

BAPTIST TRUMPET

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

Volume 84

April 24, 2024 Little Rock, Arkansas

Number 29

No King But Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) (Part 1)

By Dr. Clif Johnson, President • BMA of America

Executive Editor's Note: This is the President's Message that was preached in the opening session of the national meeting on April 16, 2024.



It is at this meeting that we gather to conduct the business of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, and we are able to do that because of the historical and redemptive realities of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But since the resurrection happened,

what spiritual significance and real-time difference does it carry for our churches today? Do we just get to walk around with the resurrection card in our pocket, holding it there until the day Jesus returns and show it to all the world and say, "See! We were right! We told you so!" Or does the most significant, monumental, powerful event in all human history, all cosmic history, carry any bearing on us as Christians, as churches today, right now, that sets us apart from any other institution the world has ever known?

If the world is not to overwhelm us, if the current culture is not to capsize onto us and drown us, if we are not to be caught in the slippery and subtle drift of compromised churches, we must **learn, know, believe** and **act** upon the reality that the church is the most powerful institution in all the land—that there is a greater reality unfolding around us than we can see.

Paul made clear to the church at Ephesus, and I pray the Holy Spirit will make clear to us, that there is a spiritual reality much broader, deeper and more powerful than what is initially seen by ordinary sight. In Eph. 1:15, Paul detailed the goals of his prayer for the believers in Ephesus (vs. 17). He desired for them to receive, or perhaps increase, in their spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Now I want us to ask the question, "What is the purpose of spiritual wisdom? What is the purpose of obtaining and deepening our understanding of God?"

Wisdom and understanding are two types of knowledge that are meant to be employed for the

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MOVING with Ministers and Staff

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



Jake Norman has accepted the pastor position at First Baptist Church in Caldwell. He will be on the field June 1.

Paul Outlaw, pastor of Dickinson Baptist Church in Harrell, will be ordained May 18 at Calvary Baptist Church in Warren at 2 p.m.

Jason Goodwin is the new ABS Director at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary (BMATS) is seeking applicants to fill the office of president. Resumes may be sent to Clif.johnson@bmats.edu or Chairman Dr. Clif Johnson, Garrett Memorial Baptist Church, 1 Genesis Dr., Hope, Ark. 71801.

Blooming Grove Church in Rector is in search of a bi-vocational pastor. For more information, contact Tim Barnum at (870) 335-8061, Roby Ward at (870) 476-7013 or Ben Isom at (870) 595-4499.

Old Bethel Baptist Church in Canton, Texas, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to OBBCResume@proton.me. For more information, contact Chris Cade at (903) 343-4953.

Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss. is in search of a pastor. For more information, contact Search Committee Chairman David McComb at (601) 310-4121 or De_mccomb@hotmail.com.



Associational Spirit Evident at Meeting

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

The 75th annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America was held at the Chateau on the Lake Resort in Branson, Mo., April 16-18. The theme of the meeting was "No King But Christ." According to the final Enrollment Committee report, 206 churches were represented, with 438 messengers and 122 visitors registered. The total Minute & National Meeting Funds collected at the meeting was \$14,674.75. There were no petitioning churches.

The meeting began on Tuesday night with a concert from Point of Grace, followed by the president's message. BMA President Dr. Clif Johnson (*see the printed sermon on page 1*) shared a message from Eph. 1: 22-23 with the same title as the meeting's theme — "No King But Christ." He reminded us that the truth of the resurrection of Christ is not merely a historical event to be acknowledged but a dynamic force that empowers and distinguishes the church today. Christians should understand and embrace

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The Business of the Association

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor

Following the president's message on Tuesday night, and after preliminary introductions and business were taken care of, President Clif Johnson recognized Coordinating Council Chairman Richard Smith to present the recommended changes to the Principles of Cooperation from the Coordinating Council. Discussion of the recommendations began with approval from the body to consider the five recommendations separately (*see the full recommendations at BaptistTrumpet.com/BMAA2024*):

• **Recommendation #1** — Remove "annually" and change to "when necessary" regarding electing the directors of all departments (Lifeword, Missions, Baptist Publishing House, BMA Financial Services, Moral Action and Daniel Springs Camp).

• **Recommendation #2** — Remove the requirement that a member of the Coordinating Council be elected "from the floor" each year on a staggered basis to serve a three-year term. This recommendation would

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Terry Kimbrow
President



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

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**Sports
News**
By Erik Holth

Softball

• **Conway, April 12**— Looking to remain in a tie for first place in the American Midwest Conference (AMC), CBC hosted the Columbia Cougars (CC) at City of Colleges Park. CBC (22-16, 8-2 AMC) earned a split, losing to CC (17-15, 8-6 AMC) 3-1 in game one before coming back to win game two 11-8.

• **Conway, April 13**— Needing a pair of wins to keep pace with Williams Baptist and Missouri Baptist at the top of the AMC standings, CBC took on the Stars of Stephens College at City of Colleges Park on Senior Day. **Madeline Bruce, Aubrey Jackson, Jordyn Frederic, Mallory Reynolds, Ysabella Esquivel, Hannah Work, Savannah Sanford, Lauren Anderson and Gracie Keathley** were all honored before CBC (24-16, 10-2 AMC) went out and swept Stephens (14-26, 7-9 AMC) by scores of 10-2 and 6-5.

• **Paragould, April 16**— Stepping out of AMC play, CBC was at Pioneer Park for a doubleheader against the Pioneers of Crowley's Ridge College (CRC). CBC (26-16) survived a scared, run-ruling CRC (17-15) 8-0 in game one before coming from behind to win game two 5-4.

• **Nevada, Mo., April 19**— Needing a sweep to stay in a tie for first place in the AMC, CBC was at Vanek Family Field for a doubleheader against the Comets of Cotter College (CC). CBC (27-17, 11-3 AMC) couldn't get the sweep, beating CC (27-17, 11-5 AMC) 10-8 in come from behind fashion in game one before dropping game two 3-2.

• **Fulton, Mo., April 20**— Coming off a split against the defending AMC regular season champions, CBC was at the Backer Sports Complex for a doubleheader against the William Woods (WWU) Owls. CBC (28-18, 12-4 AMC) split with WWU (18-25, 8-9 AMC) winning game one 6-5 before dropping game two 10-0 in five innings.

Baseball

• **Columbia, Mo., April 12**— Traveling out of state for the first time in two weeks, CBC was at Cougar Field for an AMC doubleheader against Columbia College (CC). CBC (26-11, 9-5 AMC) only mustered one run in the two games against CC (31-10, 14-0 AMC), falling 4-0 and 5-1.

• **Columbia, Mo., April 13**— Looking to salvage a game in their AMC series, CBC took on the

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Sweet Fellowship

This past week, the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America joined together for their annual meeting in Branson, Mo. Over 30 years of ministry, I have always enjoyed the opportunity to join with others and to hear from our national departments. I remember my first meeting in 1991 when I was singing with the Lifeword Singers. I loved being exposed to our national work during my freshman year at Central Baptist College. Since then, national meetings have served as both informational and relational. If you haven't been to one lately, let me encourage you to put it on your calendar for next year. It is set for April 22-24 at Pathway Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. I know it can be challenging to make it happen due to schedules, finances and other responsibilities, especially for bi-vocational pastors, but there is a lot to be gained by attending our national meetings.

• **You can find a greater understanding of who we are.** This year, there was a lengthy discussion surrounding a proposed change to the Principles of Cooperation. While there was a wide range of opinions surrounding the issue, the discussion helped me better understand who we are and desire to be. There is nothing quite like a variety of opinions to help clarify who we are.

• **You can learn about our national departments.** Two great things happen at our meetings. One, our departments set up tables to provide information to attendees, and the leaders and their team members are available for face-to-face conversations. It was fun to see one of our pastors have pictures of his children with the different departmental leaders. That is incredible access. While these men are available throughout the year, there is nothing like being able to walk up and ask a question. Two, these leaders provide reports during the meeting. They share the results of their ministries, their hearts and their visions for the future.

• **You can find like-minded friends.** Ministry can be a lonely endeavor. Church members may never fully grasp the heartache and difficulty those of us in ministry often endure. Associational meetings can provide opportunities to meet others who share your burdens.

• **You can find a short break from the routine.** Sometimes, we need a day or two away. Going to a national meeting can provide a needed break.

It is easy to come up with reasons not to go, but whether it is local, state or national meetings, it is worth the effort. Talk to your church early. Schedule time off from work if necessary. For us to continue to be effective as a group of churches, it is important that we meet and spend time together. Start making plans for next year today.

Columbia Cougars (CC) at Cougar Field. CBC (26-12, 9-6 AMC) couldn't pull off the task, falling to CC (32-10, 15-0 AMC) 9-3.

• **Maumelle, April 16**— Playing their final non-conference doubleheader of the season, CBC hosted the Eagles of Texas A&M-Texarkana (TAMUT) at the Diamond State Baseball Complex in Maumelle. CBC (28-12) had an offensive explosion, scoring 25 runs on 18 hits to sweep TAMUT (18-22) 17-3 and 8-6.

• **Hannibal, Mo., April 19**— Playing an AMC series on the road for the second straight weekend, CBC was at Hannibal High School for game one against the Hannibal-LaGrange (HLGU) Trojans. CBC (29-12, 10-6 AMC) jumped up early and never relented, shutting out HLGU (9-23, 4-12 AMC) 16-0.

• **Hannibal, Mo., April 20**— Looking to finish an AMC series sweep for the third time this season, CBC took on the Trojans
See SPORTS, Page 5

CBC Recognizes Students And Employees

As our mission statement says, Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. As a result, we find joy in recognizing this and other types of excellence on our campus. We recently had the opportunity to commend the success and excellence displayed by both our student body and our employees.



(L/R) Dr. Kateryna Pitchford, Katie Smith and Heather Solano.

On Wednesday, April 10, we held our annual Academic Awards Ceremony in Burgess auditorium, where we acknowledged the academic success of several students. At the beginning of the ceremony, all students on the Dean's list and President's list were recognized.

The Business Department recognized students in four categories:

• **William Palmer** received the Arkansas Society of CPAs' scholarship award;

• **Randall Anthony Portoni, Alyssa Lynn Hagewood and Annesta Richards** were recognized as Honor Graduates;

• **Katie Danielle Smith** received the Outstanding Graduate Award; and

• **Ruben Hernandez** and **Bryson Jones** received the Servant Leader Award.

The Behavioral Science Department recognized **Eden Brister, Ashleigh Daugherty** and **Hannah Varnado** with the Outstanding Students in Psychology Award.

The Communications Department recognized the Tower Media Leadership Team, consisting of

Employee Awards

On Monday, April 15, we held our annual Employee Appreciation and Awards Luncheon. During this event, we recognized faculty and staff for their years of service and presented numerous awards to our faithful employees on campus.

President Kimbrow presented the President's Awards:

• The Behind-the-Scenes Award was presented to **Dr. Larry Henderson**;

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Lydia Dunlap, Mason Crymes, Kailey Sullivan, Grace Vandergriff and **Hannah Varnado**. **Candyce Slayton** then received the Outstanding Student in Communications Award.

The Literature and Language Arts Department presented four awards:

• **Mason Crymes, Kris Mallory, Emily Pharr** and **Paige West** received the Creative Writing Award;

• **Josh Ramirez** and **Anna Battefield** received the Dedicated Student Award;

• **Parker Tebo** received the Critical Thinker Award; and

• **Mason Crymes** received the Outstanding English Award.

The Math and Science Department presented two awards:

• **Ashley Henderson** received the Outstanding Student in Mathematics award; and

• **Lauren McGinley** received the Outstanding Science Graduate Award.

White Coat Recipients **Eliza Derryberry, Kylie Germann, Cameron Hardin, Ashley Henderson, Hannah Long, Allie McWhorter** and **Madalyn Tubbs** were also recognized.

The Kinesiology Department presented the Kinesiology Award to **Austin LeJeune** and recognized his perfect 4.0 GPA.

The Music and Fine Arts Department recognized two students:

• **Caleb Allen** received the Outstanding Recital Award; and

• **AJ Woodraska** received the Outstanding Musician Award.



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Revivals

Union Grove, Blevins; May 12-15, 6 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Donald Thompson, 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.

The mission of God is why we exist, and you are either actively striving to carry it out, which requires movement, or you are disobeying His command. Acts 2:32 reminds us, “*God has resurrected this Jesus. We are all witnesses of this.*” Witnesses are meant to testify of the truths they have seen and know. Think of the healed lame man in Acts 3:8, “*So he jumped up, stood and started to walk, and he entered the temple complex with them — walking, leaping and praising God.*” This man was a living, breathing, visible testimony of the power of God — are you?

The first part of God’s plan to save mankind was to send His Son to provide redemption for us through His death, burial and resurrection. In *Uncommon Life*, Tony Dungy stated, “When Jesus returned to the Father, the next part of the plan was launched — the expansion of God’s kingdom through the spreading of the good news of the risen Christ. How was that going to happen? Through the disciples He had selected to train, equip and encourage, sent throughout the world with the message of God’s love for each of us through His Son, Jesus Christ.” You are a part of God’s plan A, and there is no plan B.

Are you telling others what Jesus did for you? Are you moving the message of His grace forward by actively sharing it at every opportunity you have? In *Made for More*, the authors stated, “The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling, then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.” If Jesus is Lord of your life, you are living on mission. The local church is a missionary movement of the people of God, saved by the power of God, for the purposes of God.

Are you actively moving toward people who are far from God in order to build relationships with them so you can display the love of God in practical ways? Are you testifying to others about His redeeming grace? Are you surrendered to the mission of God and moving forward on it?

Just Thinking...

By Dr. Tom Mitchell

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Come and See

I was just thinking about a wonderful service or multi-cultural worship we experienced on April 14 at Chenal Valley Baptist Church in Little Rock. We had a full house as our English-speaking church met together with our Hispanic-speaking congregation. Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer is the state missions project Chenal Valley sponsored several years ago. We share the same building, and the effort has been nothing but blessings filled.

Sunday, we had our third “Come and See” service. The music was done in both English and Spanish. Chenal Valley’s worship pastor, Chuck Sullivan, masterfully designed the worship in music to include Reuben Isturiz, the church planting pastor of Ebenezer. Several of the songs were a mixture of the two languages represented. Bro. Chuck said he felt that with a service like that we were experiencing a little of what Heaven is going to be like.

The Blessing of Sponsoring a Mission

Chenal Valley Baptist Church began as a mission. We were supported by both the BMA of Central Arkansas and the BMA of Arkansas State Missions. I had the privilege of being the church planter in 1998, and our dream was always to be a church that would sponsor a mission church. Under the leadership of our present pastor, Allen Morton, that dream came true. Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer has been nothing but a true blessing for both congregations. God has blessed both congregations.

A Message from Pastor Reuben

With his wife, Kory, Pastor Reuben preached a powerful message titled, “The Big Picture.” He pointed out that, even though we are small individual congregations, when we meet together as we did Sunday, one day we will be part of the big picture — we will be part of the great multitude mentioned in Rev. 7:9-12. The message hit the hearts of everyone in attendance.

The Joy of Fellowship

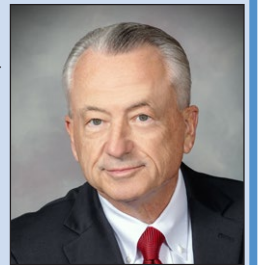
While with many, likely most, there remain language barriers, the joy of fellowship is not hindered. Smiles, laughter, handshakes and hugs are part of our times spent together. After the morning service, we enjoyed a multi-cultural meal and our fellowship center was filled to capacity. As I looked across the room, I was excited by the joy of fellowship.

A Personal Urging to Other BMA Churches

My mere words are not nearly enough to express what a blessing such an endeavor of having Ebenezer members meet with us. I would urge every church in our work to consider sponsoring a missions project. The rewards will be great, and the joy inexpressible.

BMATS to Host Retirement Reception for Dr. Holmes

Please join BMA Theological Seminary for a come-and-go reception honoring Dr. Charley Holmes for his 25 years of service as president of BMA Seminary. Dr. Holmes will be retiring from his current position, but he will still be working with the seminary in other areas. The reception will be Friday, May 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. BMA Seminary is located at 1530 E. Pine St., Jacksonville, Texas 75766.



mission & movement

Church on the Move

Movement is “the act or process of moving, especially a change of place or posture. It is a tactical or strategic shifting of a military unit, a maneuver.” Movement involves action and activity with a series of organized activities working toward an objective. Pardon the simplicity, but movement implies you are moving. At its inception in the Scriptures, the church was essentially a movement built upon a conviction. Jesus said, “I have come to seek and to save that which is lost.” The first word of the Great Commission — go — is a word of movement and conveys the truth of “as you are going.” It speaks of advancement.

J.D. Greear stated, “The danger of the church in every age is to cease being a movement and become, instead, a ministry that provides service to people, or, even worse, a place people simply attend. Movements **move**, and if you’re part of the movement, you’re moving.” This can be seen in the evangelistic movement, or lack of, and passion of churches. Churches under three years old reach one new convert for every three members. On average, churches that are three to seven years old reach one new convert per seven members. Churches over 10 years old reach 1 new convert for every 89 members. Entropy just sets in naturally.

BMA Global President Dr. John David Smith wrote this in his document, *Mature Church Model*, on the theological view of a church: “The Old Testament precedent for the church is found in the word ‘qahal.’ This literally means, ‘those who have heard the call and are following it.’ In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures), ‘qahal’ is translated ‘ekklesia.’ This word is formed from two words: ek (out) and kaleo (called). Ekklesia literally means the called-out ones. The word ekklesia is used 114 times in the New Testament. It can mean a secular gathering or an assembly, but it is used 90 times in reference to a local church.”

Dr. Smith continued, “About 300 AD, the German word Kirche (Lord’s house), where we get the English word church, was introduced into Christianity. There is no etymological connection between ekklesia and kirche. From this point in Christian history, the church became a location centered around monolithic buildings, cathedrals, structures and institutions instead of the gatherings that drove the movement of Christ.” By definition, a church is not a place. It’s a movement. But over the years, that has been lost. Church has become a place we go to, an event we attend. The original church was a movement gathered around a mission.

This movement is not just frenetic activity but an intentional focus and systematic approach to the mission of God. Your church does not have a mission as much as God’s mission has a church to carry out His mission. Your church is to be a movement revolving around His mission. John 15:4 (HCSB) clearly states this principle: “*What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it?*” There is a big difference between aspirational values (what you know you should be doing) and actual values (what you are actually doing). Are you actually pursuing the lost?

Dr. Smith continued, “The mission of the church is to give continuation to the mission of Christ. Missions is not a line item in a church budget. It is the purpose for its existence. The multiplication of disciples, leaders and churches must be at the forefront of local church ministry. We must guard against the means to the mission becoming the mission. Our great theological truths were not hammered out in an ancient academic setting; they were formed on the mission field. Almost every book of the New Testament was written to someone starting a new church, or the book was written to a new church.”

MEETING (Continued From Page 1)

the power demonstrated through the resurrection of Jesus, as well as Jesus' eternal reign, to influence how we live and how churches operate. It was a challenging reminder to allow Jesus to be King of our lives, churches and association by committing to make disciples who will live countercultural lives.

After the message, the 75th Annual Meeting was officially opened with First Vice President Charles Johnson presiding. He introduced the presiding officers for the meeting and Parliamentarians James Schoenrock, Bobby Tucker and Kevin Clayton. (See the *Business of the Association* article for details of the business sessions.)

Wednesday morning consisted of the Women's Conference sponsored by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA), the Brotherhood and the Pastors' Conference, sponsored by Healthy Church Solutions. The Pastor's Conference featured Mac Lake as he shared about the importance of creating a discipleship culture in our churches to raise up leaders. In the afternoon, there was a worship service featuring a message by Kirk Shelton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

The highlight of Wednesday afternoon was the Legacy Missionary Service, where two missionary couples were honored — David & Shelley Dickson and Bill & Jeanette Gibson. BMA Global President Dr. John David Smith then led in the Missionary Commissioning service. On behalf of CrossWork Baptist Church in Tahoka, Texas and Pastor Mike Watt, BMA Global Regional Coordinator for South America and Africa John Michael Poulin introduced Jarred Etheridge as a new BMA Global missionary to South Africa and BMA Global Ministry Coordinator for Arabic People in the US Asher "Ashraf" Sara introduced Safa Banosh, our newest elected Arabic-speaking church planter to Phoenix, Ariz. The service concluded with prayer over these and all BMA Global missionaries and staff. A short business session was held following the service.

BMA Theological Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes was honored at the annual BMATS Seminary Dinner for his 25 years of faithful service and devotion to the seminary.

The Wednesday evening service featured the annual message by James Schoenrock, pastor of Sheppard Drive Baptist Church in Eules, Texas. After some personal remarks regarding his early childhood and family, Bro. James encouraged those in attendance to send a

BUSINESS (Continued From Page 1)

also allow the Nominating Committee to present nominees to serve on the Missions Advisory Committee by removing the "except the Missions Advisory Committee" from Section 2 under Article XX — Nominating Committee.

- **Recommendation #3** — Remove the specific wording regarding the timing and required sessions under Section 2 under Article XXI — Meetings, and replace it with wording that allows more flexibility for scheduling and planning the national meeting.

- **Recommendation #4** — Changing the board for BMA Financial Services to consist of nine (9) members instead of fifteen (15).

- **Recommendation #5** — Regarding the duties of the Coordinating Council, in Section 3 of Article VII — Coordinating Council, add the duty that an orientation for the chairman of department and agency boards and committees be provided each year at the national meeting by the Coordinating Council chairman and the executive director of BMA Financial Services.

The first point of discussion began with a point of order, noting that the first recommendation "seemed to be beyond the scope of the instructions given to the Coordinating Council" to "determine a more efficient and effective plan to carry out the annual meetings" of the association. After consulting with

note of encouragement to Ronald Morgan, former BMA of America president and retired pastor, and his wife, Diane, who is in poor health. Their mailing address is 2126 Brisson Street, Fate, Texas 75189. He then showed the audience a copy of the *Baptist Trumpet* issue from May 20, 1981, showing "Til the Storm Passes By" as the title when he preached the annual sermon at the meeting in Biloxi, Miss. that year. He introduced his wife of 66 years, Wilma and reflected on the many "storms" of life and proclaimed "the anchor holds!"

He then shared a message entitled, "The Anchor Holds," looking at the life of Joshua — God had a plan for Joshua's life, God gave Joshua a promise and God gave Joshua the Word. He closed with the challenge that God has a plan for your life, His promises and grace are sufficient for our every need, His Word can be your food and foundation and a reminder that, "If you walk with God, you will never walk alone."

The Thursday morning session consisted of the reports from each department director, followed by the concluding business.

the parliamentarians, the chair ruled that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, an objection to consider a matter requires a 2/3 vote in favor of not considering the recommendation and there is no discussion allowed. The objection did not reach the threshold of 2/3 to pass, although it appeared as though a majority did agree with the objection.

The discussion on the first recommendation continued with some questions regarding what the wording "when necessary" meant and what situations that covered or did not cover. Other discussion revolved around how removing the annual election of the directors would not give the churches (associational body) the opportunity to approve or disapprove every year at the annual meeting. After over an hour of friendly discussion with varying opinions expressed, discussion was closed.

Discussion on Recommendation #2 then began. The discussion seemed to revolve around the same concern — that it would remove power from the churches (associational body) by not giving them the opportunity to elect members from the floor.

The remaining recommendations were presented and discussed very briefly before the meeting concluded for the night.

Following the Legacy Missionary and Commissioning Service on Wednesday afternoon, the business session was opened for the vote on the recommendations without discussion. Recommendations #1 (regarding annual election of directors) and #2 (regarding removal of "from the floor" for Coordinating Council) did not pass. Recommendations #3 (more flexibility for annual meetings), #4 (BMA Financial Services Board) and #5 (Chairman Orientation) passed.

After the annual sermon on Wednesday evening, the third business session took place for the election of officers and annual speaker for 2024-2025. Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, was elected to bring the message next year with Mike Goodwin, pastor Bethel #1 Baptist Church in Rison, to serve as the alternate. The officers elected are:

- Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood Baptist Church in Gilmer, Texas, was elected to serve as the president.

- Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, was elected to serve as the first vice-president.

- Dustin Wisely, pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia, was elected to serve as the second vice president.

- Greg Medenwald, pastor

of Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., was elected to serve as recording secretary (term to expire in 2027).

- Randy Murphy, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gurdon, was elected to fill the vacancy left by the death of long-time Recording Secretary Jerome Cooper (term to expire in 2026).

- Randy Shepherd, pastor of Spring Lake Baptist Church in Texarkana, continues to serve as recording secretary (term to expire in 2025).

The Thursday morning session consisted of each director sharing their reports with the association, followed by the approval of each department's recommendations and the election of new board members for each department.

Executive Editor's Note: We will have more coverage of the national meeting in next week's issue, including an updated list of the officers and committees for 2024-2025.

Opportunities For Service

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

Soda Baptist Church of Livingston, Texas is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to Soda-baptistPastorcomm.2024@gmail.com or Soda Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 8135 Highway 190 E., Livingston, Texas 77351.

Baptist Trumpet

(USPS 043-720)

(ISSN 0888-9074)

Published by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas; sponsoring Missions, Benevolence and Christian Education.

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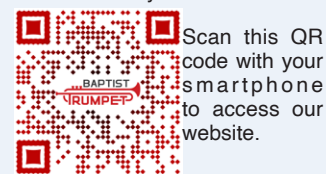
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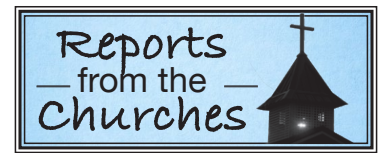
Subscription Rate: \$39.00 per year (87¢ per issue)
Church Plan Subscribers: \$36.00 per year (80¢ per issue)

Published weekly except for the week of New Year's and one week in April, May, July, September, November and December. Periodical postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. Editorial offices at 10712 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Baptist Trumpet*, P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-2208.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the churches of the BMA.



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Bluff Springs, Rosston added one by baptism; Donnie Dillard, pastor.

Calvary, Heber Springs gained three by letter; Josh Murphree, pastor.

Calvary, Warren witnessed three professions of faith; Rocky Goodwin, pastor.

Celebration, Haskell reports two by baptism and three by letter; Allan Eakin, pastor.

Center Point, Nashville received one by letter; Jaron Tipton, pastor.

Charity Heights, Hot Springs welcomed two by letter; Jim Oliver, pastor.

Friendship, Greenbrier added two by statement and one by baptism; James Crews, pastor.

Herman, Bono gained three by baptism and one by letter; Randy Stimach, pastor.

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

Kaley Hill, Bee Branch reports one by letter and one by statement; Jim Goodson, pastor.

The Bridge, Mountain Home gained two by letter and saw two professions of faith; Hershel Conley, pastor.

Zion, Fordyce welcomed three by baptism and one by letter; Scott Smith, pastor.



Celebration, Haskell, June 2-5, 6:30 p.m.; *Mega-Kids Camp*.

Calvary, Stamps, June 9-12, 6 p.m.; *Shine*.



CBC President Terry Kimbrow with 2024 Employee of the Year Dana Dowdy.

CBC

(Continued From Page 2)

- The Award for Professionalism was presented to **Dr. Deandrea Bass-Carrigan**;
 - The Award for Loyalty was presented to **Judy Gabbard**;
 - The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to **Sam Kohnke** and **Dr. Rachel Scott**;
 - The Award for Teamwork was presented to **Lisa Padgett**;
 - The Award for Dedication was presented to **Paul Cherry**;
 - The Award for Excellence was presented to **Chad Smith**;
 - The Award for Leadership was presented to **Steve Elder**; and
 - The FRED Award was presented to **Kylie Williams**.
- Dr. Gary McAllister presented the Academic Awards:
- **Steve Elder, Melissa Starkey**

SERMON

(Continued From Page 1)

daily rhythms of life — daily use. Spiritual wisdom that is not unleashed into the every day is not true wisdom. Having an understanding of God that is not brought to the surface of our lives is not a fulfilled understanding. Spiritual wisdom and understanding that does not affect the controlled and chaotic moments of our lives, of our churches, is not completed understanding.

In order for that increase in wisdom and understanding to happen, Paul prayed that these believers may know some particular truths:

- To know the hope to which believers have been called (vs. 18),
- To know the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints (vs. 18) and
- To know the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward believers (vs. 19).

It is this last truth that I want us to dwell upon for our time together — the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward believers. Beginning at verse 20, Paul painted for us descriptions and results of

SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)

of HLGU in a doubleheader at Hannibal High School. CBC (31-12, 12-6 AMC) finished the sweep, allowing runs in only one inning all weekend and beating HLGU (9-25, 4-14 AMC) 3-0 and 12-2.

• **St. Louis, Mo., April 22** —

For the fourth time this season, CBC has the AMC pitcher of the week. **Gram Middleton** earned the honor for the second time this season, also having done so back on March 11. Middleton dominated Hannibal-LaGrange on Friday, allowing just two hits in a complete game shutout while striking out eight to start CBC's streak of allowing runs in only one out of 22 innings this weekend.

and **Dr. Deandrea Bass-Carrigan** were recognized as Division Winners, and **Melissa Starkey** received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award.

Finally, the 2024 Employee of the Year was announced. The nominees this year were **Lynsey Brown, Dana Dowdy, Erik Holth, Brian Kolde, Sam Kohnke, Lisa Padgett, Billie Rodriguez** and **Kylie Williams**. The winner was **Dana Dowdy**, who received the award for her loyalty, work ethic, positive attitude and professionalism.

We are very happy to have recognized the hard work of these students and employees and want to congratulate them all once again on these well-deserved awards.

the immeasurable greatness of God's power that is being worked toward us. And those descriptions and results should inform our daily realities as pastors and members of churches.

Those realities and results are the resurrection and enthronement of Jesus as King over all things (vs. 20-22) and also the giving of that King to the church (vs. 23) for His grand purpose.

No King Over the World but the Resurrected Christ

The descriptions of the immeasurable greatness of God's power that is toward us, as believers, is described as being of the same nature of that power that raised Jesus from the dead and then placed Jesus at God's right hand. So, two features to consider here — resurrection power and reigning power.

• **Resurrection Power (vs. 19-20)** — "...According to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead..." (ESV)

If we are going to grow in wisdom for this life as Christians, if we are going to be fulfilling our purpose

as churches, we must know that the power that is at work on our behalf and through, that has come toward us by the love of God, is of the same caliber as the power that brought a dead Jesus back to life.

If we do not know that and remember that, we will walk around defeated, lackluster, uninspired and unmotivated, or we will run head long into a battle for souls, into a work to make disciples and plant churches ill-equipped with our own strength, and faulty earthly wisdom. What we must remember and rejoice in today is the resurrection of Jesus. The wages of our sin were given to Christ, and that being death. What we owed for our sin, He paid for by His death. There is no hope, no confidence, no joy, no power, no redemption in a sacrifice that remains lifeless in a tomb! That is only an example to follow of self-sacrifice, but not a victory to triumph in of redemption over sin. There is no cause to follow in obedience to a dead man.

There must be something more, something greater than Jesus taking on the power of sin. And that something greater is the author of life Himself, God Almighty, bringing resurrection power back into the dead body of Jesus. And it is because of the resurrection that we know that we have redemption, and resurrection life ourselves, to live beyond death in eternal life starting now!

Listen to me churches of the BMA, the power that is ours from God is an indescribable, unworldly power. So, we should be rejoicing in the fact that not only was Jesus raised from the dead by the immeasurable power of God, but the power that accomplished that very feat has come toward us who believe in giving us new life in Christ! We can be certain of that new life, that our sin is destroyed, no matter how great the sin, because of the power we see in the resurrection of Christ! We not only see a resurrection power, but we also must take notice that this power is a reigning power.

• **Reigning Power (vs. 20-21)** — "That he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come."

I want you to take notice of the lengths the Holy Spirit goes through to show us the absolute nature of this reign of Christ. Jesus is not just above some rulers and authorities, but Paul says that Jesus has been placed far above all rulers and authority. And if we didn't get the point by that statement, Paul continued with every possible realm he could think of — above all power and dominion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Singing; May 4, 5 p.m. - Potluck, 6 p.m. - singing, featuring Jeremiah Gallentine and Family; Dickinson, Harrell; Paul Outlaw, pastor.

Gospel Singing; May 12, 10:30 a.m.; featuring Shawn Drewett; Union, Rosston.

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

Ordination Service for Paul Outlaw, pastor at Dickinson, Harrell; May 18, 2 p.m.; Calvary, Warren.

50th 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.

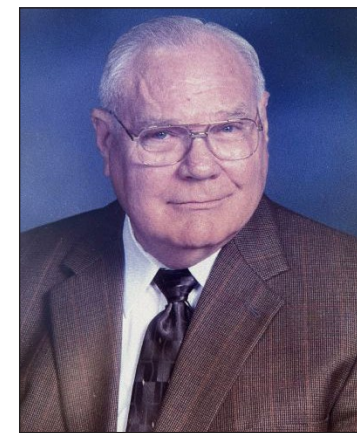
And if that wasn't enough, he covers individuals — every name, and every possible time period — not only in this age but in the age to come.

The power and reign of Christ is absolute. Everything falls under His dominion. It all belongs to Him for Him to do with as He pleases.

His resurrection reign is not limited in scope. His resurrection reign is not confined by geographical boundaries. His resurrection reign is not subject to a committee or a vote or term limits. His resurrection reign is not threatened by attacks from lesser thrones. His resurrection reign is not reduced by world events. His resurrection reign is not diminished by political ploys.

He reigns over every nation, over every kingdom set up on earth, visible and invisible. Jesus reigns over church, no matter how large or how small. He reigns over every pretend church. Jesus reigns over every institution, no matter how moral or corrupt. Jesus reigns over all things, and His reign brings blessings and consequences, depending upon whether His reign is recognized and yielded to or not.

But His reign is questioned, mocked and disregarded in this world. If we are not convinced of His reign over all things, satisfied in His reign over all things, drawing comfort from His reign over all things, leading our churches and departments in the confidence of



Retired BMA Pastor Dies

Walter Clyde "W.C." Malone, 86 of Conway, passed away April 21. He surrendered to the ministry on Aug. 16, 1957, at BMA Church Camp in Latham Springs, Texas and was ordained in 1959. He pastored 11 churches, including 9 in Arkansas and 1 each in Louisiana and Oregon, before his retirement Aug. 21, 2005. He celebrated 50 years of ministry in August 2008 and was a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

Survivors include: his wife of 63 years, Betty Ezell Malone of Conway; two sons, Mark (Heather) Malone and Monty (Melanie) Malone, both of Conway; two brothers, Roy (Betty) Malone of Pineville, La. and Bryce (Linda) Malone of Baton Rouge, La.; five granddaughters and one great-grandson.

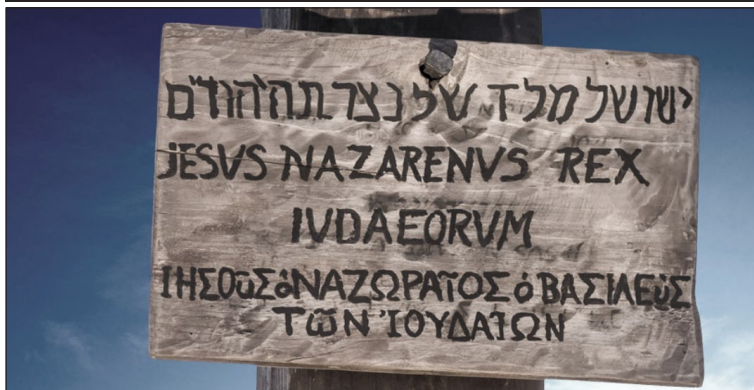
Visitation will be Thursday, April 25, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Roller-McNutt Funeral Home in Conway. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, April 26, at 10 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. Burial will follow at 3:30 p.m. at Shiloh Cemetery in Waldo.

His reign, then we, as individuals and churches, will cower back in fear. We will be bullied out of the public and pushed into the quiet corners of culture.

Hear what Paul is pleading for — the growth in spiritual wisdom and the understanding of God — the wisdom to live lives of holiness, godliness and effectiveness, the wisdom to operate and function as churches in the way God designed and the spiritual wisdom of leading and running institutions that are extensions of the church's ministry. If that is to happen, we must know, believe, revel and live in the resurrection power of God and the reigning power of Christ, because it is that same power that is aimed at us in the church. (Note: Part 2 of this sermon will be printed in next week's issue.)

**STAND FIRM
& LIVE EPIC**
BY JAKE MCCANDLESS

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The Epic Story of Truth (Part 10): The Promised King Came And Was Crucified

As we continue to look at the singular consistent narrative that runs from the table of contents to the maps in our Bible and includes even often “fringe” subjects such as Jesus’ return, the end times, God’s continued plan for Israel and the unseen world, we began with the promise of a King of Israel and an everlasting kingdom. We’re first explicitly introduced to this promise of a descendant of David that will be King of an eternal kingdom of Israel ruled from Jerusalem in II Samuel 7. But hints begin to be introduced in Genesis 49, when Judah is told that the scepter would not depart from his descendants. The ruler from tribe of Judah continued into Numbers 24 through Balaam’s prophecy.

The promise of this eternal Davidic King became a major theme of the prophets. We hear it directly from Isaiah, Micah and Daniel:

• “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom...” (Isa. 9:6-7 NIV).

• “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times” (Micah 5:2).

• “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever” (Daniel 2:44).

This coming King and kingdom

was a huge concept in the Old Testament and for Jews throughout the time of the Old Testament and in the first century. We don’t talk about it a lot today in modern Christianity, well at least it doesn’t seem like we do, but every time we use the phrase “Messiah” or “Christ” we do so. The terms mean “anointed one.” Messiah is Hebrew and Christ is Greek. The idea matches what we saw in the life of David. Even while Saul was King of Israel, God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel. He anointed David. Then David became the “anointed one” or “promised one.” Throughout the Old Testament prophets, they merge the original promise in Gen. 3:15 of the “promised seed of woman who would defeat Satan and make all things new” with the “promised seed of Abraham who would bless the world” and then the “promised one that would be the eternal Davidic King.”

Throughout the Gospels, we see how Jews were looking for this Promised King and Promised Kingdom. Think of all the times Jesus was asked if it was time for Him to start His kingdom.

The people of Israel did finally recognize that Jesus could be this Promised King in how they welcomed Him into Jerusalem on what we commemorate as Palm Sunday. As He rode the donkey into the city, He was treated as the Promised King. The tune of the crowd changed quickly as, in less than a week, they were cheering for Him to be crucified. He was. The one who claimed to be the Promised King and established the promised kingdom was crucified on the cross. He died.

The idea of Him being this

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Mt. Vernon Youth In Harvest; April 29, 6:30 p.m.; Rondo, Lexa.
Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood; May 14; Prospect, Jonesboro.

Mt. Vernon Youth in Harvest; May 20, 6:30 p.m.; Bethel, Forrest City.

Mt. Vernon Dist. Brotherhood; June 3, 6:30 p.m.; Grace, Wynne.
United District WMA; July 13, 10 a.m.; Hattieville, Hattieville
Jonesboro Dist. Brotherhood; June 25; Discover Mission, Prospect, Jonesboro.

HOMECOMINGS

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

Union, Rosston, May 26; 10:30 a.m.; Mitch Dulaney, message; Joe Brown, pastor.

Promised King was highlighted as the sign that was nailed above Him on the cross, mocking His claim to be King. Think of how hopeless this situation would be for those who knew the Word of God and had been faithful to it. This One that had been promised had been killed by the people He was supposed to rule. The kingdom that once stood had fallen and still hadn’t recovered. It would appear hopeless. Yet, the prophet Daniel recorded a vision in Daniel 9 that foretold that the Messiah would be cut off. Daniel was told, “*Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, (Messiah) the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing...*” (Dan. 9:25-26).

In this remarkable prophecy, Daniel is told there would be a certain number of years that would pass from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah was “cut off” or as the NIV says here, “put to death.” Daniel went on to talk about the Messiah finishing His work eventually.

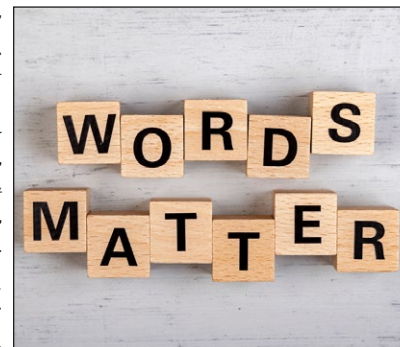
Dive into the Epic Story yourself by reading II Samuel 7, Isaiah 9, Micah 5, Daniel 2, II Chronicles 36 and Luke 19.

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

“...Everything We Need...”
II Peter 1:3
By Karen Mitchell
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Our Words Matter

“The tongue has the power of life and death...” (Prov. 18:21 NIV). That’s a bold statement! How could our words be that powerful? This verse explains it pretty well: “*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness... this should not be*” (James 3:9-10). And it isn’t just our words that matter but our tone, as well. Either way, we can hurt feelings and crush a vulnerable spirit.



As believers in Christ, what we say should build others up rather than tear them down — encourage rather than discourage. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to tame the tongue because, in certain situations, we can quickly spew out angry, unkind and insensitive words. We often preface them with “I shouldn’t say this, but...” or we insult, deride or even play a practical joke on someone and then try to cover it over with, “I was just kidding. Can’t you take a joke?” We may apologize but the damage is already done. Words might be forgiven, but they are hard to forget.

The Bible says quite a bit about gossip. We are all guilty of it at one time or another. Here are a few examples: “*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret*” (Prov. 11:13). “*The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts*” (Prov. 18:8). In other words, they can hurt deeply. Someone produced this great acronym: **THINK** — Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? We should think before we speak so we won’t regret what we said later.

What about bad language — curse words, inappropriate remarks, inuendo? These words reflect on a Christian’s character, casting doubt on his or her walk with the Lord. This verse, spoken by King David will help anyone struggling to overcome this behavior: “*I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth...*” (Psalm 39:1). Solomon said it this way: “*Keep your mouth free of perversity, keep corrupt talk far from your lips*” (Prov. 4:23).

“*You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name*” (Exodus 20:7). It is a **serious** sin to use His name in vain, whether as a thoughtless, casual word to express surprise or dismay, irreverent talk, disdainful joking or attached to curse words. Words used like these show the ultimate dishonor for the holy God. We have no excuse, and this simply should not be.

None of us are perfect. We are going to say the wrong things and use hurtful tones. We can overcome these unhealthy habits by asking the Lord to forgive us and to help us to keep our tongues in check.

Here’s the good part, though — these are the words that uplift, encourage, bring healing and love to one another. “*A gentle answer turns away wrath...*” (Prov. 15:1). “*A man finds joy in giving an apt reply — and how good is a timely word*” (Prov. 15:23). “*The words of the restless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing*” (Prov. 12:18). “*May the words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight...*” (Psalm 19:14).

Having the distinct honor of being called children of God, our words must match our walk with Christ if we are to have any influence with other people — saved or lost. There are so many people who are hurting, sad, lonely or just feeling the weight of the world on their shoulders. We are told to speak only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit. We are to “*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you*” (Eph. 4:29-32). “*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed*” (Prov. 11:25). How fulfilling it is to meet needs and strengthen others!

There are many other verses on this subject, but they all give us everything we need to live a life pleasing to God.



BMA OF ARKANSAS
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PAUL WHITE
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Spring Meeting

The Advisory Committee and I have been mandated by the association to physically meet with our missionaries at least twice a year, and Monday was one of those times. We heard from all seven, having a perfect attendance, and we were encouraged and thankful for the work these are involved in. Please remember to pray for them, and invite one or more to come share their world with your people.

Beneficial Meeting

The national meeting in Branson seemed to be well attended and a very harmonious spirit was forth coming from all who were involved. It has been a long time since we experienced as much discussion on a topic. It was a true demonstration of how we can disagree without being disagreeable. I must admit I was glad that it occurred on Clif's watch and not mine back when I was president a few years ago. He and the officers did a splendid job. I thank Coordinating Council Chairman Richard Smith and those on the Coordinating Council for presenting some positive changes to the meeting schedule. I know much effort was put into those recommendations.

It was exciting to meet several of our State Mission's directors at a special luncheon Tuesday planned by BMA Global President John David Smith. It was encouraging to see men whose lives are given to missions. We all look forward to getting to know one another better and to sharing ideas.

I was thrilled to hear my friend James Schoenrock deliver the annual message — what a godly example and what a tremendous wealth of BMA knowledge he has. We are blessed to have capable men stepping into rolls of leadership to carry our work into the future because, as always, there comes the time to pass the baton. I am already looking forward to the meeting next year in Texas. Be with them several times. They have called a pastor and he and his family will be on the field soon.

Excited

The Jonesboro Association has scheduled a weeklong revival with a different speaker each night. I was honored to be asked to speak Thursday night at Milligan Ridge Baptist Church. Please pray that this will be a time for His people to draw closer to our Lord.

Blessing

Sunday, I had the privilege to preach at First Baptist Church in Caldwell. I have come to love and appreciate those people having had the opportunity to be with them several times. They have called a pastor and he and his family will be on the field soon.

From Our Missionaries

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "This week, I was blessed to participate in the annual meeting of our association. It was good to see the faces of brothers and sisters again, greet them and catch up on our lives and ministry.

"Upon returning, Friday morning, I appeared at the Pulaski County Courthouse, in downtown Little Rock, as I was summoned to serve on a jury when required from May 1 until Aug. 31. You can serve up to 10 times during that period, but we were informed that it is usually not more than 7 times.

"Bro. Dublas, upon seeing that

the renovation work on the building's fascia was of poor quality, decided on his initiative to dismantle and reinstall it, leaving it much better. I am excited to witness the zeal for the work in the temple on the part of the brothers. They want the best for the temple of our God.

"Thank you for praying for this mission work, we are experiencing many attacks from the enemy in church families. May God guide us in exhorting, teaching and encouraging the brothers and sisters of the congregation."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "It has been a week of visits. Monday night, we visited the Lopez family. Their son, Neymar has cancer. Thank God,

the cancer never affected the bone marrow, but Neymar has had to undergo chemotherapy treatment. He has had moments where he has been hospitalized but, thank God, he has been progressing for the better. We pray that, he can be discharged this summer.

"Wednesday night, we visited the Hernandez family for prayer and fellowship time. The blessing was that, starting this week, every Wednesday we will have a Discovery Bible Study (DBS).

"Friday, I visited Mayra Cifuentes at the Baptist Hospital. She has had problems with her pancreas due to her diabetes. It was a good time to pray for her and encourage her to seek the things of God.

"Thanks to God, the ministry in the homes continues to advance. Starting this week, we will have meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays to discover what the Bible says. We are studying the gospel of John, and it has been a great blessing.

"Saturday in our home, the sisters continued to meet and celebrated several birthdays. Pray that we can activate a ministry for our youth, men and a worship ministry.

"We had a good time of celebration Sunday. We challenged everyone in Ebenezer to share the truth of God's Word and their own life to the unbelievers. After our service, I left to give the Bible study to the baseball players. We continued to make progress in sowing the good seed to the boys, then I stayed to watch a little bit of the game, and it was interesting to see one of our mission churches come as a group at the stadium. Thank you once again for your support. To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a very busy, and a great week at Faith Chapel — but then, they all are! We had a really good number again for worship, and for Sunday evening service even though this flu bug is still going around. Now some have allergies and even bronchitis, brought on by all this pollen. Everything is yellow right now, but the weather has been just beautiful and the pollen is about over.

"Well, I finally get to tell you,

Praise God — the drywall is finished, even the texture! It seems like it has been the main thing we have been waiting on for the longest time, but it is all finished now! Praise God again! The plumber got the addition roughed in, the concrete floors have been poured and the painting should begin about the middle of this week. I told you it was a busy week! We are ready for the Master's Builders to come and frame the addition. They are scheduled to be here beginning May 6 for two weeks, and we can't wait to have them here again! They are such a blessing, not only to do the work, but just to be around. They finished their work in Missouri on Friday, and a few of them came by and dropped off their campers so they wouldn't have to tow them home, so we got to have a good visit and it seems like we already have a head start. After a season of waiting for drywall to be finished, things are really happening fast now, and we will be in our new building soon. And we can't thank you, or God, enough!

"We thank you for your prayers and support, and we thank God for calling us to this work and for making all this happen. We give Him the glory for it all! Praise God again and again!"

Faith Journey, Benton: Bryan Clay writes, "We had a great time of fellowship this week at Faith Journey. We had a large group with four first-time visitors! We worshipped, fellowshiped and enjoyed a delicious meal!

"We were out in our community making contacts with people this week. Third Thursday started up again in downtown Benton, and we were able to visit with folks and tell them about who we are and what Faith Journey is doing in the area. We planted a lot of seeds, so, hopefully, we will see some new faces from these divine appointments.

"I was able to attend the Central Arkansas District Brotherhood meeting this week at the Church at Willow Beach in North Little Rock. I enjoyed meeting men from fellow churches from our part of the state. They gave me an opportunity to speak and share at the meeting what God is doing at Faith Journey. It was a pleasure to get to spend time with these Christian gentlemen and learn how our Baptist Association works in the surrounding areas."

Misión Gracia Soberana (Sovereign Grace), NWA: Roberto Marcelletti writes, "The month of April is almost over. Thank God, He has been faithful in guiding us. We have been able to share the gospel with several families, and we just hope that the

Lord calls them to salvation. We are also giving biblical counseling to women who are experiencing family abuse in Rogers.

"We were also able to meet in our small groups and the number of people has been maintained — 15 people have been disciplined. We have already started the meetings with Bro. Franklin. He is very interested in growing and serving the Lord, and glory to God for that because there are not many men these days who want to dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord.

"Several families did not attend our Sunday Service, but we had a visitor — Diego, a nephew of my wife came from Colombia to live in the area. The Lord moved his heart and we were glad that the Lord has started a work in him. He told us he would return the next Sunday and that when his wife and son arrived they would join the church."

Epic Life, Pea Ridge: Jake McCandless writes, (4/15) "I'll tell you a funny story and then the good news. With this model of opening your home, you can't hide anything. A couple weeks back, we had to shift the Woodbridge Connection Group to our house at the last minute. We may or may not have had to go into super cleaning mode. While we fellowshiped and ate, the adults mingled around the kitchen, dining space and living room while the kids played in the backyard. Then we circled up in the living room, but the dining table is visible from the living room. Someone said, 'I guess we need to pray for Jake and Amanda because looks like Jake had to buy flowers.' There were two vases of flowers on the table — busted! Actually, this time was a 'just because.' I had found purple tulips which were a favorite, but if they were 'I'm sorry' flowers, everyone would know. Some good news is that they were 'just because' flowers, but this week we really got a glimpse of how this method of ministry can explode.

"I'm so excited! We have been praying for our softball team parents for two years, and this week I had the chance to lead a Connection Group Discovery Bible Study for the team and parents — 17 came! The parents were blown away by how the kids participated and what they walked away learning! We believe I will get to do this at least six more times, and we're praying God uses it.

"This evening, we're launching out in a new group with a family who wants to start it at their house. That gives us a total of six groups now, and five of them met this week! Over 50 people were in Discovery Bible Study this week!"

It's Not Too Late

Year after year, the Lord uses BMA churches through the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering, and this year is no exception. We are encouraged yet again as many of our directors and staff spent time with your churches throughout World Missions season. Thank you for your hospitality and allowing them to speak to your congregations.

As special offerings continue to come in, we want to express our gratitude. Thank you for partnering with us in God's global commission as we send missionaries to make disciples, develop leaders and plant churches. We literally could not do it without your support.

There's still time to send in your offering. Designate it to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering and send to PO Box 878 Conway, Ark. 72033.

If you have any questions, contact Relationship Coordinator Sidney Vines at (870) 826-7757 or sidney@bmaglobal.org.





WE ARE HIRING

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DAVID T. WATKINS
ACADEMIC BUILDING

CBC'S ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION IS SEEKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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Personal Admissions Officer

TO APPLY, VISIT CBC.EDU/JOBS



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

Invites applications for the following position

Executive Vice President

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

Qualifications:

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

Deadline for Submission: May 31

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