to reinvent the church, while perhaps all it needs is faithfulness from her members. May we not change (water down our gas) to appease those around us. It is them, not us, who needs to accept God's will as He has presented it. After all, He told us to: *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..."* (II Cor. 6:17).

This reminds me of a true story of a church my brother and his wife attended in northern California. While he attended a traditional service on Sunday morning, the church had several Saturday seeker services that drew large crowds. The co-pastors determined that the church had become a mile wide and an inch deep. They turned off the smoke and flashing lights and 75% of the crowd went out also.

Never forget the church is to inform, not entertain. The church is still needed and purposeful, even in the midst of rejection from those around her. *"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled"* (Luke 14:23). *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* (Matt. 28:19-20).

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "During Friday and Saturday, we had the youth camp of the Hispanic churches of Arkansas — 'God-fearing Youth.' The camp was held at StoneRidge Baptist Camp in

Smithville. Gran Comisión, South City, El Faro and Creciendo en Cristo Churches participated.

"Luis Ortega taught four times based on Psalms 1 and communicated masterfully with the young people. In addition, Bro. Luis prepared devotionals that each group studied with their counselors on

four occasions.

"Four groups were formed, which went together to do devotionals and participate as a team in the different activities of the camp. Each group chose a name, a chant and made a flag. Each group accumulated tickets, individually or collectively, for winning games, finding verses, answering questions during teaching, picking up trash, showing a good attitude, etc. The names chosen were Los Pumas, Guerreros de Dios, Los Intocables and Faithful Fighters. At the end of the camp, the tickets were counted, and the winning group was Los Intocables.

"During the Friday night teaching, several boys made decisions about committing to God. It was hard to say goodbye. Many greeted each other several times because they didn't want the camp to end. So we left with promises to see each other again. God bless these relationships between the young people of our churches, and may they serve to keep them firm in the path of the Lord."

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a really great week at Faith Chapel! The flu outbreak seems to be waning, and most of our people were back for our Palm Sunday service. We had our best number for worship in a long time, with three first-time visitors and we only had a few seats open. We will probably be in overflow mode for Easter. We continue to pray for those that are still out sick!

"We observed the Lord's supper Sunday evening and had our best attendance ever for that. Praise God!

"The drywallers made a good

showing last week. The taping, bedding and second coats are done — one more skim coat and we will be ready for texture and paint. We also got our permanent power hooked up — praise God! That temporary wire is no longer laying on pallets across the parking lot, and we can drive all the way around the building. It is likely we will start the footings for the classroom addition this week, and we can hardly wait to be in the new building. We are working hard, and things are coming together. The anticipation is so exciting for all our folks!

"We thank you again for all your support and especially for your prayers! God is answering them over and above what we can even imagine. We love you all."

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "Spring break has come and gone, but Easter is right around the corner. We look forward to celebrating the Risen Savior with all our Faith Journey family!

"We have had several new faces join our worship service over the last few weeks and we have enjoyed getting to know these guests. God is working in their lives and using the mission and its people to pour into others. It is such an honor to be a part of a BMA mission and doing the work of the Lord.

"Prayer has been our focus this month at Faith Journey. We are studying about the importance of a well-nurtured prayer life. Continually communicating with God through prayer is our way of developing and deepening our personal relationship with Him. The Scripture tells us to keep asking and you will receive, keep seeking and you will find and keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. A faithful, thankful prayer time is the key to a healthy, fulfilling spiritual relationship with Christ. Keep praying!"

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We continue with the work that the Lord entrusted us with to plant a healthy Hispanic church. Each week, we emphasize to our brothers and sisters that our mission is to make disciples and, as a church, our job is to equip them to do the work of ministry. We see the fruit of continuing to repeat this message and four new people joined a discipleship group this week — one in Pea Ridge and three in Springdale.

"Since we started our services over a year ago, we have been praying for men who will commit to forming them as future leaders of our church. This week I was approached by Franklin and Juan, who want me to start training them to be leaders of our church. What I have said is that Christian leadership is more about character than of charisma, and we must work hard in seeking holiness. Finally, in our Sunday service, we were able to have a beautiful moment of prayer and corporate worship and then listen to the Word of God."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, "With spring break, this was a slow week with only one Connection Group meeting. I'm looking forward to everything being back going this week and especially for our second coaches meeting on April 7 and hopefully launching a new group in the next week or two! I struggle with weeks like this, but I'm coming to understand that this up and down rhythm is just how it works. It is helping that now the question is, how is our walk with Christ impacting our homes and everyday life, rather than just focusing on attendance.

"The goal is that the gospel wouldn't be just something heard, but something that is transforming homes and individual lives."



Hispanic churches of Arkansas gather for youth camp.

PRAYER

(Continued From Page 1)

personal preferences and styles. Show me not only how to let go, but where to let go, so that I may heed Your commands more closely.

• **Commitment #4:** God, give my church and me a heart for our community. Let me see the people through Your eyes, and give me the courage and the wisdom to let go of this church, so that others who best reflect this community can lead us and teach us.

• **Commitment #5:** Lord, help me to grasp that all the money I think I have is really Yours. Help me to grasp that all the money our church has is not the church's, but Yours. Give us healthy giving hearts to use these funds according to Your purpose.

• **Commitment #6:** Lord, remind me that I am to be a Great Commission Christian in a Great Commission church. Remind me that, in Your strength, I am to do whatever it takes to reach out into my community with the transforming power of the gospel.

• **Commitment #7:** Lord, open my eyes to the needs of others. Show me how to live more like Your Son, who always put others' interests first, and especially show me that attitude as I serve in my church.

• **Commitment #8:** God, please give our pastor a heart and a vision to reach and minister to people beyond our own walls. Teach me to be the kind of church member who encourages and supports our pastor, so discouragement and disillusionment does not lead to departure.

• **Commitment #9:** Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me to pray consistently. Teach me to be a leader in prayer in my church, and teach me to keep passionate and believing prayer as the lifeblood of this church.

• **Commitment #10:** God, reignite the hearts of our church members, including me, to have a passion for the gospel. Teach our church to share the gospel with others. Teach us to live as men and women who

Reports — from the — Churches

Landmark, England added three member since last report; David Inzer, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, Waldo gained one by baptism; Jimmy Walker, pastor.

Oakland Heights, White Hall received two by letter; Wes Woolley, pastor.

Park Avenue, Searcy reports two by letter; Keith Lunceford, pastor.

are true bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ. Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose.

• **Commitment #11:** Lord, teach me the proper stewardship of all the material items You give me personally and in my church. Help me never let that stewardship evolve into obsession and idolatry, especially where I lose my perspective on what really matters.

This a call to action for intentional prayer for ourselves, one another, for your church to be known as a house of prayer and for our associational work together!

Details about the Call To Pray for Our Association

Here is the schedule leading up to April 16-18.

• **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

RECOMMEND

(Continued From Page 4)
tion of God's plan for marriage: one man and one woman

Whereas the ongoing battle is to dissolve the institution of marriage between one man and one woman; and

Whereas the media, social progressives and liberal churches seek to diminish the importance of true marriage, and

Whereas Christians reaffirm God's plan for marriage and sexual intimacy as one man and one woman legally married for life; and

Whereas any other relationship that involves sexual intimacy is considered outside the teachings of God's Word;

Be it therefore, resolved, that we promote Godly marriages and urge churches and messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Branson, Mo., April, 2024, to recognize the importance of the institution of marriage.

our association with a specific time of prayer during the morning worship services on April 7 and 14 (the two weekends before the meeting).

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 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.

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www.BaptistTrumpet.com/SE2024

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 to book him for your church (He has a special sermon for Mother's Day, May 12).



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



Invites applications for the following position

Executive Vice President

Primary Responsibilities: Day-to-day operation of the institution, including budgetary and personnel management.

Qualifications:

- 1) Earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution;
- 2) Administrative, organizational, planning and communication skills at the executive level; and
- 3) Active membership in a Baptist Missionary Association church.

Deadline for Submission: May 31

To be considered for the position of Executive Vice President, interested candidates must send a cover letter, resume (including references), and a statement of faith as PDF attachments to Board Chair Kirk Shelton at pastorkirk@icloud.com. Electronic submissions only. Background check required.

LIFEWORD T O D A Y

LIVE!

**Monday & Thursday
9 am (Central Time)**

Coordinating Council Chairman Richard Smith will be a guest on Lifeword Today on **Thursday, March 28 at 9 a.m.** He will discuss and answer any questions regarding the proposed recommendations from the Coordinating Council.

You can view Lifeword Today on Lifeword's Facebook page (facebook.com/lifeword) or at the Baptist Trumpet Facebook page (facebook.com/baptisttrumpet).

