

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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## Praying for Our Association (Part 5)

By Larry Barker, Director • Healthy Church Solutions

*Executive Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of six articles focused on "Prayer for Our Association." (See the March 6, 13, 20 & 27 issues for the first four 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.*

### Who, What and Why

On Sunday, April 7 and April 14, we're challenging churches and individuals to cover our association, leaders and churches in prayer prior to the BMA of America national meeting. It's nothing fancy because prayer isn't a fancy work, but a

learned love language wherein we connect with God as close to face-to-face as we can get and have access to His power, holiness and sustaining grace. We can't have enough conversation with God and in every sphere of our life. We need Him to work and move to help us be on His agenda. We want to see that happening more and more at our national meeting, in our association, in our local churches, in our families and in our own intimacy with Christ. So, we invite you to join us as a local church body, individually, with your family or with your Bible study group in a concentrated prayer effort the two weeks prior to the national meeting, scheduled for April 16-18 in Branson, Mo.

### How

We are utilizing the PRAY acronym, which we often use as a tool to practice the posture and language Jesus modeled when asked to teach His disciples how to pray (Matt. 6:10-13). On Sunday, April 7, we're asking churches to set aside time before, during or after the service to Praise and Repent (the first two letters of the PRAY acronym).

First, it's important to take time to praise God for who He is, what He has done and what He will do in the future. We'll concentrate on

three main areas of Praise:

- Praising God by declaring who He is **over our association**, what He has done in our association and what He has yet to do.
- Praising God by declaring who He is **over our local church**, what He has done in our church and what He has yet to do.
- Praising God by declaring who He is **in our lives as individuals**, what He has done in us and what He has yet to do.

By focusing first on Him, we are able to rightly hallow His name and character by declaring who He is and how great He is. Then, we can state the ways we see His kingdom power and His will being done, carried out and further accomplished. Praise gets our eyes off ourselves and where they should be — fixed on Him. It's only then that we can see ourselves rightly before a Holy God, and that should always lead to repentance.

Second, we don't shy away from taking time to pray in the humility of a repentant spirit. Paul reminds us, in Romans 7, that our sin nature wages war, and we are far from perfect Christlikeness. So, we're asking you to pray prayers of repentance over the three main areas we focused on before, repenting for anything the Holy Spirit brings to mind after praising Him.

- Repenting with our words and souls before the Lord at the associational level.
- Repenting with our words and souls before the Lord at the church level.
- Repenting with our words and souls before the Lord individually.

Usually, praising God uncovers that we have been guilty of believing untruths about our Father and that we need to repent of the lies we have believed. When we declare Him as our highest, we soon uncover other areas of priority in our lives that may be diminishing His presence and power and need to be repented of. A quick assessment tool for repentance can help us look at what we value most as an association, church and individual. We call it the 5 Cs:

- **Calendar** — what do we (I) spend the most time on and why?
  - **Contemplation** — what do we (I) find myself thinking about the most and why?
  - **Cash** — where do we (I) spend
- See PRAY, Page 4



## Gleaners Initiative Announced

By Dr. Jonathan Montgomery, Director • BMA Global Missionary Care

The BMA has an extensive and blessed missions heritage. For longtime supporters of our missions efforts, the word *Gleaner* is reminiscent of the resource from which missionary stories, news and updates were received. Individuals and families who shared their stories in the *Gleaner* magazine were highly esteemed and appreciated within our associational work.

Now, the word *Gleaner* is taking on a new significance for these special servants of the BMA. The newest initiative for Missionary Care is called "The Gleaners," an alumni association of sorts allowing BMA Global to continue providing encouragement and support to those who have served our missions ministry through the years.

Our former missionaries have close bonds because of their shared experiences on the field. In fact, I could not help but smile recently when I heard a missionary kid refer to a missionary couple as Uncle and Aunt. These Gleaners are indeed family. Through the BMA Global and Missionary Care ministries, we will be intentional in creating community and a sense of family for all missionary families.

The Gleaners ministry includes those who served through international and interstate BMA America missions work, and that includes the men and women who served and their children who grew up on the field. From the moment we commission new missionaries to serve in the States or foreign

See GLEANERS, Page 4



## MacLake to Headline National Meeting Pastor's Conference

By Heidi Sorrells, Pastor Advocate • Healthy Church Solutions

The Healthy Church Solutions team at BMA Global looks forward to praying and planning for the Pastor's Conference at the national meeting each year. The conference aims to equip and train pastors and church leaders in biblical disciplines and competencies that can be practically used when they get back home. Healthy Church Solutions partners with churches and individuals to provide church health and leader health resources. We place a high value on discipleship and the multiplication of healthy leaders. We often say "speed of the leader, speed of the team." A lack of ministry leaders who know how to listen and lead can affect outcomes in any church and hold pastors back from establishing healthy teams and systems.

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**CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE**  
PROFILE

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Terry Kimbrow  
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(L/R) Madalyn Tubbs, Allie McWhorter, Hannah Long, Ashley Henderson, Cameron Hardin, Kylie Germann, Eliza Derryberry

## CBC Honors Seven In White Coat Ceremony

The Central Baptist College Math and Science Department recognized seven students for their academic excellence by awarding them with white coats in a private ceremony held Monday, April 1. This event marked the 12<sup>th</sup> White Coat Ceremony to be held by the college. Each student achieved academic excellence, completed rigorous academic requirements set forth by Math and Science Department faculty and was approved as a recipient for their white coat.

“At most institutions, the white coat ceremony is a rite of passage; it is a way of welcoming new students into the medical profession,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister. “At Central Baptist College, the white coat symbolizes the high expectations science faculty have for their students. This ceremony is intended to impress upon our students the need to excel in their study of science, to love others, show compassion and to pursue their profession with diligence and integrity.”

The 2024 ceremony included a prayer of blessing led by Assistant Professor of Mathematics Amber Smith and the presentation of the honorees and their white coats by department faculty and the 2023 white coat members.

The 2024 White Coat Class is listed below with their major:

- **Eliza Derryberry**, Associate of Arts Science Emphasis;
- **Kylie Germann**, Bachelor of Science in Biology;
- **Cameron Hardin**, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences;
- **Ashley Henderson**, Bachelor of Science in Biology;
- **Hannah Long**, Bachelor of Arts in Biology;
- **Allie McWhorter**, Bachelor of Science in Biology; and
- **Madalyn Tubbs**, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences.

Central Baptist College Math and Science Department faculty include Math and Science Department Chair and Professor of Science Judy Gabbard, Associate Professor of Chemistry Dr. Katherine Gasaway, Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Rachel Scott and Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Mi-Seon Seong.

From the Math and Science Department, Central Baptist College offers the following bachelor's degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology,
- Bachelor of Science in Biology,
- Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and
- Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biosciences.

Additionally, minors are offered in Biology, Chemistry, Math and Science. To learn more about the Math and Science Department at Central Baptist College visit [cbc.edu](http://cbc.edu) or contact CBC Admissions at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or (501) 329-6873.

### Fall Semester Registration

Spring is here, and so is fall registration! Current students will now be  
**See CBC, Page 4**



**Sports News**  
By Erik Holth

### NAIA All-American

• **Kansas City, Mo., April 1** — The NAIA released their list of men's basketball All-Americans and CBC Mustang **Deshawn Corprew** earned a third-team selection to become the first All-American in men's basketball since Kelvin Robinson in 2021-22 and the seventh in program history.

### Softball

• **Conway, March 26** — Playing an in-town opponent for the first time in 16 years, CBC hosted the Warriors of Hendrix College at City of Colleges Park. CBC (12-14) swept the doubleheader, taking game one 4-1 before run ruling the Warriors (5-16) 17-2 in game two. CBC and Hendrix played at City of Colleges Park for the first time since April 2008, the second year of varsity softball at CBC. With the sweep, the Mustangs are now 8-2 all-time against the Warriors.

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 29** — Opening American Midwest Conference (AMC) play on the road, CBC was on the field at the Affton Sports Complex for a doubleheader with the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP) in St. Louis. CBC (14-14, 2-0 AMC) swept the doubleheader, pounding out 31 hits and 26 in 11-5 and 15-0 wins over UHSP (8-14, 1-5 AMC).

• **St. Louis, Mo., March 30** — Looking to run their winning streak to six in a row, CBC was at Stars Park for an AMC doubleheader with the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State. CBC (16-14, 4-0 AMC) ran their scoreless innings streak in the circle to 15 straight as they shutout HSSU (0-20, 0-8 AMC) 14-0 and 13-0.

### Baseball

• **North Little Rock, March 29** — Playing the first two games of a three-game AMC weekend series, CBC hosted the #12 Spartans of Missouri Baptist (MBU) at DeSalvo Memorial Stadium. CBC (21-8, 6-2 AMC) split with MBU (22-8, 7-1 AMC), dropping game one 11-5 before winning game two 13-5.

• **North Little Rock, March 30** — Looking to take their AMC series from #12 Missouri Baptist, CBC hosted the Spartans at DeSalvo Memorial Stadium. CBC (21-9, 6-3 AMC) couldn't finish the sweep, falling to MBU (23-7, 8-1 AMC) 19-4 in seven innings.

• **Paragould, April 1** — Playing their fourth game in as many  
**See SPORTS, Page 4**



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## Healthy Student Ministry: The Worker's Emotional Life

As mentioned in last week's article, student ministry can be stressful. It can cause sleepless nights and painful weeks as we help students navigate this world that is increasingly hostile toward believers. My children are grown, but even now, I worry about my future grandchildren and the culture that awaits them as teenagers. Needless to say, there is much to be concerned about. To add to the stresses of ministry, there are the everyday stresses of life and family that all of us deal with. However, if we wish to be helpful to our students, we need to have a grip on our emotional state. We don't have to walk around thinking everything is rainbows and lollipops, but we do need to be able to navigate stress and difficulties in an emotionally healthy manner.

Our family backgrounds are all different, so we will inevitably handle the emotions of life differently. It is important to understand what is healthy in this regard and what needs to be avoided. For example, among the many issues our students are dealing with is anxiety. It is important that we understand what it is, how it impacts people and what can be done about it. So, how do we grow and become better in this area? What are some things we should do as we serve in ministry with students and their families?

• **Be curious and learn about mental health.** Since we are facing an epidemic of mental disorders in our student population, we should do what we can to grow in our knowledge. Those who had the opportunity to go to Bible college, university or seminary may have had psychology or counseling classes that will help, but many did not have that privilege. If you find yourself in that place, read as much as you can. Talk with local counselors. Learn what you can, and you will be able to help your students and yourself in the process.

• **Consider seeing a counselor.** There was a day and age when mental health was not discussed at all. If you faced depression, anxiety or unresolved trauma, it was left to you just to figure it out. Today, that is not the case. If you have insurance, you can probably afford to see a counselor. My recommendation is to find one that shares your faith and belief because you want to be able to discuss those things openly. Additionally, you might consider meeting with one simply to maintain your emotional health. As a student ministry worker, you deal with many student issues that may pull you down. Speaking to someone may help you better navigate those feelings.

• **Don't be afraid to tackle the more difficult issues of your past.** Unresolved issues will manifest themselves in unpredictable ways. Take time to discuss the hard things in your life with someone. If you don't wish to spend time with a professional counselor, find a minister outside your local congregation who can help you work through your issues.

It is not enough for us to paste on a smile as we lead our ministries. We need to be in emotionally healthy places, and that requires work on our part and a willingness to be vulnerable. God created us as emotional beings, and working for health in that area honors God greatly.



## HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS

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# DON'T BE DECEIVED...

## Our Stunning Ability For Self-Deception

Submitting this article on April 1 (April Fool's Day) made me think about just how easy it is to deceive others and even ourselves. You can begin to think something and begin to believe things that simply are not true in the area of values versus our actions and in the arena of our relationships. It is way too easy to think you are doing well spiritually when you are not. Revelation 3:17 says, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Please notice that Jesus said they were blind, and that begins with self-deception.

In I John 1, there is a progression given of how you can claim certain things, but they just are not true. The Scriptures (v. 6) show that we can claim to have fellowship with God and still walk in darkness. This is lying to others and is called hypocrisy. Then the Scriptures say we can claim (v. 8) to have no sin. This is lying to ourselves and is called duplicity. As crazy as it sounds, verse 10 tells us that an individual can even get to where they attempt to lie to God, and that is called apostasy. You must admit that it is far too easy to talk ourselves into things we should not do and out of things we should be doing.

Have we deceived ourselves into thinking we are okay spiritually because we go to church, read our Bibles and strive to pray, while claiming God understands the sin in our lives or in our churches? The other day, listening to the radio, a song came on — "Honestly, We Just Need Jesus." This phrase struck me: "What used to be wrong, we say that it's right." Before we point the judgmental finger at "them," maybe we should first examine our own hearts and churches. Are there any areas of your life where there is a glaring contrast between who you say you are and who you

actually are? Is there any hypocrisy, duplicity or even apostasy present?

In a recent article by Thom Rainer, he describes what he refers to as CHRINOs (**Christians In Name Only**). He states that 69% (nearly 7 out of 10) of American adults self-identify as Christians. With an adult population of 18 years and older (census.gov) of 259 million people, 179 million people in the United States self-identify as Christian. It seems reasonable that if this were true, our culture would be far different than what we are experiencing today. Just because you claim something does not mean it is so. There is a huge difference between professing to be a Christian and possessing Christ as your Lord and Savior.

The question must be asked, "How many are really Christians?" How many genuinely believe Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation? How many can affirm with conviction John 3:3 — "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!" How do we attempt to quantify those who claim the label of Christians? How many are actually CHRINOs? Let me make this very clear — neither you nor I can look inside a person's heart and know where they stand with God. The Bible says you will know a person by the fruit on their tree, and some are obvious, but some are not.

Is it even fair to make an estimate or to make assumptions that cannot be proven? The greater issue here is the danger of giving someone a false sense of security by allowing them to believe they are okay with God when, actually, they are not. If someone lives like they are lost or acts like they are lost, we should treat them like they are lost; do not assume. There is no perfect approach to this task, but here are a few things to consider and some filters that can and should be used. Jesus stated

clearly that He is the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except by Him.

• **Our first filter, of course, is the Word of God — doctrine.** The primary filter in this claim by 69% of Americans self-identifying as Christians is the belief that Jesus is the only way of salvation. If anyone says they are a Christian but does not affirm that salvation is in Christ alone, they should not be considered as a true believer in Christ and are in need of a Savior. This is not full proof and will definitely need much more investigation and conversation. Take the time to find out what they base their claim upon. Maybe they misunderstand the question or are confused, but II Cor. 13:5 makes it clear that everyone should examine themselves.

Here is a big part of the problem — so many of us emphasized that if you prayed this prayer, you would go to Heaven that people are trusting in a prayer when they "accepted" Jesus Christ, but they made an intellectual or emotional decision without their heart being involved. Even Billy Graham wondered if maybe three-fourths of the church were lost and without Christ, based on the parable of the sower. As a missionary in Romania, if you asked, "Are you a Christian?" most would answer "yes" because they say they are 98% Orthodox and considered a Christian nation. That is like saying if you were born in a garage that would make you a car.

• **After the most important filter, doctrine, there is also the research filter, which brings to light whether what people claim to be true is actually true.** Even among those who align themselves as Bible-believing evangelicals, only 55% affirm salvation is by Christ alone. That is very alarming. If you look at church membership, Barna reports that, in 2021, 47% of Americans reported they were a church member, down from 70% in 2000. Rainer suggests that 40% of church members are most likely CHRINOs. If you just do the math, it does not add up that 69% of our population are born-again believers.

• **Now, let's look at this through the practical filter.** This was not written to cause us to be discouraged or despondent, but to call us back to our mission. There is much work to be done in the area of evangelism if 4 out of 10 members are not Christians. This means that when you are in a conversation with someone about the gospel, you should not end it when they say, "I am a Christian," "I was baptized" or "I am a member of this church!" We have work to do, and complacency cannot and should not be an option.

# Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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## When Heartburn is Good

As I pondered the Easter service at Chenal Valley Baptist Church, I later read from Luke regarding the two men on the Emmaus Road and their experience with the risen Christ. "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32 NIV). I was just thinking that there are certainly times when heartburn is a good thing.

### Christ's Effect on Believers' Hearts

Like those two men, every believer's heart has benefited greatly from the truths of God's Word. I share with you some Scriptures that declare the blessings of our **heartburn**:

• **His Word guards our hearts.** The apostle Paul informed us that we have reason to rejoice because of our relationship with Christ. He further said, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). The men on the Emmaus Road didn't understand who they had been with until they heard the words of the Lord. It was then that they experienced a spiritual heartburn. Afterward, they had great peace. Today, believers are blessed to have our hearts guarded by the Holy Spirit, and that results in us having the same kind of peace.

• **His Word dwells in our hearts.** Those men were strengthened because they had been with Jesus. We can be glad because, by having a personal relationship through salvation, we are also strengthened. Christ dwells in us because we placed our faith in Him. Paul wrote, "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Eph. 3:16-17).

• **His peace rules our hearts.** The two men who had walked and talked with Christ immediately shared their experience with others. That is what happens when we have the peace that only a personal relationship with Christ provides. Horatio Spafford penned the words to a great song following the deaths of his daughters at sea. "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well with my soul."

Paul wrote the Colossian church: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:15-16).

### The Good Heartburn is Ours

The words of the resurrected Christ caused the two men to experience burning hearts. This past Sunday, Christians around the world turned their attention to the triumphant resurrection. Our hearts should burn within us because of that victory and because we have personal relationships with Jesus Christ. Such heartburn is really good!

## PRAY

(Continued From Page 1)

our (my) money most freely and why?

• **Conversation** — what do we (I) talk about the most and why?

• **Cross** — how do our (my) actual values match up to the way we (I) actually value the gospel and Christ?

When we dig deeper, we can uncover fleshly roots that God desires to expose and cut away:

• Wrong motives, quarrels, unforgiveness, envy or lack of unity.

• Giftings that aren't being used for the kingdom or callings ignored.

• Lack of obedience to the Lord in cheerfully giving.

• We may have forgotten how precious the local church is to Christ or be neglectful of His Word and lingering with Him in prayer.

• Maybe we've been inward-focused and have not joined God on mission by seeking the lost, building relationships with them and witnessing.

• Are we discipling anyone?

A great passage to read and pray through is I Cor. 13:4-7. When we compare ourselves to this kind of agape love and Christ Himself, we have much to repent for, especially in our attitudes and heart posture toward others.

We will also have a prayer room available at the national meeting to continue praying this way, utilizing the whole PRAY model. Please look for signs and join us there for prayer and prayer resources. If you'd like a pdf of the PRAY acronym or the 5 Cs or need other ideas about how you can be in prayer, please reach out to Heidi Sorrels at heidi@bmaglobal.org. We'd also love to hear from you before or after the national meeting to know you are praying and to celebrate what God does through the prayers of His people.

## CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

able to meet with their faculty advisors and set their fall 2024 schedule.

Incoming students that are working through the enrollment process will also be registering for classes the following week. In addition to creating their schedules, they will also register for an orientation event called Connect Day. This extremely helpful event will prepare students and parents for success. The following dates have been set — April 23 and June 12. More dates will be released in the coming weeks. To learn more about Connect Days, visit [cbc.edu/connect](http://cbc.edu/connect).

High School Seniors that have not started the enrollment process, there is still time to apply! Visit [cbc.edu/apply](http://cbc.edu/apply) to start the application process. Contact admissions at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or call (501) 329-6873 with any questions.

## GLEANERS

(Continued From Page 1)

countries, they and their families are added to this community.

The first step to get involved is simple — we need current contact information for individuals and families so we can communicate regularly with them in the same way we encourage and reach out to families presently serving. The national meeting in April will be the first public opportunity for former missionaries and their children to visit the Missionary Care booth and fill out an information card. Those who cannot attend the meeting in Branson may register online by visiting the Missionary Care page at [bmamissions.org/missionarycare](http://bmamissions.org/missionarycare) after April 18.

Also, during the national meeting, there will be an opportunity for family photos of all Gleaners. At 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, right before the Legacy Missionary Service, we will gather all missionary families for a group photo on the main conference stage. This photo will be the first of many as we plan family reunions and other gatherings for our Gleaners.

A major reason for this initiative is to allow the Missionary Care team to better serve those presently on the field. Among our Gleaners, there are many who can help by serving as coaches, mentors and encouragers for the work being done around the world. As I talk with former missionaries, they have offered suggestions, personal experiences and advice on ways to care for our missionaries. These conversations have been insightful and beneficial for our entire care team.

As I began my ministry plans with Missionary Care, one of my early prayers was for the Lord to raise up an army of encouragers to support our missionary families. As I prayed about this army, the Lord reminded me of our veteran missionaries who faithfully served Christ and our association of churches during the history of the BMA. Our Gleaners will continue to lead, serve, inspire and “fight the good fight of the faith” as they carry out the mission of God for many years to come.

If any of our Gleaners (former BMA America missionaries and their children) know they will attend the national meeting in April, please email me at [jonathan@bmaglobal.org](mailto:jonathan@bmaglobal.org). This will greatly assist us in making advance plans prior to the meeting.

[cbc.edu/apply](http://cbc.edu/apply) to start the application process. Contact admissions at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or call (501) 329-6873 with any questions.

## CONFERENCE

(Continued From Page 1)

As our team prayed about the conference and who and what would be most beneficial to our group, Mac Lake and his leadership principles came to mind. We emphasize leadership topics throughout the year through our pastor Zoom discussions, Refresh trainings and our weekly Healthy Church Podcast. Our pastors crave personal growth and the growth of healthy teams for the sake of the gospel. So, this April, we are thrilled to welcome Mac Lake, who will share his expertise in leadership development and deployment.

Mac has a driving passion for leadership development and a long history of pastoring, planting and creating healthy leadership strategies. In 1997, he planted Carolina Forest Community Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C. In 2004, he began serving as Leadership Development Pastor at Seacoast Church in Charleston, S.C., where he served for over six years. In July 2010, Mac joined with West Ridge Church to become the Visionary Architect for the LAUNCH Network. Five years later, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) adopted the LAUNCH Church Planting system and Mac joined the NAMB team to help them integrate and implement the LAUNCH church planting system. He founded the Multiply Group in 2019, an organization committed to helping leaders and churches multiply. He is the author of seven books, including *The Multiplication Effect* and *Discipling Leaders* series. Mac and his wife, Cindy, live in Charleston, S.C., and have three grown children and six grandchildren.

One of Mac's resources, the *Discipling Leaders* Series is something we currently use at Healthy Church Solutions and BMA Global to disciple leaders. This series of training guidebooks offers a practical method of coaching and a process to build a leadership pipeline from within your church or organization. One young leader said this about going through Mac's training guide with our coach: “Learning how to slow down and practice spiritual leadership, and deepen character and integrity, is helping me become a leader worth following.”

We hope you'll join us at the national meeting and make plans to attend the sessions with Mac Lake on Wednesday, April 17, from 9-11 a.m. You can learn more about his approach to leadership development at [Youtube.com/maclake](http://Youtube.com/maclake), [maclakeonline.com](http://maclakeonline.com) or [multiplygroup.org](http://multiplygroup.org).

## SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

days (following a day off), CBC was at Pioneer Park for a matchup with the Crowley's Ridge College (CRC) Pioneers in the final meeting between the two teams before CRC joins the American Midwest Conference in July. CBC (22-9) run ruled CRC (6-17) again, winning 13-1 over the Pioneers.

### Women's Golf

• **Mountain Home, April 1** —

Playing for the third consecutive week, CBC was on the course for the Battle at Big Creek. CBC shot an opening round 333 and sits in second place, 22 shots behind the leaders, Columbia. Individually, **Alyssa Hagewood** shot an even par 72 and is in the lead by two shots. **Laney Crutchfield** is in 10<sup>th</sup> after an opening round 83, while **Abby Kirby** posted an 85 and **Thaylia Ramirez** shot a 93.



**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](mailto:cooperr@manilaschools.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Pack-A-Pew/Pasta Sunday;** April 21; 11 a.m. worship, lunch, afternoon worship; John Durham, pastor.

**Bluegrass Gospel Singing;** April 21, 5 p.m.; featuring The Greer Family; Union, Rosston; Joe Brown, pastor.

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

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

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming;** May 19; Kellogg Valley, No. Little Rock; Paul Rice, pastor.

**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.

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# Spotlight On Missions

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## Candra Barnett • Romania

Vine Primavara! Spring is coming! After a long winter, the flowers in my yard are blooming, and many spiritual seeds are sprouting at last! We are so thankful for all God did this winter, and are looking forward with joy to all He will do this spring and summer!

### • Thanksgiving Celebrations

— Fall brought Thanksgiving, both American-style and Romanian! The Romanian churches celebrate “Ziua Multumirii” — a day of thanks, one Sunday out of October. Everyone brings things from their gardens to represent giving back to the Lord for the harvest He’s given us. Pam and I were honored to help arrange the presentation of fruits and veggies, and we loved celebrating the special day with over 100 people at church that Sunday! We also celebrated American Thanksgiving with a sweet, nonbelieving friend. Please pray for this friend, Carla, as we continue to witness to her.

### • Agape Leaders Retreat

— This fall, we took some time to both spoil and train the hard-working leaders of Agape. We took three families to the beach to pray, rest, fellowship together and plan for the future. Through our conversations on this trip, our new discipleship groups were born. The Lord blessed our time, and we are so thankful for these families!

• **Christmas Season** — Christmas was busy as always, with ministry opportunities galore. We gave out shoes and food bags in the gypsy village, chocolate chip cookies to all our friends and church family and organized a kids’ Christmas pageant at Agape! We also soaked up time with the Risner kids, who came home for the month. It was so sweet to all be together again.

• **First Small Group Meeting** — We began our discipleship groups in January! We have split our church into three small groups that meet weekly to study the Bible and fellowship. On top of that, as their leaders, we check in on each member weekly to see how they

are doing spiritually. Bryan, Pam and I are leading a group comprised of 2 families and 15 teenagers! It is a challenge to disciple so many teens, but we enjoy working to get to know them better and are praying the Lord will use this to grow them each in Christ!

### Prayers

• The kids being here for Christmas was wonderful, but we miss them dearly. Pray for our hearts!

• For our church plant as we work on a meeting place solution.

• For many who are on the fence to fully commit to Agape.

• Cristina, my massage therapist who is a nonbeliever. Pray God will give me the right words to witness to her.

• For our upcoming ladies’ day event. We are asking all our church ladies to bring a nonbelieving friend.

• That God will bless Return Church plant (Brasov) and our gypsy ministry (Santandrei).

• That God will make missionaries, pastors, leaders and servants out of Agape kids!

### Praises

• Every person from Agape is plugged into a discipleship group!

• Agape church plant just had its one-year birthday! God is so good to us!

• We had large turnouts for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and we pray that these new connections will be cultivated.

• Our church is growing in its knowledge of God and His Word. Pray now that we can encourage the church to be missions-minded.

• Summer is coming! We are excited and praying about many new outreach opportunities this spring and summer. Please pray with us.

• My Romanian language skills are growing. I’m back to language classes, hoping to become more fluent!

(candrainromania@gmail.com)

## Romania Missionaries In Africa

What were your missionaries to Romania doing in Africa? We went to Africa to encourage our fellow BMA missionaries and friends, the Quillman’s, to remind ourselves of our own passion for missions and to ignite a love for missions in Agape church plant!

Though God helps us and delivers us through all kinds of trials, it is still a fact that the missionary life can be a lonely one at times. No one we come in contact with on a daily basis quite understands the kinds of things we face. That’s why it was such a blessing to spend time with our missionary friends, Sharon and Mical Quillman, on this trip.

While we were in Zambia, I was able to teach 168 kids who came to a children’s program at the church. What a huge blessing that was! Many of these kids know little to nothing about the God of the Bible, and it was such a privilege to share the creation story with them.

Life in Africa is so different from life in Romania, just as life in Romania is so different from life in America. My heart has always been on fire for missions. As I have spent the last five years in Romania though, Romania has felt more and more like home and less and less like a mission field. Visiting Zambia reminded me of my passion for the lost, and set me on fire again to come back to Romania and serve with renewed vigor.

As I returned home to Romania, I had a desire to share with my Agape kids and challenge them in a special way. I presented a few Sundays ago on my time in Africa and have challenged them to raise money for children’s Bibles to send to the kids in Africa. They were excited to help, and up for the challenge. Please pray for them as they learn more and more about missions and sharing the gospel with others.

As we returned from our time in Africa, we felt a desire to share our time and our passion for missions with our church plant here. We have spent the last few weeks sharing about Africa and missions, and even have a Romanian couple willing to return with us this summer! It is so exciting for us to see Romanians becoming excited for and interested in missions. It is our dream to see a missionary sent out

See BARNETT, Page 6



## Bryan & Pam Risner • Romania

What in the world happened to the Risners and their updates? Our writer (Melody), Lindsey and Landon graduated high school in Romania and moved back to America. It is one of many gaps we have had since our kids graduated and moved back to the States. We enjoyed having them home for Christmas and have missed them dearly since they returned to America (hard for me to call it their home).

In addition to Christmas ministry responsibilities and festivities, we celebrated New Year’s together, the twin’s 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, and my (Pam’s 41<sup>st</sup>) birthday.

There is something special about missionaries serving other missionaries. We spent a week serving the Quillmans and their ministry in Zambia. I’m not sure who received the greater blessing, us or them. We will share more in a future update.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship, our gypsy children in our two communities received new shoes and a Christmas gift. All the families in the two Gypsy communities also received food bags for Christmas.

We are very blessed to have young adults attend and be involved at Agape church.

We are a big, small group of 23 members. Our weekly attendance averages 18-20. As spiritual parents, our goal is to check in regularly throughout the week and encourage our group to read and study Scripture.

Is there anything sweeter than a children’s Christmas play? These kids worked hard and did a terrific job.

### Praise Reports

- Agape Church Plant is one year old
- Agape is growing quickly in the area of discipleship
- Agape Church launched successful discipleship groups
- A baptism in December
- Attendance was great for Thanksgiving and Christmas programs
- The kids are in their second semester in college at Central Baptist College
- The kids were here for Christmas break
- Spring weather has arrived
- Our prayer and financial partners
- The opportunity to serve in Romania
- Ordained two pastors
- Agape Leaders’ Retreat
- Mission trip to Zambia

### Prayer Needs

- Agape Church
- Meeting location to be resolved
- All attendees to fully commit to the church
- March 12 Ladies’ Event: connect non-believers to Agape
- To be evangelical: missions locally and abroad
- Summer programs
- Upcoming baptism service
- One more committed adult for us to apply as a legal church entity in Romania
- Salvation for my friends, Carla, Csilla, Ileana, Anette and Vivienne
- Peace with the kids being back in America
- God’s blessing on the Gypsy Children’s Ministry and Return Church (Brasov) Plant

(risnersinromania@gmail.com)

# Michael & Laura Beth Strong • Minneapolis, Minn.

*“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (II Cor. 12:9-10 ESV).*

Since I last shared, God has been doing quite a few potentially puzzling things. For one, we experienced two break-ins in two weeks and a third attempt a week after. Over \$6,000 worth of electronics and equipment were stolen. We lost everything we use for our worship services, outreach concerts and family movie nights. Bobby (you likely know that name by now) and I walked in on the destruction after the second break-in when we came in the building for the weekly Friday morning prayer meeting. I'd be lying if I said it didn't really impact me. Honestly, it hurt. It caused significant pain in the moment. I couldn't think of how we would move forward because our services are on Saturdays and there wouldn't be time to get everything back up and running. But God...

As I shared about the break-ins, we saw God do something amazing. We had brothers reach out to encourage us. We had people who wanted to help us. Today, thanks to a generous church, we have almost all the money raised to replace the equipment. We also had a couple of dear brothers from Freedom-Works, the place I volunteer each week leading Bible studies, contact us and surprise us with a system we could use until we got our own. We didn't want to lose this system, too, so I rented a storage room offsite and packed it away. We went back to the hymnals and sang in acapella. God blessed us as our people got to show how much more valuable God is than anything we lost. It was almost like nothing was taken. The impact on our service was so much smaller than I thought it would be, and it was one of the first times I got to hear all our people singing (maybe the music is too loud)! I can only praise God for the way He turns losses into great gain.

The Twins and my father had birthdays — their birthdays are all on the same day. Laura, Bobby and I took the kiddos to an indoor playground, and we celebrated with family. God blessed the time. I love seeing how the kids are growing, but I also hate it. It goes too fast.

We also had a couple of major business meetings. We had one of the first non-unanimous votes



ever. This vote was on adjusting our budget to lower expenses due to the limited amount of funds we are receiving. The group was about half and half, with some wanting to take the cuts and the other half wanting to continue without taking the cuts. We ended up voting on praying about it for a month. This was a blessing to experience. The next month, we took up the old business and discussed what God was leading the church to do. This time we had a unanimous vote in favor of the cuts.

Our meeting last month addressed another hard issue — church discipline. We had a list of members who are not actively engaged in meaningful membership for various reasons. I shared the work Isaiah and I had been engaged in to call the old members back to join us and take part. I then asked the church to vote to remove the members unless there was reason to leave them on the rolls. Again, we had a divided group. Instead of moving forward, I asked the group to reach out to the missing members on behalf of the church and meet again this month to vote on what to do rather than divide the church. We had a unanimous vote to take this course of action. Since then, we have seen three members return and do so consistently. We look forward to others doing the same in the near future. We also saw an increase in volunteers at our weekly service.

Business meetings are important to me. I see them as another gift from God to disciple our people. We get to teach biblical wisdom on matters that impact our people in their own homes and at work. My hope is our people will grow in this wisdom and become even better equipped to glorify God in how they oversee the responsibilities He gives them in and outside the church. We work on financial wisdom, like budgets

and planning events. We work on prioritization principles due to our size and limited resources. We work on doctrinal issues like membership. We work on practical theology like how to live out the things we believe. And in all of it, we learn to do these things by faith rather than by means that come from some source other than the Word of God.

What we have seen is that God is able to take the things Satan and his demonic forces would love to use to end our work and instead use it to grow our faith and increase our love. We have seen Him take us through loss and potential division and use both for increasing our unity and faith. He is a faithful God!

Please pray for us, as there are several other challenges going on internally. We have some people going through some really hard things, as you are probably also walking through with your people. With most of our group being new believers, we are doing our best to be involved in the lives of our people to help them face these challenges and mature in their faith and character. We can't do near what we would like to do. We need prayer for our people to overcome sin they are now fighting.

We also need prayer for ongoing needs, long-term needs, to accomplish the work God has here in Minnesota. We need prayer for ongoing provision. We need prayer to continue to add partners that get church planting in hard places is very profitable for the kingdom, but also requires significantly longer time frames than some other locations. We need co-laborers who are mature and able to come and walk with members who have the gifts to grow into future leaders, but need to grow in sound doctrine, character and their skillsets. This is especially true for the women's ministry. Only

my wife, who is also limited due to needs at home with our many children and her own health, has been a Christian for several years.

One last prayer request is for our membership class. We have five new potential members, with at least one being a young man who was saved at a recent service. We recently met to work through the roughly four-hour class. Please ask God to give clarity to the attendees and continue to grow our unity around the purpose and

plan He has for this church plant.

Thank you for your prayers and your partnership in the gospel ministry.

Also, I am trying to figure out how to get to the national meeting. I am the clerk for the Baptist Publishing House and would prefer to be there in person, but I would also like to meet with anyone who God may be leading to find out more about the ministry here and how you can partner. Please email me at [mike@nncmpls.com](mailto:mike@nncmpls.com) if you would like to set up some time to meet.

One area I want to put out there where we need short-term help is in regard to surveying the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis this summer. This would be impossible to do in the time we have available this summer if we end up limited to our small group of members, but with a few churches coming out to lock arms with us and take the task on, we could definitely accomplish it. We would also like to start feeding some specific groups around our part of town and could use partners to help us accomplish that for a year or two. Thanks for praying about how you might be able to answer the call to make disciples and plant churches in Minnesota.

## BARNETT (Continued From Page 5)



from Romania by a BMA church one day! Will you be praying for this with us?

### Prayers for Zambia

- There is a huge drought going on there — pray for rain and relief.
- Pray for Mickeal and Sharon Quillman, our amazing BMA missionaries there who are serving in mighty ways.
- Pray for Chabantu Baptist Church, that many churches will come from this plant and that God will be glorified in the surrounding villages.

### Ways to Help!

- Partner with Agape Sunday School classes to help buy children's Bibles for the kids in Africa!
- Donate to provide a scholarship for a Romanian to go on a mission trip!
- Spend specific time in prayer for a missionary to rise up out of Agape Church.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NIV).*

*(candrainromania@gmail.com)*



## Siripong & Jessie Yaebeang • Thailand

We noticed that there was a guy selling idols/Buddha images on the stand of the road in front of our neighborhood. The moment I got there, he tried to show me what he had. The most expensive one he had cost several thousands of dollars for one piece. I gently but firmly told him that I am Christian, that I worship God, not idols, and I just wanted to talk to him. He was very friendly, and we got to speak for several minutes. I left him two gospel tracts (with our contact information) and encouraged him to read them, which he said he would. Please pray for this man (and many more who give their lives to idols). A small conversation and encounter like this remind us of the great need for the gospel here.

It's been a while since we shot some videos answering some questions that people have asked, so recently we took the time to record some. I addressed several important questions.

In our last update, we asked you to pray for a lady named Anne, that has been coming to our church. She's still coming every Sunday! She has also been reading the Bible and other gospel-centered materials we gave her. I started meeting with her during the week (along with another member from our church) to talk about the gospel. We plan to do this for about a month or so. Please pray that the Lord will open her heart.

This past month, two church members took the next step in their service by leading the adult Sunday School! This may be a small thing for churches already established and full of gifted men/women, but this is big for a new church plant like ours! As I was helping them get ready, they seemed to be most concerned about the end, where members could ask questions about the lesson. I encouraged them that they would be able to answer if they studied/prepared the lesson, and I will also be in the room to help them. Both did well, and I'm thankful they are willing to

serve in this way, in addition to the other areas where they already serve.

I recently started on my next writing project, which I've wanted to do for some time—the parables of Jesus. I will cover two main things—the fundamental understanding of the parable and the studying of several parables. Lord willing, I hope to finish most of it, if not all, by the end of this year. It's a bigger project, but I'm excited to study and learn from Christ's parables. Please pray that the Lord will give me wisdom and strength.

We took a road trip during the week to meet up with my family up north. Though it was brief, we were glad to see everyone in my family (except one of my older sisters). It was especially nice to see and spend some time with my dad. But after we got back to Bangkok, his condition got worse, and he lost a lot of blood and was taken to the hospital. While he was waiting to go to the hospital, he called me with the realization that his time could be near. We are thankful for each day the Lord is extending for him. I appreciate your prayers for him.

We were thrilled to welcome four Burmese students at our church recently. They study at a university not far from our church. For three of them, it was their first time ever at a church. Interestingly, two of them know some Thai since their hometown is close to the Thai border. I got to visit with them before and after church. We also invited them to our house for supper one evening to get to know them and see how we can best serve them. They told us they have been living here for almost a year and this was the first home they had been invited to in Thailand. It's our honor. Please pray for them while they are here and for their home country, Burma. Several parts of this nation have been going through some really tough times recently.

Since I usually preach through books in the Bible (i.e., I'm now

preaching through Ephesians), I rarely get to preach a topical message. But this past month, I had one particular Sunday that was appropriate to pause from studying Ephesians. So, I preached one precious attribute of God—His love. In this message, I invited our people to behold 12 biblical characteristics of God's love (i.e., it's a Trinitarian love, an eternal love, the highest love, an electing/sovereign love, the holy love, a sacrificial love, a jealous love and 5 more!). It was a tremendous blessing for me to meditate and teach on these attributes.

I encourage you to study and meditate on the attributes of God (or preach/teach at your church, if applicable). There are several helpful resources out there on the attributes of God—*Show Me Your Glory* by Steve Lawson, *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer, *The Attributes of God* by A.W. Pink, *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer, *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul, *The Sovereignty of God* by Jeffrey Johnson and *Knowing the Living God* by Paul Washer.

A few days after I finished my ninth-grade year, I hopped on my motorcycle called a "Honda Wave" and left my small village to pursue an unknown journey/future in Bangkok. That was March 2004, and this month marks 20 years! From March 2004 to March 2024, a lot has happened, with countless stories and memories (both good and bad). Looking back, one thing I see more clearly than anything else is the grace of God. I'm thankful for Him and people God placed along the way to display His grace, which included many of you. May His grace be with you as well. Twenty years later (and counting), God is still working—and so is that motorcycle!

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. We love hearing from you, and it's always a great encouragement. So please feel free to write me and/or Jessie at thailand.forthisglory@hotmail.com. Grace and peace to you and your family!

## AJ • Reaching the 10/40 Window

*Editor's Note: This missionary's name and ministry location are not being shared for security reasons.*

Wow! I can't believe it has already been two months since I returned to my training location. Thank you for your prayers back in January as you prayed for safe travels. It was an eventful travel day for sure! After three flight cancellations and several delayed flights, I finally arrived with another classmate at 11p.m.

It was a great transition reconnecting with local friends, friends on campus and getting back into the routines. I have come to really love the city where I am living. It is so different from where I grew up, but has felt more and more like home as time passes. I especially love visiting the beach and reveling in God's creation as I do homework.

Time passes so quickly. As I am excited to come home and see family and friends, I have absolutely loved my time here and often tear up at the fact that we only have two months or so left. Please pray for me as I try to make the most of the time God has given me here.

Quiero Agradecerte Dios in Spanish means "I want to thank you, God!" It is a song we sang at church recently and resonates so much with how I am feeling right now. God has given me so many incredible new experiences this semester and so many new friends!

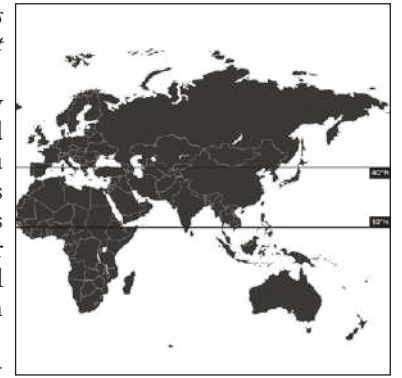
I have learned how to make tortillas and sweet pumpkin (dulce de calabaza) with local friends. Flour tortillas were on the top of my bucket list and my language helper (who is a cook) graciously taught me how to make them. They are so simple and easy!

This semester we got to choose a local Spanish church to get involved in. I asked several of you to pray about this decision and thank you for doing so. It has been such a joy to get to know the people at my church. It has been so uplifting to worship in Spanish, try my best to understand a Spanish sermon (our pastor speaks really fast) and get involved with the young adults and the women's ministry. We are always encouraged to push into our unbelieving friends here, which is great practice for the next context when there may or may not be believers, or a church, within reach. I cannot help but give thanks to the Lord for the brothers and sisters in Christ I have met while here. Just yesterday, I was at a jóvenes (youth) meeting with some friends from church and I couldn't help but tear up during the prayer as I realized that I will one day be worshipping around the throne of God with these brothers and sisters.

A few weeks ago, I got to go on a road trip with my roommate and her local friend to a city about two hours from us. They were running a half marathon, and I went to be their cheerleader. It was so exciting to get to know another city and hear the interesting history behind it. At one point, the population of this city was over 80% Chinese. Nowadays, there are not that many Chinese, but they did leave behind some amazing Chinese food, which we did get to experience! I recently had the privilege of attending a youth rally with my local church friends. We had a devotional, then did some community service projects, ate lunch together and closed with an amazing time of singing and preaching. On the way back, we stopped at the beach for some coffee and pizza!

I will leave you with some encouragement from the book of Acts. We have been slowly making our way through this book in class this semester. In chapter 5, the apostles are arrested and brought before the council (again) for preaching the resurrection. After they were threatened and beaten, their response, similar to that of chapter 4, was pure boldness given by the Holy Spirit. "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus" (Acts 5:41-42 ESV). Not only did they continue preaching Christ despite the council's threats, they **rejoiced** for their suffering. They were rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Christ. That is my prayer for myself, my friends, my family and my fellow students here—that we would all not lose sight of the worthiness of Christ. May you be filled with the boldness of the Holy Spirit to proclaim His Word!

Join with me in praying that I will be able to discern teammates, a location and a people group to serve among long-term and for God to lead me to a family to stay with during our homestay week in April. Also join me in praising God for the new experiences He has been giving me with local friends and for my church family here. (arkslp@protonmail.com)





## Mickeal & Sharon Quillman • Zambia

Mwatambulwa ku Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church! I say this almost every Sunday morning and during our weekly Bible studies. Mwatambulwa (Mwah-Tom-Bull-Wah) is a Citonga (one of the 72 languages spoken here in Zambia) word that means “you are welcome here.” Chabantu, the name chosen for our first church plant, is also a Citonga word that means “all of the people.” Our heart is to bring all the gospel to all the people, no matter where we are, and these few words in Citonga are a constant reminder of why God has brought us here to Zambia. Everyone is welcome to receive the free gift of salvation and be discipled, regardless of who they are or where they are from.

God has blessed us to work within two tribal chiefdoms, Sekute and Musokatwane, with 20 different villages. We currently have around 10 village headmen and one senior headman who regularly attend our Sunday services or one of our weekly Bible study groups.

We began another discipleship class on Tuesday afternoons at the beginning of March. We are going through the “Our Doctrine” workbook the Baptist Publishing House has made available on its website. If you haven’t visited their website lately or used their resources, I urge you to call Jordan Tew and let him share the available resources. This is an unpaid endorsement, but I will accept coffee.

You may wonder why we are taking the time with new believers to go through doctrine. For me, this is one of the essential teachings all believers should know. It is not just about why you are a Baptist or part of the BMA, etc., but what do you believe and can you articulate your beliefs to others? Just this month, we have been able to really dig into what the Bible says about who God

is, what the Trinity is and what we believe about the inerrancy of Scripture. II John 1:9 talks about abiding in the doctrine of Christ. How can we abide in something we have never been taught? I have been overwhelmed with joy about the number of new believers attending, and our group continues to grow each week! In addition to new believers, we have five men attending who are also being trained as pastors to help plant additional churches and lead Bible studies.

As I mentioned pastoral training, we have five men who have a calling on their lives to be pastors and church planters within the local villages. We are utilizing the 10-book curriculum entitled *Bible Training Centre for Pastors*, which begins with “How to Study the Bible” and continues from there. This is a multi-year “seminary-type” course for men who do not have the opportunity to attend a seminary. This training is designed to aid called men of God in preaching the Word and pastoring their flock.

When these men finish the fifth book in the course, they will start training another man from book one. This allows us to train and equip pastors and build multiplication of disciples into our church DNA from the start. In addition to pastors being trained and discipled, we also have several laymen and women who will begin going through *Bible Training Centre for Leaders* with the same emphasis on beginning to disciple another person at the halfway point. We believe this helps us fulfill Paul’s instruction to Timothy in II Tim. 2:2.

All the training and discipleship we are doing now is laying the groundwork for another church plant in the near future as God leads. We will begin the weekly Bible study in this new village area this month. I



have met with the local headman and received permission and a location to meet under a huge shade tree! These men and women we are discipling will provide the leaders and teachers as we continue to bring all the gospel to all the people. (Chabantu)

Pray with us that God will break the stronghold of witchcraft in one of our local headmen. His wife is a new believer and is being treated poorly for following Jesus and attending services. When she attends Bible study or church services, she is not allowed to eat at home that day and is locked out of their home to sleep outside, but she is still attending.

Also, pray for food within the villages. The drought over the last three years has caused a food scarcity. Many are only getting one meal per day consisting of boiled ground white corn (Nshima). The government has just opened its emergency grain stores.

We also ask you to pray for the future of the Baptist Missionary Association Bible Institute. We are preparing a place where all the students can come on a regular basis for their training, while giving us a place to land so we aren’t driving four hours every day.

Currently, we need a battery-powered projector, a battery-powered portable sound system and a portable screen for the projector. ([pastorquill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorquill@gmail.com))



Pastor Vincent Ferrer shares during the Cross-cultural Training hosted at the BMA Bible College.

## Doug and Diane Lee • Philippines

Today we are faced with many challenges, and with every challenge there is a decision that must be made — *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit”* (II Cor. 3:18 ESV). But God says, “I pour My very Life into you, and all you have to do is receive Me.” Then, it seems the challenges disappear, and there is victory!

**Second Semester Begins** — Each semester begins with Orientation and Prayer Day! The students divide into prayer groups to pray for the new semester, the students, staff, faculty and special prayer requests. It is a spirit-filled time which prepares the hearts and minds of everyone for a new semester. Afterward, the students have “Brigada.” In Illongo, this means “Clean-Up Time.” Everyone pitches in to work and clean up the college campus grounds and buildings. There is always a spirit of unity as they combine work and fun to get the job done!

**World Mission Day** — Dean of BMA Bible College (BMABC) Marie Jan Samson shared the following concerning involvement with BMA Global’s World Mission Day: “BMABC joined the concerted effort of raising funds for missions in our corner of the world! February 27 was set aside as a special day to promote and do our part. It was a wonderful service filled with encouragement from the Word of God through the school president, Dr. Doug Lee and beautiful songs by the BMABC choir, led by Jeffhen Kish Balboa and our BMABC male quartet. The students have been saving their money and an offering of P15,500 (approximately \$275 US) was collected for the BMA of the Philippines Missions Department. To God by the glory!”

**Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation!** — To prepare our students, who are our future Asia-Pacific missionaries, the BMABC hosted a Cross-cultural Training Seminar on the campus. Some of our graduates have already committed to a calling to go to other Asian countries and, using the example of Paul, going as “tentmaker” missionaries. They will enter with work visas, start a ministry and eventually plant churches. We have gifted pastors, teachers and workers, who are capable of learning languages and merging into other cultures easily. BMA President Dr. John David Smith gave words of encouragement and wisdom, along with BMABC Alumnus Melanie Bliss who is now living in Australia.

Pastor Vincent Ferrer and Pastor Gil Gasataya led the conference and taught our students how to adapt to living in a different country with diverse values, beliefs and customs. A healthy adjustment to culture shock and to the physical, social and distinct mindsets of another country can make a difference in the success of the mission work. We will do a Part II soon, with training in communicating the gospel to these nations. Pray for our students as they use this training to carry the Great Commission to other countries.

**College Week** — The students used the cross-cultural theme for their College Week activities. They dressed in costumes depicting different countries and learned to cook the special delicacies from each country. They studied the culture of the land they represented. Some of the activities were basketball, volleyball, storytelling, talent contests, Bible drills and the Amazing Race! It culminated with the crowning of Mr. and Miss BMABC.

**Lifeword Director and BMABC Student Installing Online Facilities** — A big thanks to Lifeword Asia Pacific Director Pastor Pete Etabag and our student, Nicu Caballero, for the installation of online equipment at the Bible College. This will enable us to reach prospective students in other parts of the country through live streaming. Paired technology and training allow us to extend the borders of BMABC to those in distant places. ([edouglee70@gmail.com](mailto:edouglee70@gmail.com), [dianeusserlee@gmail.com](mailto:dianeusserlee@gmail.com))





(L/R) BMAA-Endorsed Chaplain Ryan Burchett with a fellow Texas State Guard chaplain.

## For God and Country: Serving Through BMA Chaplaincy

By Dr. Scott Carson, Director • BMAA Chaplaincy

As director of the BMAA Chaplaincy Department, I want to thank you for your faithful support of this important ministry work. As endorsing agent, I am responsible for approving our ministers of chaplain programs in industry, institutional or military settings, with many chaplains in each area. The chaplaincy is a unique field of divinely called and dedicated workers charged with the spiritual care of the church and the unchurched. The following is a sampling of those endorsed chaplains and the great work they perform:

- Stephen Willis, re-endorsed into the Texas prison system,
- Ryan Burchett, Texas State Guard border mission,
- Anthony Kennedy, Arkansas National Guard chaplain candidate,
- Chaplain Chris Grizzle, Family Life Chaplain, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.,
- Captain David Cline, U.S. Navy senior chaplain at Parris Island, S.C.
- Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Guthrie retired, U.S. Army and
- Matthew Dean, Navy Reserve and Veterans Administration, Biloxi, Miss.

Our chaplains are dedicated to serving the Lord in these agencies, while faithfully representing BMAA churches.

The BMAA Chaplaincy Department continues to place qualified ministers into various organizations. I regularly receive inquiries as many of our ministers sense a calling from the Lord to serve Him in these unique fields of ministry. God is using BMAA ministers to bring the gospel to those who may not otherwise have a pastor. The opportunity to bring Christ to them is supported by both the institution they serve and their endorsing department.

Ministry contributions help the Chaplaincy Department remain in contact with chaplains and their families, provide chaplain recruiting opportunities, represent the BMAA and participate in senior-level strategy sessions to maintain endorsements into those institutions.

Again, God bless you for your continued support of this ministry to both civilians and those who serve in the military. To support BMAA Chaplaincy, send contributions to BMA Global designated to the Chaplaincy Department, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033, Memo: Chaplaincy Department.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**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.

**85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Greenbrier Dist. WMA;** April 20; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

**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

## Revivals

**Hattiesville, Hattiesville;** Eclipse Revival; April 6-7; Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.; Bryson Hayden, pastor.

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

**Trinity, Stamps;** April 8-10, 7 p.m.; Justin Clark, evangelists; James Cox, pastor.

**Central, Trumann;** April 14-17, Sun. 5 p.m., Mon.-Wed. 6:30 p.m.; Joel McMasters (Sun.), Rick Jensen (Mon.), Jerry Arnold (Tues.), Larry Loggins (Wed.), evangelists; Blake Jamison, pastor.

**Fellowship, Walnut Ridge;** April 14-17; Sun. 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Wed. 6:30 p.m.; Vance Penns, evangelist; John Durham, 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.

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

**Bodcaw #1, Emmet;** April 22-24, 7 p.m.; Bo Murphey, evangelist; Timothy Vines, 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.

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY BMILA LOAN ASSOCIATION

### Does your church need a loan?

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

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

**For more information, contact us today by emailing me at [jerry@bmatexas.org](mailto:jerry@bmatexas.org) or calling 972-923-0756.**



## April 8 Eclipse: How Should It Be Interpreted? (Part 2)

The April 8 Eclipse is coming in a few days, and social media and watercooler conversations at work have been hopping with discussion of how, when this eclipse is combined with the one seven years ago, they make an “X” over the United States meaning that judgment is coming. Then there are others saying the eclipse means nothing. Which is it? How should we interpret the eclipse?

I began addressing this question in my previous article. (*See the March 27 issue.*) I hope you have read that article because this one may not make much sense if you haven't. In that article, I gave a 12.7% chance that the eclipse was prophetic for the US. I also said that the number was given in jest, but though most of the (if not all) arguments used to prove the eclipse is a sign of judgment are faulty, we must still consider some things before throwing the possibility out.

I shared that the arguments based on town names, the eclipse will pass, the shapes the eclipses make, or the number calculations of those towns aren't how prophecy should be handled correctly. There is a darkening of the sun talked about in many Bible passages, but that speaks of a specific event, and in every case, other events will take place at that time. None of those other events are happening. For the record, I have not watched a video or heard a podcast that gave true biblical support for this eclipse being prophetic. Instead, what I have seen looks like a mad scientist making projections.

As much as those videos have turned me off on the subject, we must realize that in Gen. 1:14, God speaks through the sun and moon. Even though we feel like we know

the science of eclipses, that doesn't mean God doesn't speak through them. For this reason and a couple of others, I can't throw out conversations like this one of the eclipses. In our interpretation of the Bible and walking with Christ, I am learning that we often take the easy route of assuming extremes when the truth is often in the tension between the two. The truth requires us to truly seek the Lord.

One of the biblical principles that gives me pause when it comes to dismissing discussions like this about the eclipse is that God warns His people. A passage that expresses this principle is in Amos: “*Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets*” (Amos 3:7 NIV).

This passage and concept freak a lot of people out, especially us Baptists, but it is a principle throughout the Bible — God warns His people and gives ample warnings. This is important because if we sense we're near the last days, we should expect God to give warnings. This is scary because it is hard to trust anyone who says God told them something, especially when that involves end times, but we should be looking for that. Yet, when God warns His people, it comes as a “Thus, says the Lord,” not someone who has found clues from adding up the first letter of every town an eclipse is going over. Not only will the Lord warn, but He will do so through multiple witnesses. If you've heard any of those videos about the eclipse, no one is saying, “the Lord said,” they're just concocting ideas from clues they believe they have found. I take the time to share this because we need to be looking for it.

Along the same lines of God's warning, Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will also be warning and guiding us: “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come*” (John 16:13).

Jesus stated that part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to guide us to what is coming in the future. That is important. We might be concerned about God sending people to warn, but we can't argue with this New Testament work of the Holy Spirit in John. Some might say this work of the Holy Spirit negates the work of God sending someone to warn, but I would argue that the Holy Spirit instead helps us discern warnings God would use others to send.

I think it is highly likely that the Holy Spirit is guiding believers today in what is to come. I don't mean just about the eclipse, but I believe the concern of the last days and expectations that things will soon break open is more than us being paranoid. I believe the Holy Spirit may be guiding us.

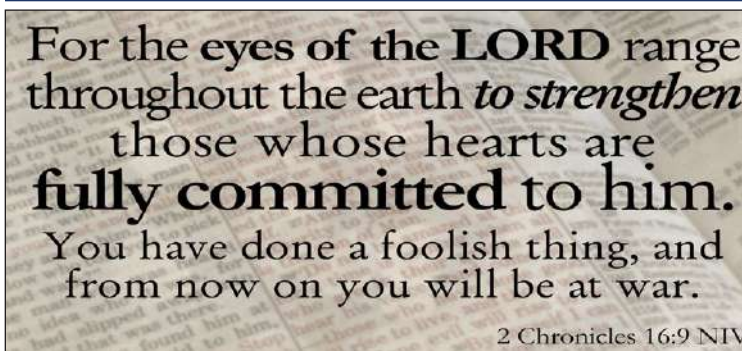
That discernment through the Holy Spirit is important in things like this eclipse, because if God speaks through the sun, moon and stars, as well as we should be looking for people to be sent by God to warn, then we need to discern the times. We need to discern the eclipse. Let's not completely dismiss it. Let's pray about it.

We also shouldn't dismiss anything that talks about judgment coming to America. I think we should expect it. I believe, with what the Bible does give us about the end of the age, we should expect the US will at least diminish in its current status in the world.

With all that said, I have no idea if the eclipse means anything in particular. Still, I will say, like how rainbows continually remind us of God's promises, anything that happens in creation should remind us of the Sovereign Creator who will judge this earth.

I am intrigued by how the eclipse goes over the New Madrid fault, but my curiosity just makes me sound like one of those guys on YouTube or at your work. With the eclipse, please don't rush to jump on a prophetic bandwagon or dismiss things immediately because someone was wrong before, but take it before the Lord. Some additional seeking God and praying sure isn't going to hurt!

— *Jake is a state missionary and would love to share about the work in Northwest Arkansas and encourage your church to stand firm. (standfirmministries.com)*



## The Eyes Have It

The eye is one of the most important and complex sensory organs that God designed for our benefit. Through them, we can see the beauty of His creation — the trees, the lakes, as well as the stars, the moon and the sun, which are millions of miles away. Our eyes are truly amazing.

It is said that the eye is the window to the soul, meaning it reveals our innermost feelings and emotions. By looking into someone's eyes, you can see happiness, sadness, pain, fear, anger and other emotions. We communicate with our eyes without ever saying a word. They tell the truth, even when a smile tries to hide how we truly feel inside.

The Bible speaks about our own eyes and, also God's. These verses give us comfort, knowledge and instruction: “*The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...*” (II Chron. 16:9 NIV). Asa, king of Judah, took treasures from the Lord's temple to bribe Benhadad, the pagan king of Syria, to join him in his battle against Israel. Hanani the seer rebuked Asa and said he had done a very foolish thing by not relying upon God. As a result, he lost that battle.

When faced with an overwhelming problem, fear often makes us want to take action immediately or seek help elsewhere. When we fail to seek God's help first, it is evident that our hearts are not fully committed to Him. Think what comfort we have in knowing that His eyes go throughout the earth on our behalf.

“At a glance, He takes in our position; not a sorrow, trial, or temptation visits us without exciting His notice and loving sympathy. In all the whole wide earth, there is not one spot so lonely, one heart so darkened, as to escape those eyes.” (Meyer)

“*The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good*” (Prov. 15:3). However, only the righteous — those totally committed to Him — will He strengthen and give an attentive ear to their prayer (I Peter 3:10-12).

How can we respond to God's all-seeing eye? In Matt. 6:22-23, Jesus said, “*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness.*” In the prior verses and the ones after, Jesus talks about materialism. He says we are not to store treasures on earth where they will not last, but rather to store up treasures in Heaven. We “*cannot serve both God and money*” (v. 24).

Focusing on godly things, our eyes are healthy, and our bodies are full of light. It is a testimony that we are walking with God and have fellowship with Him. If we are focused on things of the world, we are filled with darkness. “*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life — comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever*” (I John 2:15-17). That's why Jesus said, “*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Matt. 6:21).

The Hebrew writer says we should throw off everything that hinders and easily entraps us so we can finish our race well. “*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*” (Heb. 12:2).

The eyes have it! Where are ours focused?



## 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

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## He Alone is Worthy

*"I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies"* (Psalm 18:3). The gospel message is one of good news. The birth was needed, the death was necessary but the resurrection was the confirmation. I was reminded Sunday morning, as my feet touched the floor, of a message my friend, Mike Harmon preached years ago entitled, "That Great Getting Up Morning" (or something close to that). And what a morning it was when the ladies found the tomb empty — the seals of the tomb were broken, the stone was rolled away — not to let Jesus out but to let us in — glory!

There must have been an atmosphere of mixed emotions that first Easter morning. His followers at first wondered what was taking place. Had someone stolen the body? Had He conquered death, Hell and the grave? I am sure several things were going through their minds. After all, this was the place He was laid to rest on Good Friday by some of His disciples. And can you imagine being one of those who was last to physically serve Jesus the Son of God, touching His cold dead body and lying Him in a borrowed tomb? I believe you and I still have a great opportunity to physically serve Him through the lives we live and the stance we take for truth.

Some have said, "After all, since Jesus was God, how could He have suffered?" While Jesus was all God, He was also all man. He cried out, "I thirst." When cut, He bled. So never think His death was unlike any other death. The burden of all the sins of the world was laid upon Him, even to the point we had seen in the garden where He sweat, as it were, great drops of blood.

Jesus did for me what I could not do for myself. And to everyone who will call upon His name and believe in their heart that He is the Anointed One, the Savior of the world, will be given life everlasting. So, I encourage you to begin each day as though it were Easter morning. Thank God for His love and mercy. His children will experience their own personal "Great Getting Up Morning" in the near future. Belated, Happy Easter to all!

### From Our Missionaries

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "In commemoration of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we had a prayer vigil on Friday from 7:30 p.m. until midnight. We love to remember His death by praying because that was Jesus' precise invitation to His disciples the night He was arrested.

"During the vigil, in addition to praying, we read all the events written by Luke, from the plot to kill Jesus, the Last Supper to His burial.

Oscar López, Oscar Gómez, José Luís and Marlon read the book of Luke and each gave their comments on the portion that corresponded to them. Marlon and José Luis had the opportunity to share the Word with the congregation for the first time, and they did it very well.

"We made groups to dramatize the passages read, which helped visualize the events that occurred and focus attention on details that generally go unnoticed.

"On Sunday morning, while it was still dark, we began our meeting at 6 a.m., singing songs proclaiming

that He lives and concluded the readings from Luke with the resurrection of the Lord. Furthermore, we challenged the church to live worthy, as people redeemed by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, based on Colossians 2 and 3.

"In the Communion Room, while we were having breakfast, a group dramatized the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to the women and the proclamation of the Great Commission addressed to the church.

"It was a different weekend that took us out of our comfort zone, but it was worth it. We thank God infinitely because He has blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross, and stripping away the principalities and powers, He exhibited them publicly, triumphing over them on the cross."

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, "I thank God that even though it has been a busy week, it has been full of blessings. The Ebenezer sisters continue to meet and, with each meeting, I see how it is growing both spiritually and in attendance. The sisters took the opportunity to celebrate my wife, Kory's birthday. Let's pray that our ladies will be a driving force within Ebenezer for missions.

"The Discovery Bible Study in our home also continues to grow. Three people joined us this week who do not normally congregate with us in Chenal. It was exciting to be discovering the biblical truths in the gospel of John. Pray that God will raise up leaders in this ministry and we can multiply in other homes.

"We had the Sunrise Worship at Ebenezer, remembering the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is always a challenge, being at six in the morning and bringing



Faith Journey, Benton family at Easter service



**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA** enjoys a fellowship meal food is not easy, especially if you have children, but our brethren responded well, with good attendance and encouragement. At the end of the service, we had a dedication of a baby girl, Antonella Pulgar. Together with her parents, we prayed for her, and we also dedicated the parents for the education of Antonella in the ways of the Lord.

"Thank you for your prayers and for your support for the mission. To God be the glory!"

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, "We had a great week at Faith Chapel! We had a great number for Resurrection Sunday, with only a few empty seats, and we had a wonderful time of worship. After service, we had our Easter potluck, and it was great. All in all, it was just a great time as we celebrated our risen Savior — He is alive!"

"The building is progressing. The drywallers have one more skim coat to put on, then they will texture it and we can paint. The footings for the classrooms have been poured, and after the plumbing has been roughed in, we will pour the floor. Then we will be ready for the Master's Builders to come back in May and help us frame the classrooms and get them in the dry. We are so looking forward to getting in the new building, and it is closer every day! We praise God for blessing us so richly. Every time I look at that view of the Crooked Creek Valley, I am humbled by God's plan for us and for Flippin. I always tell people that He saved this spot for us for all of time, and I believe He did.

"Thank you for your prayers and support, and for your faithfulness! We thank God for you."

**Faith Journey, Benton:** Bryan Clay writes, "Thank you, Jesus, for the blood applied. Thank you, Jesus, it has washed me white. Thank you, Jesus, you have saved my life. Brought me out of darkness into glorious light." We worship a risen Savior every day, but especially on Resurrection Sunday.

"Faith Journey enjoyed an evening of worship, fellowship and the celebration of Christ's sacrifice for each of us. We had an Easter

meal at the mission this week of ham, potato salad, green beans and all the sides and desserts! It was something special! We then had a great lesson about Jesus' amazing gift to us by dying for the sins of all when He could have chosen not to. What a wonderful sacrifice.

"We hope everyone was able to enjoy family and friends while pondering all that we have been given during this Easter season. Have a blessed week!"

**Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA:** Roberto Marcelletti writes, "We end the month of March thankful to the Lord for His grace and faithfulness. We continue to work on discipleship in an intentional way, teaching biblical principles of life, and we are also challenged to show it in our lives. I began working with Juan and Franklin to help me serve in our meetings, and they are very encouraged and willing.

"My wife, Patty started a new job and invited co-workers to our resurrection service. We had seven people visit who felt very good and we were able to talk to them and they promised to come back. The brothers also brought dessert meals and we enjoyed an atmosphere of brotherhood and love."

**Epic Life, Pea Ridge:** Jake McCandless writes, "It was a great week within Epic Life, but a strange one for me. The highlight was having someone join this week! That was incredible! I also had two individuals who have been coming to our groups for a while ask about giving — that's always great for a pastor to hear! It is encouraging because our structure doesn't allow for 'passing the plate,' but it is encouraging to see God placing it on the hearts of people. We also had three strong Connection Group meetings and plans were made to begin one or two more groups.

"This week was strange for me in that we didn't do anything special for Easter. Praying through it this past month, we felt it was more important that we try to keep up the rhythms of our weekly Connection Groups, monthly Coaches Meeting and monthly Collective Worship Gathering rather than trying to move our worship night or hold another one. This went against all I typically do as a pastor, but from the conversations we had this past week, I do believe we made the right move and look forward to that coaches' meeting Sunday.



Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock dramatize the passages related to Jesus resurrection.

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).



## HOMEcomings

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



Rex Everett Stanfield, 76 of Fordyce, passed away March 17. He was a veteran and deacon at Pine Crest Baptist Church.

## Reports from the Churches

Bradford, Bradford added six by baptism since last report; Dal Hogan, pastor.

Center Grove, Cord gained one by letter; Barry Anderson, pastor.



## Free E-Trumpet

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- 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](mailto:pastorkirk@icloud.com). Electronic submissions only. Background check required.

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