

Baptist Progress

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July 7, 2010



Texas Baptist Home for Children Celebrates 100 Years of Ministry

The story began in 1910, when the secretary of state for the State of Texas approved and granted a charter for the Texas Baptist Orphanage. The official recognition and charter came after 10 years of discussion and planning by the churches of the BMA of Texas. These people of vision foresaw in their dreams a home that would be a blessing to needy children for many generations. Their dream of caring for hurting children and families is still alive 100 years later.

To commemorate the centennial anniversary of what is now known as the Texas Baptist Home for Children, President Eddie Marsh and staff hosted a spectacular day of celebration on Saturday, June 12. The day's events included music, puppet shows, games, tours and a Texas barbecue lunch. Staff and family members of former presidents also took the crowd for a walk down memory lane as they shared stories of days gone by.

Following the worshipful singing of recording artist, Amy Douglas, Marsh welcomed an overflow crowd to the event held in the Home's gymnasium. Jerry Fulton, president of the BMA of Texas

led a dedicatory prayer for the day. Also recognizing the anniversary of the Home was Waxahachie Mayor N.B. "Buck" Jordan. State Representative Jim Pitts sent a declaration from the Texas House of Representatives which was read by Marsh.

In appreciation of their support throughout the years, staff recognized the contributions of several local businesses. Receiving plaques of appreciation were the Dallas Area Street Rods, Citizens National Bank, Walgreens, Ken Box of Edward Jones, the Waxahachie Rotary Club, Dr. John Compton, Sonic Drive-in and Chick-fil-A. Two area churches that have served as church homes to the children of the Texas Baptist Home for Children — Farley Street, Waxahachie and First, Red Oak — were also recognized. In fact, Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street, Waxahachie noted that Farley Street was organized so that the children of the Texas Baptist Orphanage could have a place to go to church.

On hand for the day were a number of current and former employees and trustees as well as their family members. Several pastors and

TBH Celebration continued on p. 6

Little Mound, Big Sandy Honors Pianist



"I promised if He would give me a talent for music that I would use it for His honor and glory. I've tried."

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Straight Talk to Church Members About Pastors

By **THOM RAINER**
President, LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--I know. Pastors aren't perfect. But they do have one of the toughest jobs in the world. Regardless of the church polity, they do have to answer to every church member. Please allow me to speak to you who are church members. I know most of you love your pastor. I know most of you respect your pastor. But you may not know how you can best help your pastor.

I have served as a pastor of four churches, and I have consulted with hundreds of pastors. In many ways, I think I understand the heart of a pastor. So would you allow me to share with you how to demonstrate love to your pastor? I put them in the form of five things not to do, and five things to do.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Let's get the negatives out of the way first. I've tried to streamline the list some.

1. Don't criticize or make critical suggestions to the pastor unless you have spent much time in prayer over the matter. Pastors have to deal with criticisms every week. It drains them. Also, don't criticize the pastor's family.
2. Don't ask the pastor to make announcements right before the worship service. He needs to be focused on his sermon. Similarly, don't say other things to him that may distract him before he preaches.
3. Don't tell your pastor how he compares to other pastors.
4. Don't expect the pastor to be at all the church events

and functions you think he should attend. Most of the other church members want him at "their" events as well.

5. Don't expect the pastor to be the primary pastoral caregiver to all members, their relatives, their distant relatives, and the rest of the community within a 30-mile radius.

WHAT TO DO

As I have talked with pastors around the world, they have shared with me some of the steps church members have taken that have really encouraged them. Let me share five of them.

1. Do pray for your pastor. Send him an e-mail to let him know you are praying for him.
2. Do encourage your pastor. He needs it because he's human, and he needs it to balance the criticisms he hears.
3. Do work with the leadership of the church to make certain the pastor is getting sufficient rest, time off, and family time. Most pastors are on a 24/7 call.
4. Do encourage the rest of the church to take on pastoral care responsibility, particularly through small groups and Sunday school classes. The pastor should be the primary caregiver for the most urgent and serious of needs. The rest of the church should do the bulk of the ministry.
5. Do be faithful to the ministry of the church. Few things encourage a pastor as much as committed church members.

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This column first appeared at ThomRainer.com.

Guest Editorial

BY THOM RAINER

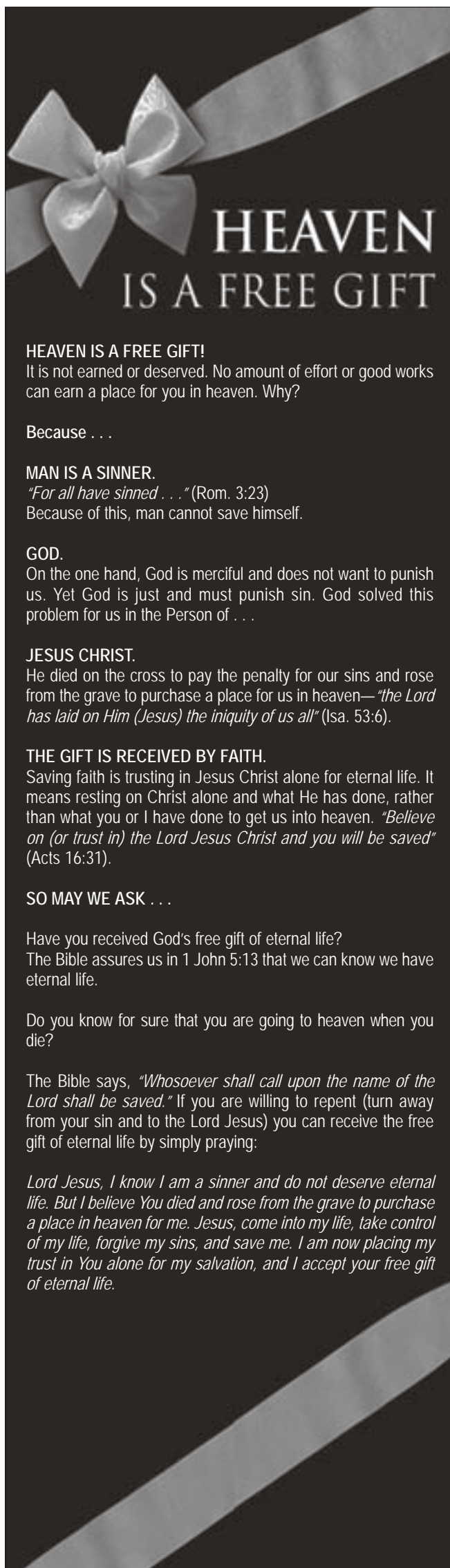


Hotels for BMA of Texas Annual Session November 9-10, 2010

Best Western Crown Colony Inn & Suites
(Headquarters Hotel)
3211 South 1st Street, Lufkin
936-634-3481
Rate: \$80 per night (king or double), includes hot breakfast

Courtyard by Marriott
(Hotel closest to the church)
2130 South 1st Street, Lufkin
936-632-0777
Rate: \$99 per night (king or double)

LaQuinta Inn
(Hotel has only outside rooms, but very nice)
2119 South 1st Street, Lufkin
936-634-3351
Rate: \$85.50 per night for up to four people (double only)



HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT

HEAVEN IS A FREE GIFT!
It is not earned or deserved. No amount of effort or good works can earn a place for you in heaven. Why?

Because . . .

MAN IS A SINNER.
"For all have sinned . . ." (Rom. 3:23)
Because of this, man cannot save himself.

GOD.
On the one hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish us. Yet God is just and must punish sin. God solved this problem for us in the Person of . . .

JESUS CHRIST.
He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven—"the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

THE GIFT IS RECEIVED BY FAITH.
Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting on Christ alone and what He has done, rather than what you or I have done to get us into heaven. "Believe on (or trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

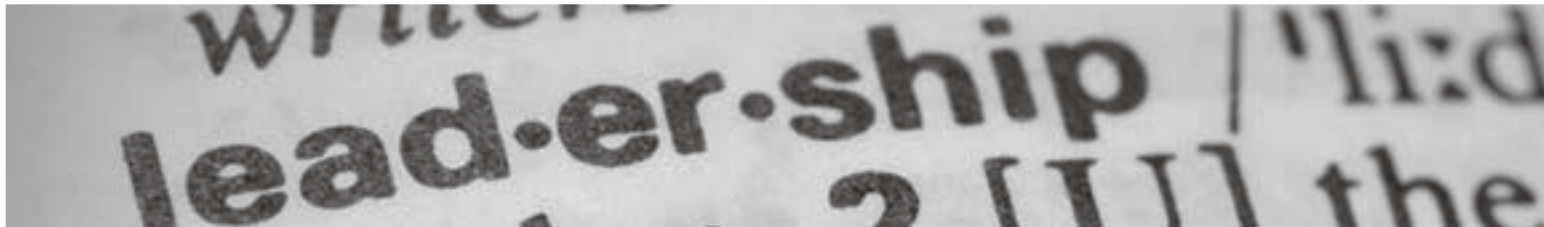
SO MAY WE ASK . . .

Have you received God's free gift of eternal life? The Bible assures us in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.

Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die?

The Bible says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." If you are willing to repent (turn away from your sin and to the Lord Jesus) you can receive the free gift of eternal life by simply praying:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. But I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins, and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your free gift of eternal life.



Steve Stroope

It Starts At Home Part 2

BY STEVE STROOPE

2010 Pastors' & Laymen's Conference

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II. A Leader Implements an Effective Strategy

The second thing a leader does is implement an effective strategy. It's one thing to stand up in your church as a leader and talk about what we ought to do and where we ought to do it, but it won't matter if we don't do those things. We must have an effective strategy that's implemented.

"You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." (Deut. 6:7)

The strategy for shaping a home into a God loving, God trusting, God glorifying home is to do it when you sit down. For us, that means at a meal, but most families don't sit together at a meal anymore and if they do, the television is on. It also says that we're to do it as we walk in the way. Not many folks walk today, but that's drive time for most of us. It says that we're to do it when we lie down at night. We're to do it when we tuck our kids into bed and when they rise up.

God's strategy is for us to clarify the purpose of the family and to cast the vision — not by holding any new meetings, not by scheduling stuff at the church, but when we're doing life with our family. Do you see the synergy of this? We don't need to add an event to the busy schedule of families in our churches. We're asking them to begin to disciple their children while they do life with their children; but that means they have to do life with their children.

One of the things that blessed my life as a young parent was when James Dobson said that when your children are young, every time you give your children attention and use the opportunities that occur naturally in their life, you get an invisible token.

When a child crawls up in your lap and says, "Read me that story," for the 100th time and you read it again, you get an invisible token.

When that child shows you a picture they have drawn and you say, "Tell me about it." (By the way, you don't say, "What is that?" You say, "Tell me about it.") And they tell you about it and you actually turn off the television and give them your undivided attention and listen, you get an invisible token.

When you go on a walk and collect leaves, and you begin to put those leaves in a little book and talk about how creative God is and how no single leaf is like another one and how He has created us in the same way. And when you tell your child that God knows everything about us, and even knows the number of hairs on our head; and we say, "I wonder how many hairs there are on our heads?" You get an invisible token.

Then the day your child turns 12 you stop collecting tokens and you start spending them. The secret to parenting is to collect enough tokens before their 12th birthday so you can make it through their 21st birthday.

That's what the Bible is talking about. God's strategy is that we spend time with our family and take advantage of the synergy of those opportunities.

Why is it that you can't remember your driver's license number, but you can remember the first rock and roll song you ever heard? Because of the rhythm. And there's a rhythm to what we're talking about.

The children of Israel, they would say the "Shema" twice a day. There was a rhythm to it. They would celebrate the Shabbat, or Sabbath, once a week. There was a rhythm to it. Then they had their festivals and feasts and there was a rhythm to it.

We have those same reoccurring things in our life — when we sit down and when we walk in the way, when we lie down and when we rise up in the morning. We also have the Sabbath and we communicate how we observe that with our family. We don't have the feasts and festivals the Jews

had but we have Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's Day and Father's Day; and all of those can be taken as an opportunity to teach spiritual truths.

On Father's Day, when you get that really ugly tie from your family, I hope you will pause and say, "Before I thank you fully for the way you've honored me today, let's honor the perfect Father. I make mistakes, but I try to be the best dad I can and I thank you guys for being patient with me. But let's all just go around and share one thing we appreciate about our perfect Father. Then when we finish can we all kneel here in the living room and just thank God for being that kind of Father." Why in the world would you not do that every Father's Day?

There are people who celebrate Thanksgiving with football and turkey legs, but they don't point to the giver of all good gifts with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. Why wouldn't we do that on a regular basis?

There are homes where they don't even talk about God. Many of them may load up their kids and go to church every week and dump their kid in the youth area or the children's area. But they don't even mention God on the way home from church and He's not mentioned all week long.

Only 10% of those children who attend an evangelical church experience any discussion or activity about God outside of the church with their parents other than a mealtime prayer. And we're wondering why we're losing half of our own children? It starts at home.

About six years ago, our staff gathered together and we looked at our church values. We have about 13 values we've had over the last 28 years and we rated ourselves on those values.

One of those values is that we believe the family is the primary discipleship vehicle. And as we rated ourselves on those 13 values, that value came in dead last in terms of its impact on the lives of the

families of our church. We all believe it and I preached about it once a year, but it wasn't happening.

So we decided that we had to change things at our church and we began to emphasize faith at home. We declared, first of all, to our people: "It is not our job to raise your kids. You can outsource your laundry at the cleaners and education at the school system. You may choose to outsource the washing of your windows or the mowing of your lawns, but you cannot outsource the spiritual development of your own children. We are not going to do your job for you, but we're here to help you do the job."

Part of the problem is that many of our churches have great children's programs and great youth programs and the parents look at those and say, "I'm inadequate. The church knows so much more about this than I do. I'm just going to let them do it." We must equip those parents. We need to let them know that we're their partners, but we are not going to do their jobs for them.

Not only do we need to declare it and change the conversation, but we needed to fulfill our part by resourcing those parents. So we sat down and identified at least 27 different family types — single moms, blended families, grandparents, empty-nesters, expectant parents and the list goes on.

We looked at all the resources that are available for all those family types, then we listed them so the families didn't have to do all that research. Then we secured all those resources and made them available both in our bookstore as well as in our library. Then we said to our people, "If you're a grandparent and you want to know how to be a better grandparent in influencing the next generation spiritually, the best book is one called *Extreme Grandparenting*."

I actually got the assignment of reading all the grandparenting books

Leadership continued on p. 5



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www.jacksonville-college.edu

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Personnel & Positions

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Pastor—First, Beckville is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume and tape/CD (if available) to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 329 Beckville, TX 75631. Questions call Mike Johnson 903 754-9084.

Pastor—Myrtle Springs, Quitman is seeking a full-time pastor with the educational background of college and seminary. Please visit our church web site at <http://myrtle-springs.org> to view a more detailed job description. After prayerful consideration, please mail resume and a recorded sermon via CD to Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, Attn: Pulpit Committee, 2185 FM 2225 Quitman, TX 75783.

Pastor—Blackjack, Troup is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to Donia13@aol.com or to P.O. Box 605, Troup 75789.

Pastor—Simmons Hill, Diana is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to SHBC Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 224, Diana, TX 75640.

Pastor—Rose Hill, Mineola is seeking a pastor. Send resume and CD, if available, to Kirk Russell, 162 Circle Drive, Mineola 75773 or call 903-521-3802.

Pastor—Jackson, Joaquin is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Jackson Baptist Church Pulpit Committee, 11120 State Highway 7 East, Joaquin, TX 75954.

Worship Leader—Central, Texarkana is seeking a worship leader. Send resume to 4613 Loop 245, Texarkana, AR 71854. Description: Full or part time youth minister. We will consider combining this with music ministry if the applicant wishes.

Worship/Youth/Interim Worship—First, Ferris needs a staff member or members with responsibilities in youth ministry and/or worship music. Full-time or bi-vocational will depend on scope of duties, gifts, and calling. Interim worship music leadership position available now (blended worship). Contact Pastor Randy Sessions at pastor@fbcferris.com or 972-935-2939.

Worship Leader—Mt. Olive, Scurry is seeking a worship leader who will be responsible for the scheduling of all music activities, planning and programs of the church. Sunday and Wednesday blended music services. Not a full-time position; housing in lieu of salary negotiable. Send resume or inquiries to landa@mtolivescurry.com or mail to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, P.O. Box 99, Scurry, TX 75158. You may contact Landa Taylor at 214-649-5625 with questions.

Youth Minister—Central, Texarkana is seeking a youth minister. Send resume to 4613 Loop 245, Texarkana, AR 71854. Description: Full or part time youth minister. We will consider combining this with music ministry if the applicant wishes.

AVAILABLE MINISTER

Craig Bass is available to lead worship (music—traditional or blended) on a supply/fill-in basis within driving distance of east Dallas. Contact him at 972-686-1065.

Tommy Guthrie is available for pulpit supply or interim pastor. Contact him at 903-326-5017 or 903-293-8044.

Lawrence Turner is available for pulpit supply, evangelism, interim pastor or pastor. He is a member of First, Crandall. Contact him at 972-932-3017 (home) or 469-441-6187 (cell) or etxboy6661@yahoo.com.

Jerry Jolly has resigned as pastor of Highland Hills, Highland, Ark., and is available for pulpit supply, revivals and conferences. He can be reached at 870-932-8293, 870-930-4309 or jerryjolly@suddenlink.net.

Carl Willis is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. Contact him at 817-261-9980.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

Ken Williams is the new pastor at Northside, Garland.

Change of Address

CHURCH NAME & ADDRESS CHANGE

Webb Chapel, Dallas is now reGenesis, Carrollton. The church's mailing address is now P.O. Box 110607, Carrollton, TX 75011. Their office address is 2201 Midway Road, Suite 108B, Carrollton, TX 75006. The new phone number for the church is 972-239-6555. Visit their Web site, www.YouCanBeginAgain.com.

Churches in Review

June 20, 2010

CHURCH	S	W	B	L	P	St
Anthony Dr, Ennis	59	97				
Anchor Bible, Pharr	11	49				
Beautiful Acres, Scurry	17	34				
Cedar Creek, Teague	14	25				
Central, Aspermont	45	97				1
Eighth Avenue, Teague	181	237				
Farley Street, Waxahachie	355	473				
Fellowship, Pittsburg	49	107				
First, Blooming Grove	212					
First, Judson	53	112				
First, New Summerfield	41	55				
First, Palmer	60	122				
Glade Creek, Gilmer	16	34				
Jackson, Canton	65	90				
Little Mound, Big Sandy	53	84				
Longcreek, Sunnyvale	105	115				
Merriman Hills, Sherman	24	23				
New Haven, Dallas	26	50				
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	68	82				
Piney Creek, Kennard	25	46				
Rosewood, Gilmer	88	157				
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	58	83				
Tundra, Canton	75	87				
Union Hill, Brownsboro	102	174	1	1		

June 27, 2010

CHURCH	S	W	B	L	P	St
Anthony Dr, Ennis	55	96				
Anchor Bible, Pharr	19	71				
Bethel Groesbeck	18	35				2
Calvary, Ennis	48	70				
Cedar Creek, Teague	9	23				
Central, Aspermont	35	86	1			
Davis St., Sulphur Springs	102	152	2			2
Farley Street, Waxahachie	362	426				
First, Blooming Grove	224					
First, Crandall	53	83				
First, Judson		98				
First, New Summerfield	45	57				
First, Palmer	62	104				
Glade Creek, Gilmer	18	41				
Jackson, Joaquin	67	96				
Little Mound, Big Sandy	51	72				
Longcreek, Sunnyvale	78	101	2			
Merriman Hills, Sherman	25	24				
New Haven, Dallas	27	38				
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	70	88				
Rosewood, Gilmer	95	167				
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	76	100				
Temple, Mexia	32	44				
Tundra, Canton	81	98				1
Union Hill, Brownsboro	113	151	3			2
Walnut Street, Winnsboro	143	188				
Woodland, Splendora	60	85				

KEY: S-Sunday School, W-Morning Worship, B-Additions by baptism, L-Additions by letter, P-Professions of faith, St-Additions by statement
lease report your statistics by **MONDAY @ 5 p.m.** of each week by visiting www.baptistprogress.org and clicking "CHURCHES IN REVIEW," call 972-923-0756 or e-mail your statistics to info@baptistprogress.org.

Leadership continued from p. 3

and I discovered that there are a lot of lousy grandparenting books out there! But I found one that's a gem and now tell the grandparents in our church: "If you want to make a difference in the spiritual development of your grandchildren, this is the book that will help you even if you don't live close to your grandchildren."

Video

Editor's Note: During Bro. Stroope's presentation, he showed a video that explained the program he was talking about. This is a brief synopsis of that video:

- His church has developed a HomePointe Center, including a "life seasons" wall that contains 24 topics, with more to be added as time goes on. There are various brochures and resource items for families in different life seasons and life circumstances.

- An example is one called "Intentional Parenting," which applies to those who have children at home. It begins with a pastoral reflection, a Biblical perspective, on this life season and offers suggestions and additional resources for parents who want to become "intentional in that area." Another example is one for families who are struggling with finances.

- The recommended books and other resources are available in the church's bookstore and many of them are free. The free items are usually in the form of a "recipe card" that is a "quick recipe" for something the person can do this week or this month to be "intentional." There are also free CD's and audio products, etc.

- The books, etc., are also available through the church's library and can be checked out free.

- At one central location, once the individual has identified their life stage, they can take a brochure which will tell them, in some general terms, about the resources the church recommends.

- The center also offers information on upcoming events at the church, as well as conferences, that pertain to a specific category.

- There is always someone (an OnPointe host) available that the individual can talk to if they have questions

- A place is also provided for the children to stay busy while parents are looking at the center.

- A computer is also available at the HomePointe Center so they can access the recommended programs immediately.

- The center is open 52 weekends out of the year.

Any Church Can Do It

I know what you're thinking — that big church has all that money and resources, so

they can do it. But we can't do that at our church.

We have spent about \$250,000 doing the research, designing the materials and building the center (which is a kiosk right in the middle of our church.) But here's what you need to understand: we believe this is an important movement in the Christian church and that's why we have "downsized and right sized" it for any size church in America.

One of our campuses had their entire HomePointe center on a wall that is four feet wide in a cabinet that is four feet wide. They've taken those 27 different family types and made it into one booklet so they don't have to spread it out all over the wall. And they've taken the major books that are offered and lined them up in the cabinet. Then they give instructions about how church members can go to Amazon.com and get those things or they can check them out from the church.

We've provided this so you can, for a very slight fee, get all the research we've already done, use all the verbiage we've used and you can put the name of your church on it. And 100% of the small fee we charge, depending on the size of your church, goes back into continuing to produce the products that will help your church do this.

The other component of this is for you, as pastor, to come back to your people at least twice a year and drill down on a particular aspect of spiritual formation of the home. We provide that for you as well. Let me just give you one example that you don't even need to use resources to implement:

We challenged our people to be a family that prays together. In fact, we challenged them to be a "752 Family." Seven stands for a commitment by the entire family that they will pray for the family seven days a week, for 120 days. Five stands for "I will pray with my family five days a week" (and that includes mealtime prayer.)

Two stands for (if it's a married couple) a commitment that, twice a week, Mom and Dad will sit down and share intimate prayer requests with one another, then hold hands while they pray together. (And if one of the spouses feels uncomfortable about praying out loud, that's okay. They can still pray together and when the other one finishes praying, they can just squeeze the hand of the other spouse to let them know they're finished. For some folks, that's all they can do.)

Of the 10,000 people that were there one weekend, we had 7,800 commit to be a 752 family for 120 days. And I believe if you do anything for 120 days it becomes a holy habit.

Three studies have been commissioned, and one of them, the Gallup Organization, which is not even a Christian organization. In all three studies, they discovered that when a couple shares intimate prayer requests and prays together at least twice a week, the divorce rate drops in that home.

Keep in mind that the typical divorce rate in America is the same in Christian families as in non-Christian families — about 50%! But when a family prays together at least twice a week after sharing intimate prayer requests, the divorce rate in those Christian homes drops from 50% to less than 1%.

If you can get the couples in your church to start praying together, you will do more to help the marriages of your church than anything else you can do. It will help them more than any marriage retreat and it will certainly help them more than your preaching! All we have to do is to get them to pray together; and we do that by giving our people some tools and helping them develop those holy habits, then come back to them at least twice a year.

This is not something you roll out and say, "This year is going to be the year of the family, next year is going to be the year of evangelism and the year after that is going to be the year of compassion." No! It starts at home and it stays at home. We have to keep stoking that fire. If our HomePointe materials can help you do that, great, but you don't need us to do that. You just need to believe it yourself.

A leader in the home first of all clarifies purpose and casts vision. The second thing they do is they implement an effective strategy, and God has given us the strategy. It's just Mom and Dad, all day long as they spend time with their family, accepting the responsibility to be equipped to be spiritual leaders of the home.

III. The Leader Lives the Vision

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be (first) on your heart." (Deut. 6:6) Our kids are not rejecting our faith because we have bad doctrine. They're not rejecting our faith because we don't have good youth ministry. They're rejecting the faith of their parents primarily because they see the parents mouth it, but they're not living it. They're saying, "What I'm hearing at church is not the same thing I'm seeing at home. And by the way, Mom and Dad act differently at church and treat each other differently at church than they do at home. This thing's not for real."

If you want to see more generosity in your home, be generous. If you want to see more forgiveness in your home, be more forgiving. Whatever we want to see in your

kids, whatever we want to see in your home, it has to begin in us.

In Mark 12, Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" And He quoted the Shema! He said the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind and soul; but then he added the second part —to love your neighbor as yourself. Did He water down the Shema when He added that we are to love the people who are closest to us? No! Basically, He explained the Shema — the way you and I love God is not only to trust Him but to love the people we live with.

"If you say you love God and you hate your brother, you're a liar." (I John 4:20) Gentlemen, if you say you love God and you hate your wife, you're a liar. Ladies, you say you love God and hate your husband, you are a liar. And if we say we love God and don't love our family, then we're liars! Don't get mad at me; I didn't say it, God said it!

"If a man can't lead his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" (I Tim. 3:5)

To lead your home is to cast a vision for it. It's to implement the strategy of doing life together and being responsible for your children's spiritual formation. But, most of all, it's to live the vision.

The way we cast vision is that we become more like Jesus. And if we truly become more like Jesus, we will lift Him up in our daily lives. (Unlike the Pharisees who could tell you the law but didn't have a relationship with the lawgiver). And if we lift Him up, the Bible says everyone will be drawn to Him. Let's thank Him for that!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this wonderful thing called family and thank you for allowing all of us to be a part of not only our nuclear family but also your family. Help us to reignite the hearts of our people to make family primary. Help us, as church leaders, to encourage, equip and inspire our people to be the leaders they need to be in their own homes. Help us, dear Father, to stop making excuses and start making a difference! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

— Steve Stroope is the lead pastor of Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, TX, a Baptist congregation. He was called to the church 28 years ago, shortly after its founding and, under his leadership, the church has grown from 53 at its inception to over 11,000 today. He is the co-author of two books, "Money Matters in the Church" and "It Starts At Home." He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX with a B.A. in psychology, received his Masters of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX.



Crowd at Centennial Celebration



TBH Celebration continued from p. 1

churches from across the state were also present for the celebration.

After music from Randi Gauntt Loafman, The Farley Boys and Expressions of Grace (all from Farley Street), Marsh shared a brief history of the Home. He shared that in May 1913, then-President J.S. Elloitt hosted an official opening of the Texas Baptist Orphanage. He sent invitations asking people to come to Waxahachie for the official opening of what then was known as the Texas Baptist Orphanage. Included in his invitation was a request to bring several items and \$1,000. While the grand opening was well attended about all the people brought was their dinner. However, an offering was taken which amounted to about \$2,000, the equivalent of about \$44,000 today.

Even though the people did not bring the items that Elloitt had requested, the opening was not a failure. People from all over the state saw that the Texas Baptist Orphanage was real. They saw 19 well-lighted rooms furnished with white iron single beds, 34 acres of good blackland and 19 precious orphan children. The property value was at \$18,000. As a result of the opening the people of Waxahachie, for the first time, realized that the Baptist Missionary Association meant business. Elloitt resigned his position in 1913 at the BMA of Texas Annual Meeting in Cleburne.

When J.F. McClung and wife, Alice, left the Cleburne meeting they went directly to Waxahachie. He found the treasury empty, the children in need of clothes and the orphanage in need of furnishings. McClung immediately wrote a letter requesting needed funds. He asked the churches of the BMA of Texas to invite him to speak to their congregations and if they did not he said that he was inviting himself.

A favorite story is told about a letter he wrote to the churches around Thanksgiving Day. He wrote, "Well, in regard to Thanksgiving dinner today, turkeys were out of reach of your financial agent, but Mr. A.N. Sherbert one of the leading grocery men of our little city (Italy) has supplied me with a large fat possum, and while I write, Alice is putting yam potatoes around him; he is simmering in the bake oven and she is singing 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'. The aroma from that oven is enough to make the sweet water rise under the

tongue of any Baptist preacher. Well someone in east Texas who lives near a persimmon orchard sent by parcel post or express, at least a half dozen persimmon-fed possums for Christmas dinner." Of course what McClung wrote was not true, but he received plenty of turkeys in time for Christmas dinner as the result of his letter.

In 1913, when J.S. Elloitt passed from the scene of the Home, many people were in doubt that the orphanage would ever find another man to replace him. Six years later they were wondering the same thing about McClung. Would there be another man who would be willing to completely spend his life for the cause of the Texas Baptist Orphanage.

A.J. Parks followed McClung and stayed two years. Churches sent clothes and food, but very little money. Parks was followed by the first and only lady to serve as manager, Mrs. D.C. Dove, who was the wife of the editor of *Baptist Progress*. The trustees felt the churches would no longer have to be begged to support the orphanage, but they were wrong.

P.L. Tomlinson followed Mrs. Dove as manager. He traveled day and night to raise money for the orphanage but was not very successful. The Rotary Club provided beds for the children. Tomlinson passed away October 5, 1925.

D.C. Dove was elected as the next manager. He had served as a school teacher, member of the Texas Legislature, a member of the food commission under Herbert Hoover during WWI, as president of Jacksonville College and as editor of *Baptist Progress*.

Dove was followed by J.W. Harper. During his tenure, the orphanage felt the crunch of the Great Depression, as did the entire world at the time. Due to overdue bills, merchants of Waxahachie refused to give the orphanage any credit. Harper tried to borrow money but to no avail. Major steps were taken including reduction of the number of children in care and the number of employees. Salaries were also cut by one-fifth.

In December 1933, Harper offered his resignation and W.H. Day, the chairman of the trustee board, was elected. The economy was improving by this time and churches were beginning to once more support the orphanage on a regular basis. Day was able to do what no manager since J.F. McClung had done — clear

the orphanage of debt. He resigned in 1938.

Perhaps the Home's glory days were during the years that a father and son, C.B. and Ted Stanley led the ministry. Former resident Charles Southard and Nell McCuistion, daughter of Ted Stanley and granddaughter of C.B. Stanley, spoke of the elder Stanley's tenure as president of the Home. Stanley led the Home out of difficult times into a time of growth. His strong financial management policies helped to solidify the ministry's future. C.B. Stanley served as president from 1938 to 1968, when he was succeeded by his son.

Ted Stanley envisioned building cottages on the Home's campus. His dream was realized and the old dormitory-style building that had served as home to scores of children was demolished. He warned the churches of the BMA of Texas that more difficult challenges were on the horizon as family violence, moral decay and other complex family issues were increasing. However, he promised that the principles upon which the Home was founded will never change. He held the position of president until 1988. Speaking of his days as president were son-in-law, Dale Patterson, and former employee, Nathan Andrews.

The next president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children was another Ted — Ted Johnson. Serving from 1988 to 2000, Johnson used innovative initiatives to enhance the program of care and staff training to better meet the needs of the children. Also, Johnson increased the involvement of the board of trustees in long range planning and assistance in extending services to more children. It was during Johnson's tenure that Hannah's Ministry, a ministry to unwed mothers, and Family Connections became a reality. Dawn Tunnel, programs director and adoptive parent; Joanna Noggle, former employee and Lionel Alvarado, former resident, shared stories of Johnson's years as president. Johnson went home to be with the Lord a few years ago.

In 2000, Alan Rogers, a native of Waxahachie, became president. Rogers had a close association with the Home having practically growing up on the campus. His father and mother were employees of the Home for several years. During Rogers' time as president, his goal was to better educate the churches of the BMA of Texas concerning the various ministries of the Texas Baptist Home



Eddie Marsh

for Children. Physical improvements were made to the campus during his tenure including landscaping, lamps and better signage. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment under Roger's leadership was the formation of the Home's adoption ministry. Since its inception, scores of children have found forever homes with loving parents. He left the Home in 2004 to become the administration pastor at First, Red Oak. He now serves as senior pastor of Temple, Jonesboro, Ark.

Succeeding Rogers was Eddie Marsh. Elected as president on July 1, 2004, Marsh has led the home in focusing on its heritage, ensuring the ministry's primary focus is children. He has overseen an expansion of the Home's foster care ministry, the construction of a transitional living building to help better prepare high school juniors and seniors for life in the real world and an independent living building that serves as independent housing for those residents who have graduated from high school but still need a home base as they embark on their adulthood.

Only the Heavenly Father knows what is held in store for the Texas Baptist Home for Children. Whether the ministry continues another 100 years, no one can tell. But if the past and present is any indication, the Texas Baptist Home for Children will still be here and the Home's staff will still be faithfully striving to preserve the family and protect children when Christ returns.

Little Mound Baptist Church, Big Sandy Honors Pianist With Her Own Special Day



Gwen Tuel was honored June 6, 2010 by Little Mound, Big Sandy for serving as pianist for 67 years. It was a complete surprise to her. She was presented a dozen pink roses. Her daughter, Denise Greak, pinned on her orchid corsage. She received a basket of cards from friends. Slides were shown about the memories of Gwen growing up.

She took piano lessons at an early age and was nine years old when she started playing at church. Gwen tells us that her mother would sit down with a switch and make her practice. She said she could not see the music for the tears rolling down her cheeks. She finally quit.

When she went to Stamps School of Music in Dallas she learned to love music. She went three years during her high school years. She took private

lessons in piano, accordion and voice. Gwen's quote, "I promised if He would give me a talent for music that I would dedicate it to Him for His honor and glory. I've tried." She has been true to that promise.

She played her accordion and sang over the radio every Saturday during her high school years. She played the piano for the Little Mound Quartet for 40 years, sang in a group called *The Harmonettes*, and played for many funerals and weddings.

Gwen's heritage goes back to the beginning of the Little Mound Missionary Baptist Church. Her maternal great-great grandmother was Lamila Sansom who was a charter member of the church in 1878. Emma Sansom, a civil war heroine, was Gwen's great-grandmother

and was one of the first members of the church.

Gwen's parents are the late Joyce and Derie Vaughan. Mr. Vaughan was a deacon at Little Mound for 50 years. Paul Tuel, Gwen's husband (now deceased), was also a deacon. They have two children, Robbie Tuel and Denise Greak and four grandchildren.

Gwen played a beautiful number, *Jesus and Me*, on the piano. She received a standing ovation.

A reception followed in the fellowship hall. Sandwiches, chips, cake and punch were served. The large cake was in the shape of a piano keyboard, accented with a cluster of pink roses.

Thank you to a lovely lady for her never ending faith and her love for the Lord.



HENRY HORTON

R revival

Cedar Creek Baptist Church
Teague, Texas
(5 miles south of Teague on Hwy. 80)

July 18 to 21

Sunday

11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Monday through Wednesday

11 a.m. & 7 p.m. (lunch served daily)

Henry Horton, Evangelist
Billy Eubanks, Music

Jack McDaniel, Pastor

Homecoming Calvary Baptist Church, Ennis

August 1, 2010
10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Lloyd Cashion,
pastor of Greenpond Baptist Church, Como

Guest Singer: Richard Teer,
Greenpond Baptist Church, Como

The church began in 1980.
All former and present members are invited to attend.

Lunch will be served at 12 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Kenny Cashion, Pastor

Thanks for Helping Us Celebrate

By **EDDIE MARSH**

President, Texas Baptist Home for Children

A wise man once said, "It is not unforgivable to not show appreciation, but it is inexcusable." Therefore, it is only proper that the staff of Texas Baptist Home for Children express appreciation to the churches of the BMA of Texas for the kindnesses that are shown to them. At no time was this more evident than on June 12, our centennial celebration. The staff estimated that over 500 were in attendance.

Some former residents, who had lived at the Home during the 1970's and 1980's, returned for the first time since they lived on campus. Visitors came from as far north as Michigan and as far south as Florida, as well as many towns and cities in Texas, in order to renew friendships and to honor the history of the Home. The day was a combination of both homecoming and Change for Children.

At lunch, a number of people met at the bell tower for a ceremonial ringing of the bell. This was done in remembrance of the days that the bell was used to notify the children and staff that it was time to gather for lunch. Mrs. Bonnie Nagel, who was a resident at the Orphanage in 1936, rang the bell and then



TEXAS BAPTIST HOME
Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Jon Thornhill, vice-chairman of the board of trustees, led the prayer for lunch.

The activities for the day concluded with the annual auction, which is held by the exes. Everyone had a lot of fun and once more they were very generous to the ministry of the Home. One of the treasures that was purchased was donated back to the Home and will soon be on display in the chapel.

A few weeks ago, an article in this publication described the work that was done in the kitchen area by a Sunday school class from Farley Street, Waxahachie.

Another class took on the project of replacing the flooring in the hallway of the gym as well as remodeling a bathroom. Members of this class donated many hours to make sure that the work was completed before the celebration. They did this work at no expense to the Home and the result was a beautiful, professional, quality job.

The board of trustees and staff of Texas Baptist Home for Children express their sincere appreciation to each one who helped to make our centennial celebration a success.

God is Good



Summer Orientation Day

By **DR EDWIN CRANK**

President, Jacksonville College

God is good. He is good all the time. He has people who are perceptive. The Jacksonville College article in the June 16 issue of *Baptist Progress* mentioned the critical need for special funds for some pressing projects. Pastor Michael Phillips of Brumley, Gilmer brought the need before his church. The church issued a challenge to other Texas BMA churches that Brumley would give \$9,000 if other churches would match the amount. How wonderful!

There is a need for fire alarms in the gymnasium and the Cafeteria/Student Union Building, and an additional fire escape for the women's dormitory. The insurance company has mandated that the college get this done. The cost for the three projects is \$18,000. These must be completed before the fall semester begins. The projects are for the safety of students.

Thanks to David Pittman for disseminating the information out to the churches. Regular church giving is down significantly (-\$33,000) from last year and has caused the shortfall. The cause for the shortage is apparently the unstable economic conditions that have persisted. But, God is good.

Summer Orientation Day

Friday, July 25, was set for prospective students to come to campus for orientation that included finding out what scholarships were available, taking placement tests, if needed, meeting with advisors, and registering for the fall semester. There were approximately 25 prospects that showed up with parents

and/or friends. It was a good day as can be seen by an accompanying picture.

Those who attended were given the opportunity to make friends and begin the bonding process that goes along with college life. Jacksonville College is a good place to make life-long friendships.

Sunbeam Houseparty

The State Sunbeam Houseparty is scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday, July 16 and 17. All sponsors are encouraged to make plans to bring a good group. Please cooperate with the houseparty leadership and get the number who will be attending so adequate preparations can be made. This meeting provides an opportunity for those children to get some training that will be a blessing to them in the future. One is amazed at the Scripture that has been learned and the Bible knowledge they exhibit. A good foundation has been provided for them.

The Campus Looks Good

Even though the Jacksonville area is below average in rainfall for the year, God has sent rain at crucial times to keep the grass revived on the campus. The maintenance crew fertilized the campus just prior to the first good rain, and the campus looks wonderful. Some watering has been necessary, but the good rains have been the most important.

Pray

Pray for a continued good summer school and a good fall semester. Pray that God will send some fine dedicated students.

New Church Building Dedication

Omen Missionary Baptist Church

August 8, 2010

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP 11 a.m.

MEAL 12 p.m.

TOUR NEW FACILITIES 1:30 TO 2 P.M.



RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

DEDICATION MESSAGE BY BRO. ROBBIE CALDWELL,
PASTOR OF NEW HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH IN TYLER

KENITH CLINE, PASTOR

Come see what God has done at Omen

Everyone welcome!

Reaching Your Mission Field

By **DAVID PITTMAN**

Church Relations Coordinator, BMA of Texas

The church — God's way to take His Word to the nations. Our combined efforts allow us as an association of churches to do great work all over the world in spreading the Gospel. We are blessed with great mission programs on the local, state, national and global levels that deserve our support.

Within the past six months I have been privileged to sit under a great amount of training in regard to the work of the local church. The training has been focused on the work of the church particularly in the United States and in our local areas. One common thread in all the training sessions has been that the growth rate of churches in the United States is declining.

When you consider the growth rate of the U.S. population over the last several decades, churches are making only a very minimal impact on the population in their local communities. That is not all! Measurable impact is on a downward trend which means that as the population continues to grow fewer and fewer people will be drawn to Christ through the typical U.S. church. What does this mean for the local church? Plainly, it means that we are going to have to train ourselves to do a much better job of ministering to our neighbors and bringing Christ to them.

We have gone through an era in recent church history where in the 50's, 60's and 70's all you had to do was build a building, hang a sign, run a bus and canvas the neighborhood and people would flow into the church.

About three weeks ago, I attended my 25th high school reunion. I graduated in a small class of 36. We were able to get about 25 back

for the reunion. Most all of these 25 participated in church when we were growing up. Today, only about four of the 25 are still actively involved with a local church. When I talked with my classmates about their participation in church, most said that they just didn't feel like church was relevant to their lives today. Some pointed to the reputations that churches now have of infighting and disagreements within themselves. They simply do not want to be a part of such things.

People participate when they recognize value and feel like they belong. This is easily proven by noticing all the clubs and organizations our people will participate in outside the church. Now days, they even find those meetings to be more important than what is happening at church.

Those leading out in church training in today's time are saying that churches must begin to utilize the methods of those that have been used by foreign missionaries for years. Imagine you move to an area where you do not know anyone and you have a burning desire to share Christ and build a church that can minister to many more people in the community as you grow a church. Remember, you don't know anyone in your community. Where will you start? What will you do?

The same principles and practices you would use in the middle of the most remote mission field in the world are the ones you need to use to reach those who live just around the corner and across the street.

Lord. Help us to reach our mission field!
(reprint from the June 21 issue of the e-Connect for Pastors e-mail)

Building Influence in a Community

By **KYLE SEARS**

Church Planter,

Resonate Community Church, Hutto

How do you build influence in a community without a Sunday gathering? Four years ago, two families moved to Hutto to start Resonate Community Church, and to answer that question. We moved with the desire that we could be the start of a multiplying movement of churches who plant churches. Now, looking back, I am glad to say that we are well on our way to seeing the vision become a reality.

Many of our initial steps seemed counter-intuitive. Rather than rush to start something on Sunday — or even Bible studies for that matter — we sought to connect with people. Our daughter joined a dance class, my wife enrolled in a mom's club and I became active in the Chamber of Commerce and city events. We shared family dinners with our neighbors. Along the way, we met people like Dave and Heather, who had long ago concluded that God did not exist and faith was a waste of time.

We met people along the way who came on board with us, genuine friendships that grew stronger through a shared connection of faith. Together, we began to bless our community, first in small ways — serving hotdogs at an open house for the local elementary school, taking pictures at the local Halloween festival, helping to plan Relay for Life. As we grew, our efforts grew as well. We oversee the community-wide toy drive during Christmas, serving over 300 kids every year. We help elderly and low-income families repair homes and cars. We hosted a Daddy-Daughter event for Valentine's Day to raise money for the food pantry. Dave and Heather helped out, using their interest in photography to give

fathers a lifelong memory of the fun night.

Our acts of blessing became contagious among our people. Now, individuals and families were looking for ways to be a blessing to others. They prepared food for friends who fell ill, gathered groceries for neighbors who lost their job, and opened their homes for people without a place to stay. We began to invite others in the community to serve alongside of us, extending the opportunity of blessing to those outside of the church. Occasionally, those who helped serve began showing up to Bible studies and Sunday gatherings, sharing their stories of how God changed their hearts about what the church could be for others.

Bible studies became the place where people who were searching for answers found space to ask their questions. Others in our church would share a cup of coffee and find the conversation moved to spiritual searching. When we took the Lord's Supper on Sunday, we were reminded that we were to embody the Gospel into our community, and lead people toward faith and following Jesus.

And so, video-gamers shared Christ with their friends, and moms shared Him with other moms and employees with their co-workers. In word and deed, people witnessed the transformation that Jesus gives to a life that makes Him Lord. We sought to empower people to become agents of blessing with their friends and family.

We now have partners in ministry who will be planting a church in the next couple of years. Multiple families will move to a new community to continue the ministry of

faith, hope, and love for others. Many of these people have only found faith in the past few years, but it has changed the trajectory of their life.

Dave and Heather have been connected to our church for three years. Our kids play together, we share meals with one another and we serve our community together. So, when Heather was hospitalized earlier this year, it was natural for everyone to help out. Someone mowed their lawn so Dave could stay at the hospital. I drove their kids to school. Someone else picked them up. We made meals, helped clean their home, and prayed together.

Heather told me that the love we showed her over the course of three years, especially when she needed it most, opened her eyes to the reality of God. She's now on a path to finding who Jesus is and what He means for her. Thankfully, she's not alone on her journey. There are others who are picking up the path that they abandoned long ago, searching for hope when they thought there was none.

These stories fuel what I do. People are pouring their lives into others and seeing God awaken new life. We are not content to simply invite people to hear about the good news. Instead, we choose to become the good news for them.

Romans 10:14-15, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Moral Action, an Agency of the BMA of America Resolutions

Resolution #3

Reaffirmation of the United States Government to support and help protect the Jewish nation of Israel, God's own people

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

Whereas, we pray for genuine peace in the Middle East; and

Whereas, we Christians believe that the present state of Israel maintains a divine right to the land given to Abraham;

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the messengers and churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 2010, urge the United States Government to maintain a recognition of Israel and support unequivocal her right to exist as God's people.

Resolution #4

Reaffirmation of God's Plan for Marriage: One man and one woman

Whereas, the ongoing battle by Satanic forces to dissolve the institution of holy marriage; and

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

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

Whereas, any other relationship that involves sexual intimacy is considered outside the bounds of God law;

Be it therefore resolved, that we promote Godly marriages and urge the churches and messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April, 2010, to recognize the importance of the institution of marriage.

Resolution #5

Resolution to Stand for the Longevity of Life and Against Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide

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

Whereas, elective death as a health care option is perceived as a source of ruin to the sanctity of human life; and

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

Therefore, be it resolved, that the messengers and church of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April, 2010, resolve to stand for the longevity of life and against the so-called elective death promotion by man.

Texas Women's Renewal Conference

By SHARON COLE
Editor, Texas WMA

Ladies, mark your calendars for September 17-18, 2010; the date for the Texas Women's Renewal Conference hosted by Cherokee District and held at First, Jacksonville. The theme is "Beauty By God," and theme verse is Ecclesiastes 3:11, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time..."

The guest speaker will be Pat Quesenberry. Pat has been a well-known speaker and supporter of WMA for many years and will bless your heart. She will emphasize that real beauty is truly both inside and out.

There are many women in the world who do not possess outward beauty by the world's standards, yet their countenance is so beautiful because of what they have allowed God to do on the inside. Also, there are women who would be called gorgeous on the outside but they lack the inner beauty that can only be supplied by godly behavior.

Make plans to come hear how God's beauty plan can work for you. There will also be a fashion show, beauty makeover, Bible salon and prayer spa. There is always good fellowship, fun activities, good food and a little rest. September 3 is deadline for sending registration fee of \$15 to Charlotte Gilbert, P.O. Box 8112, Jacksonville 75766. Contact her at 903-894-9170 or nana1988@peoplepc.com.

Please include the following information on your registration: church name and city, contact person, phone number, e-mail, name of each lady attending (for name tags) and if you are

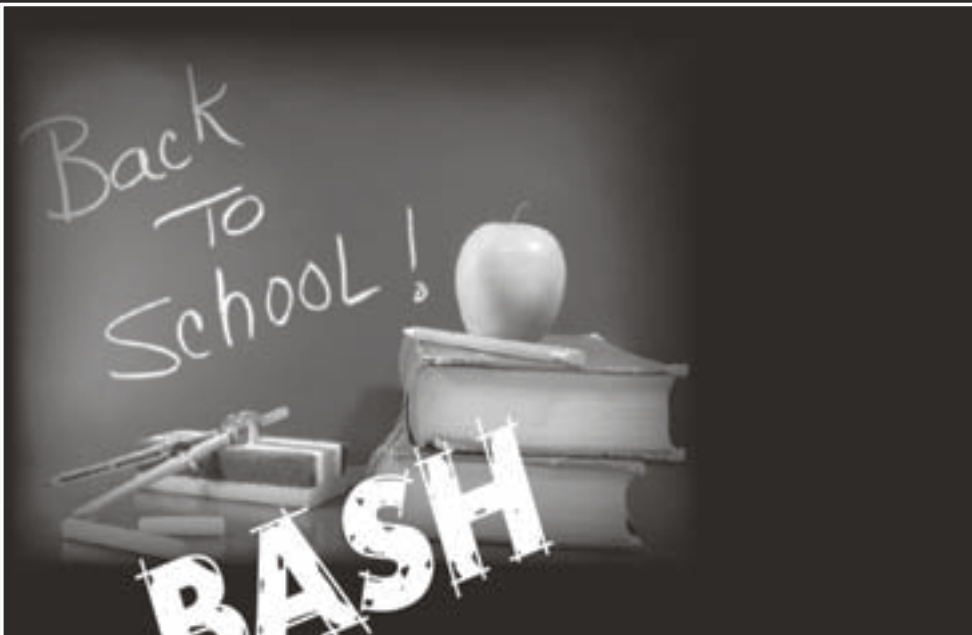
planning to sleep at the church. Child care will be provided by reservation for children under the age of five. Please list their name/age as of September 1, 2010 and include this with your registration.

For those who wish to use the local motel, special rates have been established **with Best Western Executive Inn, 1659 S. Jackson St. (Hwy 69S) Jacksonville, 903-586-0007 or www.bestwestern.com or email-44568@hotel.bestwestern.com.** Ask for WMA Ladies Conference for a special rate of \$70 per night; 1-2 adults per room, Children 12 yrs. and under free. *Additional charge for more than two adults, 13 years and older per room. *No State Tax charged if you show tax exempt form.

As always, bring your silent auction items to raise money for the State WMA Project-90% Missionary Grady Johnson Building and Land Fund in Huejutla, Mexico, 10% Youth Auxiliaries(GMA & Sunbeams.) The goal is \$15,510. **ALSO: BRING BABY BLANKETS!** We will have a "Receiving Blanket Shower" for Mrs. Kelly Johnson's ministry to the women in the mountains of Mexico. Our goal is 300 blankets.

Can we do it? YES we can! Contact Diana Morris, Texas WMA 2nd vice president for more information at 903-288-7575 or 903-852-7736.

Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA page. Contact her at at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com



Back to School!

BASH

4th - 12th Grade
August 7, 2010 @ 10 a.m.
Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie

FEATURING
TIM BOURNE & THE GENESIS METRO BAND

Send \$5 registration fee prior to July 15th to:
Kristi Key, Texas GMA Promoter
17304 CR 2854, Eustace, Texas 75124
903-340-0845; Outnumberdad@aol.com
Fee is \$10 after July 15th!

SPONSORED BY TEXAS GMA

Sunbeam Houseparty Schedule

July 16-17

Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas

Friday

- 4:00 Registratiaon
- 5:00 Officers' meeting
- 5:45 Supper (Cafeteria)
- 6:15 General Session (SUB lobby)
Welcome, Prayer, and Introductions
Sunbeam Song, Motto, Emblem, Colors & Meaning
Project Report (BMMI Children Helping Children Ministry-Goal-\$4000)
Roll Call of Districts
Singing & Introduction of 2009-2010 Theme
- 7:00 Special Guest-Diana Morris
- 7:30 Breakout Sessions (Games/Crafts/Snacks)
- 8:30 Style Show (T-shirt contest)
- 9:00 Story Time

- 9:15 Bedtime
- 9:30 Sponsors' Meeting (Be ready to suggest new officers, project and theme for 2011)

Saturday

- 7:30 Breakfast (Cafeteria)
- 8:00 General Session (SUB lobby)
Singing, Final Project Report
- 8:30 Business session for Beams and Beacons (Cafeteria)
- 9:00 General session (SUB lobby) *New Project Kickoff, National Sunbeam Promoters, Project Offering
- 9:45 Talent Time
- 10:00 Installation of Officers and Prayer of Dedication (SUB lobby)
- 10:15 Sunbeam Recognition Presentation **Each church presents their Sunbeam certificates.
- 10:30 Awards, Offering and Registration Reports, Announcements, Prayer and Lunch

Encourage One Another

By GARY HOUSE

Date: July 11, 2010

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 4: 1-2; Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:24-25; 1 Peter 5:1; Acts 9:26-27.

The Lesson in Brief: As church members, we are to build up and strengthen one another, in order to accomplish more for God.

The dictionary definition of encourage is "to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope; to attempt to persuade; to spur on; to give help." A banker frequently tossed a coin in the cup of an amputee selling pencils on the street outside his bank. But, unlike most people, the banker would always insist on getting one of the pencils the man had beside him. "You are a merchant," the banker would say, "and I always expect to receive good value from merchants I do business with." One day the legless man was not on the sidewalk. Time passed and the banker forgot about him, until he walked into a public building and there in the concessions stand sat the former beggar. He was obviously the owner of his own small business now. "I have always hoped you might come by someday," the man said. "You are largely responsible for me being here. You kept telling me that I was a 'merchant'. I started thinking of myself that way, instead of a beggar receiving gifts. I started selling pencils — lots of them. You gave me self respect, caused me to look at myself differently."

The Principle of Encouragement. That reminds us of the scripture, *Hebrews 10:24, "let us consider how we may spur one another on..."* To spur means "to stir up, provoke, stimulate or incite someone to do something." In other words, "to create a thirst." A thirst for what? *"toward love and good deeds."* That's how we measure encouragement. It is not a fuzzy feeling. If someone became a more loving person or a better person, then we really encouraged him or her.

In the Greek, the word "encourage" means "to call to one's side, to comfort, to console, to strengthen, basically, to put courage in." It implies that a person is actively involved in helping another find the courage that he or she needs to continue on. Someone wrote, "Encouragement is the kind of expression that helps someone want to be a better Christian, even when life is rough... To encourage is to inspire another with courage."

Hebrews 3:12-13 says, "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." The Christian audience to whom this letter was written had been through a lot of very discouraging things. They had suffered persecution because of their faith in Christ and some were becoming weary and others were abandoning their faith. Therefore, the Hebrew writer commanded them to continue to meet together and to encourage each other daily. When a

person is discouraged, when we fail to encourage, sin can deceive and harden his heart to the point that it becomes sinful and unbelieving, leading the person to turn his back from God. "People live by encouragement. Without it they die. Slowly... Sadly... Bitterly."

The word "encourage" is in the present tense. It means a habit or a way of life. In fact, Hebrews commands us to *"encourage one another daily."* It is also in the active voice. It means we don't wait for others to encourage us. But we take the initiative. We must encourage even if others could or would not. Note that we are to "encourage one another". That means that it is not only for pastors but for every one of us.

The Person of Encouragement. The book of Acts singled out Barnabas among those who sold their properties to help others. The apostles dubbed him "Son of Encouragement" or "one who encourages others." Barnabas was an encourager by helping needy saints. Barnabas was an encourager by endorsing an unwelcome convert. Third, Barnabas was an encourager by restoring a youthful deserter. We owe a lot to Barnabas. We owe Paul to him. Paul went on to write fourteen books of the Bible. We also owe Mark to him. Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark. Thus, we owe almost half of the New Testament to Barnabas, even if he did not write a single letter. We need more encouragers like him.

The Gift of Encouragement. People seldom think of encouragement as a gift because it seems so ordinary. But it isn't. Encouragement is actually quite rare (because it is seldom given) and it is so valuable (because it is so meaningful to the recipient.) Encouragement makes the perfect gift because it's free. Encouraging someone requires absolutely no cash outlay. This doesn't mean there is no cost. It may cost you time, creativity, and thoughtfulness. But all of that is what makes encouragement so appreciated. It requires something from you, not just something from your wallet. Think about it. What other gift could you give to a child that will have value for years later? Encouragement can do just that. A little word can make a big difference, and the results can be life changing. There is one more thing about encouragement. No one ever gets too much of it. So don't be stingy. Give it often.

How can we be encouragers? Our example can be an encouragement. Our presence can be an encouragement. Our words can be an encouragement. William Barclay wrote, "It is easy to laugh at men's ideals; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word."

Honor One Another

By GARY HOUSE

Date: July 18, 2010

Text: Romans 12:10; Ephesians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:2, 17; 6:1-2; Colossians 4:1; 1 Peter 3:7; Philippians 2:1-4.

The Lesson in Brief: All people deserve dignity of person and respect of position. Treat others, especially fellow church members, with due honor (Romans 12:10).

What does honor really mean? To "honor" means to put value to something, to consider it precious, weighty, worthy of respect. The opposite of honor is disgrace. Honor is placed on achievements, and even better, on a person's character. Honoring others means that we value others. Believers are commanded to honor one another. One translation gives Romans 12:10 as: *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another."*

Our attitudes should be the same as Jesus as expressed in Philippians 2:5. God is pretty clear about how valuable each of us are to Him — He loves us enough to allow His Son to die. Christ sacrificed His life for us. Christ valued us so much that He gave up his rights as the Son of God. Honoring others means that we are willing to make sacrifices for others.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). What is absolutely essential to honoring one another above yourselves is humility. Honor follows humility. *"And before honor comes humility"* (Proverbs 15:33). Honoring and respecting others will not happen when a superior or holier-than-thou attitude is present. In humility we see who God is and who we are in reference to Him — that's humbling! In humility we see who others are and value them in reference to what they mean to God. A proper attitude toward yourself and others is required in order for you to honor others.

Honor means we put others first. One way to show honor to others is to put their needs, wants and desires before our own.

To whom is honor due?

Honor your parents (Ephesians 6:1-2, compare Exodus 20:12). This requirement continues throughout life, not just while the children are at home. Honoring your parents must be a lifelong pursuit. 1 Peter 3:7 adds that we to honor those who love us: family, friends, and spouse. We are to show them, especially our wives, respect, honor and consideration.

Honor those who serve you. Honor those in authority. Citizens are to honor their rulers, even if they disagree with them politically

(1 Peter 2:17). Regardless of who is president, governor, mayor, senator or any other elected official, we are to respect the office.

Slaves are to honor their Masters (Colossians 4:1). In modern times, this means we are to respect our boss or employer. The attitude of Christians toward them should not be one of ridicule or sarcasm. In the same spirit, employers are to honor their employees (1 Timothy 6:1).

Honor those who minister to us (1 Timothy 5:17). This refers to those who discharge spiritual responsibilities over the church efficiently. We honor them by praying for them, following them as they follow the Lord, supporting them financially and standing for the truth with them. Especially are we to encourage them.

Honor Those Who Are God's Children (Romans 12:10). We need to honor everyone.

Our society is quick to give honor to those who are "high fliers" — the rich, successful, beautiful and talented. The kind of honor that Romans 12:10 commands has nothing to do with who people are, what position they are in, or what they produce.

We are to honor one another above ourselves because God loves and values all people. Honoring others means valuing others and letting them know we value them. Honoring others means putting them ahead of ourselves. Honoring others means being willing to make sacrifices for them. And honoring others means helping others "look and sound good." We should rejoice when others achieve and are successful and receive honor.

When we obey God's command to honor all people, we are ultimately honoring and obeying God. Jesus said: *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me"* (John 12:26). When we obey the Lord by humbling ourselves and by giving honor to others, God will personally bestow honor and blessing on us. So here is God's principle: The more honor we give, the more we receive.

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Davis Street Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs Begins Transition

By **JERRY FULTON**
Editor

The sanctuary has a new, contemporary look, the hallways have received physical updates and there is a sense of anticipation among the members of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs as they look forward to the future. A transition has begun following an announcement from Tommy Hall that he will be retiring as senior pastor of the church in February 2011.

Andy Comer, the church's current youth pastor, has been called to succeed Hall as senior pastor when Hall's retirement takes effect. When Comer becomes senior pastor, Hall will become pastor emeritus. Plans are for Hall to remain on the church staff for visitation, Christian witness and other duties as assigned by Pastor Comer.

Having served for 57 years in the Gospel ministry, Hall had this to say when asked about his decision to retire, "Wisdom is knowing what time it is. While I am retiring from the pastorate, I am not

retiring from the ministry. I want to stay busy serving a great and faithful God." He added, "Andy Comer is a fine and talented young man. He will be an outstanding pastor. His time has come. My time has come and gone."

Anyone who knows Tommy Hall knows that his energy will keep him busy for the Kingdom. In addition to being a loving pastor to his flock, Hall has often been referred to by his fellow ministers as a pastor's pastor. For years, he has made it a regular practice on Sunday mornings to call the pastor of another church and let him know that he will be praying for him that day. He has also been faithful to call those men who have succeeded him at other churches as pastor to congratulate them and offer his prayer support. When a pastor-brother, who is a friend of Hall is hospitalized or experiences a death in his family, that pastor-brother can count on a phone call or visit from Bro. Tommy. One of the perks for Comer in becoming

the new senior pastor of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs will be to have Hall offering encouragement on a daily basis.

Andy Comer is a man with a gentle spirit. He has a contagious smile that makes him approachable. His preaching skills are excellent and his love for the Lord is obvious. Davis Street is doubly blessed to have had Hall as their pastor for 17 years and a Comer waiting in the wings to take on the role for years to come.

Pastor Hall has served Davis Street as senior pastor since 1993. He is married to Glenda and has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Comer has served the church since 2006. He and his wife, Erin, have a baby girl.

With Hall's dedication to the church in the past and present and Comer's vision for its future, Davis Street is on good footing to be used of the Lord in reaching the Sulphur Springs area with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

