112th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas concludes in Jacksonville

By JERRY FULTON
Baptist Progress Editor

A total of 170 messengers and over 100 visitors attended the Tuesday evening session of the 112th Annual BMA of Texas Meeting at First, Jacksonville Nov. 27. Music was provided by the choirs of First, Jacksonville and First, Carthage, under the direction of Neil Dumas and David Yarbrough and the Jacksonville College Choir, under the direction of Tom Vandegriff. Roy Prather, pastor of Fifth Street, Levelland preached the annual message (see page 3).

Genesis Metro, Frisco petitioned the association for membership. Their petition was accepted and their messengers were seated.

Wednesday Morning Session

Dr. Allen Tilley, BMA of Texas president, delivered the presidential address Wednesday morning (see page 2). Following his message, the Administrative Committee presented recommendations, as printed in the Oct. 17 issue of Baptist Progress with three additional housekeeping proposed constitutional changes. The recommendations of the committee were approved.

In addition to the adoption of the Nominating Committee report, this editor presented the Baptist Progress annual report, urging members to switch from mail to email subscriptions, churches to subscribe to the Baptist Progress Every Sunday Bulletin Service and everyone to order books, music and supplies from Christian Book Distributors through the Baptist Progress website, www.baptistprogress.org. At the conclusion of the report, this editor, with the assistance of Trustee Neil Dumas, awarded gifts to those in attendance in celebration of the publication’s 100th birthday. Among the gifts, presented was a beautiful framed Scripture. The artwork went to Rosewood, Gilmer.

Eddie Marsh, president of the Texas Baptist Home for Children (TBHC), shared with messengers that the total received in the 2012 Change for Children campaign was $68,604.74. He reported that over 380 children had been

112th Annual Session continued on p. 3
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention leaders share ministry information

By JERRY FULTON
Baptist Progress Editor

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) department directors and staff spoke during the 2012 BMA of Texas Leadership Conference at First, Jacksonville Nov. 27. Jerry Burnaman, State Missions director, welcomed pastors, church staff and others to the conference which was held in conjunction with the 112th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas. Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, introduced Dr. Jim Richards, SBTC executive director.

Richards began his remarks by saying, “We love the BMA of Texas, and we are glad to have a working relationship with you.” Sharing a brief history of the SBTC, he said the state convention was formed in Houston in 1998 with 120 congregations. The number of affiliated congregations has since grown to over 2,400.

The director explained how the SBTC and the BMA of Texas are of like faith and order in that both groups believe in the miracles of Christ and that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is inerrant. He said that the SBTC is biblically based, Kingdom focused and missionally driven.

Barry Calhoun, with the SBTC, explained that the convention has refocused in the past year by grouping their eight departments into three ministry teams: leadership, missional and service.

Jack Harris, who works in the area of evangelism with the SBTC, showed those who attended the conference a card he created called the One Verse Witness Card based on Romans 6:23. The idea is for a Christian to give the card to another person and invite that person to visit www.FreeGiftForLife.com to read their personal testimony. The SBTC’s Evangelism Department also makes a DVD available to churches to help train members on how to simply share the Gospel.

The SBTC Missions Director Terry Coy shared his department’s aim is to plant churches, mobilize for missions in Texas, North America and beyond, and to participate in disaster relief in the event of natural disasters. He and Burnaman have discussed sharing church planter training as well as working together to reach the unchurched around the state through church planting and special missions projects.

Most interesting was Kenneth Priest’s presentation concerning the efforts of the SBTC Leadership Ministries Team. Using a book titled, The Bonsai Theory of Church Growth, written by Kenneth Hemphill and revised by Priest, the conventions Church Ministries Department helps churches to turn things around by applying principles discussed in the book.

Priest said that churches remain small like a Bonsai tree because they do not invest in new church leaders. He emphasized that while there should be one pastor or staff member for every 150 church members, there should also be one leader, whether it be a deacon, a Sunday school teacher or another leader for every eight church members.

“Pastors,” he said, “should work with three to four men over a six to eight month period to develop them as leaders in the church.” When the training period is completed, those trained should work with three or four other men, and the pastor should begin training a new group.

Priest said that pastors must be like the apostle Paul who urged the converts of his day to follow him to learn how to follow Jesus.

Jerry Pierce, who works in the SBTC Communications Department, spoke about church marketing. He explained, “Church
ministered to through TBHC Foster Care during the last year and that 14 children were adopted through TBHC Adoption Services.

TBHC’s Bedford Foster Care office has grown so rapidly that new space has been rented for training. Molly Davidson, director of the Bedford office, shared a touching story of a foster-turned-adoptive mom and her two children with special needs that will be included in a future issue of Baptist Progress.

Officers for the 2012-2013 associational year include: Dr. Allen Johnson, pastor of First, Carthage, president; Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood, Gilmer, first vice president; Wes Pratt, pastor of Northside, Conroe, second vice president; Eddie Ballard, pastor of First, Rice and Wayne McKay, pastor of Oak Hill, Gilmer were reelected as recording clerks.

Messengers chose Robert Easterling, pastor of Mahl, Nacogdoches to preach the annual message in 2013. Ken Cashion, pastor of Calvary, Ennis was chosen as alternate to bring the annual message.

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Dr. Mike Smith, president of Jacksonville College, reported a record enrollment of 560 for the school this semester. He said that men and women golf and tennis teams were added to the college’s sports program with more to be added. The president emphasized that if Jacksonville College is to continue to experience growth, a new dorm must be built to house more students. Smith reported that over 160 professions of faith were witnessed through the college’s efforts in the past year.

State Missions Director Jerry Burnaman reported the department he leads is beginning a new church plant with Joey Cook in Prosper. In addition to Cook’s election as a church planter, Matthew Prather (Celia), Kyle Sears (Hutto), Joshua Kamau (Amarillo), Cecil Linke (Allen), George Martinez (Le wisville), Gary Southard (Porter) and Arnulfo Maldonado (Houston) were reelected as church planters.

Genesis Metro, Frisco will partner with State Missions in supporting Cook. Prather is also supported by the BMA of America Department of Missions.

Burnaman also reported a very good year for the Baptist Missionary Loan Association (BMLA). He encouraged churches to make contributions to the BMLA and to apply for interest free loans. Burnaman said that the BMLA is currently paying 2 percent on share accounts and 2.5 percent on CDs.

Charlotte Johnson, president of the Texas WMA, reported 152 girls attended the annual GMA Houseparty at Daniel Spring Camp in March. Special recognition was given to Mrs. Claudia Thompson who has been a counselor for 48 years and Mrs. Jeanie Walker for 43 years of service.

The Sunbeams Houseparty was held at Jacksonville College in July with 71 attending. The Sunbeams raised $1,644 for the Shepherd Bags Ministry during the year.

September was the time for the Ladies Retreat hosted by Rose Hill, Gilmer and the Wood County WMA. Johnson said, “Women of all ages flooded into the building and the excitement was high.” Over 200 women from across Texas attended.

Mrs. Bettye White Wilson was recognized at the Texas WMA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville for her over 40 years of service in the auxiliary.

The Texas WMA raised over $15,000 for the annual project, the Bolivian Riverboat Ministry. As stated above, the 2012-2013 project is to raise $15,000 toward a new dorm at Jacksonville College.

James Hall gave the report for Texas Galileans on behalf of A. Gene Mathis, state Galilean promoter. He said that Galileans is a growing group in Texas. State and national Galilean events were attended by boys from 13 Texas churches during the past year. Galileans met for their annual Galilean Explosion at Jacksonville College March 2-3, 2012. Hall said the group raised over $1,000 for their annual project, 50 percent for the Bolivian Riverboat Ministry and 50 percent for Jacksonville College. Their 2013 project will be the same.

Eddie Sykes, of Masters Builders, reported the group of retired, volunteer carpenters completed four projects in the last 12 months including projects at Stoneridge Camp in Arkansas, Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Jacksonville College and Northside, Garland.

The final report from the Enrollment-Finance Committee was one petitioning church (Genesis Metro, Frisco), 99 churches represented by messenger, 33 churches represented by letter only, 197 messengers, 160 visitors, $9,724 for associational expenses and a Tuesday night offering of $821.61.

All recommendations by trustees and committees were approved as published in the Oct. 17 issue of Baptist Progress.

The 113th Annual Session of the BMA of Texas will be held Nov. 5-6, 2013 at Calvary, Fairfield.

Finish Strong

By JERRY FULTON
Baptist Progress Editor

Roy Prather, pastor of Fifth Street, Levelland, preached the annual message using 2 Timothy 4:7 as his text. He shared that in his final words to Timothy, the apostle Paul said with the young preacher truths that can be adopted by Christians today.

The first piece of advice was to fight the good fight. Citing Ephesians 6, Prather warned that Satan does not want Christians to be encouraged. To the contrary, he wants to discourage God’s people, especially when they share the Gospel. He emphasized that in spite of the opposition of the devil the Gospel must be preached.

Prather said, “We must share the Gospel with our lips and with our life, with our words and with our works.” In doing so, he explained, the Christian must put on the full armor of Christ.

The second piece of Paul’s advice was to finish the race. Prather recalled how, as a younger man, he attended a Billy Graham Crusade, held at Texas Stadium in Dallas. At the crusade, there was not an empty seat in the house.

He conveyed that when he began to pastor, he thought, “If I was Billy Graham, I could pack the house.” In response, Prather said God told him, “I didn’t make you to be Billy Graham. I made you to be Roy Prather.”

The pastor cautioned against the dangers of comparing oneself with others. He preached, “Use the gifts, talents and abilities God gave you.”

Prather said that the third piece of advice from Paul was to remain faithful. In sharing the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), he explained that the servant who had five talents and the one who had two talents each heard the same words from the master, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

The servant with only one talent buried what the master had entrusted to his care in the ground. Prather said, “I’m not sure what the servant was thinking. Maybe he thought that because the master did not give him much, he didn’t expect much.”

Of course when the day of reckoning came, the master called him a wicked, lazy servant.

In closing Prather stated, “One day, we will all stand before the Lord, and so we must be faithful to finish what He has given us to do in the place where He has us.” “Someday,” he said, “I would love to hear the Lord say to me, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter ye in to the joy of thy Lord.”

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Cont.

marketing is not spin, embellishing facts or exaggerating about who you are.” “Instead,” said Pierce, “It is telling a good story well.”

Using an acrostic, he challenged church leaders to focus on four areas to attract people to their churches:

H- Hospitality (appearance of exterior and interior of church facilities)
O- Online (an attractive website and Facebook page)
R- Reputation (what the community thinks about the church; what needs to be improved)
N- Newspaper (taking advantage of promoting the church regularly through local media)

Information on how the SBTC divides its funds was shared by Joe Davis, SBTC chief financial officer. Jonathan Gray, executive director of the SBTC Foundation, educated those in attendance on the resources available through the foundation. Michael Gonzales spoke of the work of the convention’s language ministry team.

In concluding, Richards quoted the late Dr. Adrian Rogers who said, “If my bullet fits your gun, fire it.” His point was that the resources of the SBTC are available to BMA churches. It is not necessary that a church be affiliated with the SBTC to take advantage of the tools the convention provides.

For more information on the ministries of the SBTC, visit www.sbtexas.com.
If unconditional love is the foundation of a happy home, then unconditional forgiveness is the roof. Forgiveness over your home protects you from the relationship storms of life. Your good home must possess an atmosphere of forgiveness that is always present in the home. People are always quick to say that they desire a loving home. A loving home is a forgiving home. A good marriage is based upon the union of two good “forgivers.”

I tell young people in their pre-marital counseling, that forgiveness is an expression of love. I tell them, “You two may love each other, but you are marrying an imperfect human being. You will have conflict even though you love each other. You will probably have to practice forgiveness while on your honeymoon. It may even be as you pull away from the church and you take a wrong road and the other one thinks you should have gone this way. Ha! One of you will say something wrong, and you will already have to start giving and receiving forgiveness.” That is humanity. Jesus told his disciples that he loved them. He proved how much he loved them, and all of us, when he put that love into action; and hung upon that cross for the sins of the whole world. Forgiveness is love put into action.

If I have received forgiveness, do I have to forgive others who do me wrong? Read the parable in Matthew 18:21-35. This servant received forgiveness from his Lord, but would not give forgiveness to someone else. He received it, but wouldn’t give it (verses 34-35). His Lord is so angry with him, he puts him into prison. The worst prison for a Christian is the prison of an unforgiving heart. In verse 35 we are told that we must forgive everyone who has hurt us. Ephesians 4:32 states that we have to forgive others just like God forgave us for the sake of Jesus. What way was that? Unconditionally. You didn’t deserve it. God forgave you through Christ because He loved you. Period.

Now, you have to do the same to all others. Be kind. Be merciful. Forgive. That is a good family motto to put up on your refrigerator (Ephesians 4:32). Makes for a good home life if we would all just be kind to each other and forgive each other. Forgiveness is for you. It is not for them. Whether they get right with God for what they did will be between them and God. He will hold them responsible. You don’t have to remind God in prayers either. He knows. You have to get right with God and do what He has commanded. Forgiving others is not based upon how you feel. “I don’t FEEL like forgiving them.” It is not based upon feelings but obedience. You forgive others out of a love and obedience to God. God will work your feelings out in due time. But you must first permit him to work on your emotions by practicing forgiveness. I am not saying what they did is right. I’m not saying I’m erasing it. I am saying I am giving you to God, and going on with my life, and you have no more power over me.

Until you practice forgiveness, they will always have power over you, and you will never truly find healing. Healing from all past pains begins with a choice you make. It is a choice. “In Jesus name, I choose to forgive…” You don’t have to tell them necessarily unless led to do so. You can set boundaries if they hurt you. You don’t have to feel the same way towards them as you did prior to the hurt. But you must forgive them. Otherwise you will become bitter and take that to the grave with you. Forgiveness has the power to change relationships. It has the power to provide healing to your soul. You were forgiven of everything through Jesus. Now, you must give it away to others. Get out of jail emotionally. Practice forgiveness and grow on. All families need forgiveness.
We train all of our church planters with Dynamic Church Planting International materials that are built upon 12 biblical principles. Principle No. 10 reminds us to always stay in balance.

It is good for all of us to live by the Balance Principle which says, “The church planter’s walk with God, family life and ministry must be in biblical balance.” It is not only for church planters but for every servant of Christ. Your walk with God is the wellspring for everything else. From your intimate connection to Jesus comes vision, unique strategies for reaching the community, and the spiritual power to share Christ’s love in a transforming way.

If you neglect the care of your own soul you will end up starving yourself and those around you. You must “feed yourself” from God’s word before you ever attempt to feed and help others. Cultivate a close walk with God. There is no substitute for daily intimate fellowship with Christ. Disciplines of prayer and Bible study, of learning to wait on God and listen for His guidance, of fasting and solitude—all these will strengthen you and enable you to walk forward in faith and perseverance. Francis Chan in Crazy Love says, “The greatest good on this earth is God. Period. God’s one goal for us is Himself.”

Balance also demands that you recognize that God has established the family as the foundation of society and as an institution that predates even the church. The family is God’s proving ground and the first priority for every follower of Christ. Obedience requires sacrifice and commitment on everyone’s part: husband, wife, and children. Make sure that you don’t overwork and neglect your family or your walk with God. Your family will always be your first ministry. Though there will be sacrifice, they must never be taken for granted or ignored along the way.

What do you do if your life has gotten out of balance? Here are some suggestions:

First, get away by going on a vacation and get some rest. Everyone needs time to refuel not only spiritually but also physically and emotionally.

Second, deal with any sin issues present in your life. Confess and ask God to enable you to overcome. Proverbs 28:13 makes it clear that whatever sin we cover He will uncover but when we uncover our sin He has covered them.

Third, share your situation with a trusted friend. You need someone in your life that you can be totally transparent with and when others walk out they step in to be there for you.

Now is the perfect time to tell you about principle No. 6 in the DCPI training. The Barnabas Principle says, “Every church planter needs a mentor. A mentor is someone who has been where you want to go and is willing to help you get there.” Yes, every church planter needs a mentor but so do you. You need a trusted source to confide in and receive godly counsel. Where do you find one? Pray. Seek out leaders who have been where you want to go and are willing to help you get there. Look for someone who can commit at least a few hours each month for an extended period of time.

A mentor brings wisdom, protection, care, resources, networking, support, accountability, and prayer. Most of the training of leaders in the Word of God occurred in mentoring relationships. Moses mentored Joshua. Elijah mentored Elisha. Barnabas mentored the Apostle Paul. Before he became Timothy’s mentor Paul needed to be Barnabas’ protégé. When Barnabas discovered that the new church in Antioch was in great need of leadership he remembered Saul. It was a long hard journey from Antioch to Tarsus. But Barnabas was willing to make that journey to recruit Saul as his protégé and as a teacher for the new church in Antioch.

Balance demands that we attend to our own souls, care for our families, and then that we work hard and smart in the ministry. We cannot expect others to do this for us but we must be self-starters because there is no time clock to punch and usually no one to monitor our weekly schedule in the areas of Bible study or family time. We must be people of integrity so we will have the reputation of a hard and persevering worker, as well as a humble follower of Christ and a loving and attentive family man.

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmaamissions.org.
An Expression of Everlasting Love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from October 1, 2012 to October 31, 2012.

ENDOWMENTS
E. ANN PACE: R. T. & Kelly Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pace
MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS
CHILDREN: Charles & Lorene Nelson
BRO. CHARLES & CHARLOTTE JOHNSON: Larry & Pat Kearby
MICHAEL & ROXANNE O’CONNER: Larry & Pat Kearby
BRO. CLAY & TERESA POTTER: Concord M., Gilmer

MEMORIALS
JOHN P. (JP) ALBROOKS II: Linwood & Jennetta Whitehead
Hazel Anderson: Mrs. Peggy Lewis
Mrs. Ada Baker: Mrs. Juanita Chavers, Jerry D. & Lucille Carter
John D. Barber: Flory D. Little
Joyce Brown: Kirk & Emma Burleson
Bill Busby: Harold M. & Joce Lewis
Gary & James D. Carroll: Frances L. Carroll
Jo Nell Casey: Donna Dugger
Bobbi Coper: Mrs. Virginia Coper
Billy Wayne Davidson: Tommy & Virginia Gibson
Cecil Downey: Carlie Downey
Karen Drennan: Jeffery Mark Stewart
Glenda Dyclus: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
Mabel Gayleean: Bro. & Mrs. Eddie Marsh
Carolyn Green: Mr. & Mrs. Marvin J. Eldred
Heath Green: Jimmy & Cynthia Green
Joy Griffin: Mr. & Mrs. Marvin J. Eldred
Gladys Griggsby: Mr. Pat Chappell
Odis Hammock: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Bro. & Mrs. Eddie Marth, Fendley & Lois Tucker
Fra nk Harding: Charlie & Porlia Gordon
Douglas D. Hearne, Sr.: W. V. (Trey) Watt, III
Deana Hening: Jim Leavers
Robbie Howells: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Donna Dugger
Bevely Johnson: New Hope, Mineola
Becky Jones: Mr. & Mrs. Roland Jones
Roy Lee Jones: New Hope, Mineola
Mildred Jordan: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
Denis Lazara: Mrs. Beiss Johnson, Irvin & Ruth Anthony, Dan & Margaret Anthony
Nicholes Lennox: Kirk & Emma Burleson
Roy Lewis: Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Jones
Joe Liska: Mrs. Mary Liska
Maxine Logan: Jed & Glencie Whaitker
Larry Luckey: Lonnie & Brenda Williams
Faye Martin: Mary K. Gilbert
Donald McCawley: Betty Stevens
Mrs. Anita Miller: Mrs. Juanita Chavers
Alline Morris: Martha McKnight, Kim Nickle
Brenda Morris: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson
Joyce Murphy-Myi Wife: James D. Murphy
Karl Wayne Oney Jr.: Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soape, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Henigan, Jerry Soape, Jan Wills
Ollie Peck: Sunday School, Pecan, Robert Lee
Horace Pope: Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCusson
Pauline Pruitt: Jerry D. & Lucile Carter
Jack Reeves: Mr. & Mrs. David Stanley
Michael & David Robbins: Martha Ann Davis
Ray Roddy: Harold M. & Joce Lewis
Marjon Russell: Class # 5, Bethel, Pittsburg
Mrs. S. Sue Shumate: Concord M., Gilmer, Mrs. Nell Bishop, Howard Fletcher, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Loftis, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Tucker, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Stocke, Mr. & Mrs. Rikie Gipson, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Nugent
Viniece Smith: Beverly A. Smith
Some Child: Mr. & Mrs. Henry E. McQueen
Billy Jo Speck: Sunday School, Pecan, Robert Lee
Bro. Ted Stanley: Robert & Dorothy Swift
Debbie Steele: Temple, Mexia
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Talbot: Mr. & Mrs. Roy Talbot
Dollie Thomas: Bethel, Livingston
Lucille Wade: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, Mrs. Lena Ruth Green
Jo White: Jerry & Sheree Mize
Comelia Williams: Kirk & Emma Burleson
Evelyn Wilson: Earlene Crenshaw
Wanda Wilson: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

MEMORIALS-Honorariums
December 27-29

MERGE 2012 Mid-Winter Student Retreat

Combine the best of summer camp with the excitement of SOAR and what do you get? MERGE! DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry is excited to offer this annual event to Jr. and Sr. High School Students Dec. 27-29 at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary. Students from across Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas look forward to this mid-winter event each year. “MERGE comes at a perfect time for students each year,” says Donny Parrish, DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry director. “Being able to get away for a few days, focus on their spiritual life, meet new friends and fellowship with their youth group is a great thing… a life changing thing.”

This year’s conference will focus on the Great Commission’s mandate to make disciples. Conference Pastor for the event will be Andy Comer, pastor of Davis Street, Sulphur Springs. Andy is passionate about students and seeing them deepen their love for Jesus. He has spent 11 summers working at Daniel Springs Camp from the sloppy-line guy to game guy to the preacher guy.

Leading worship for MERGE will be Nathan Brewer, Student Pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Ark. Nathan has a heart for leading others in worship, both through teaching and music. He has led worship at many different events over the last several years… Nathan will graduate this fall with a BA in Biblical Studies and Christian Counseling.

Special musical guests for MERGE will be The Rhett Walker Band. Rhett Walker is not like any rising Christian musician you have met before or will meet again soon. The outspoken 25-year-old son of a preacher was born and raised around the South; his mellow yet animated voice is a sure mix of Georgia and the Carolinas. In that drawl, he tells an intense wild oats story tempered by God’s grace, a testimony that fuels the deep-fried rock and deep-down worship on Rhett Walker Band’s debut, Come To The River.

In addition, MERGE will feature lots of fun, games and all that students have come to expect when coming to camp… all without the summer heat! The entire three-day event includes: All sessions, 2-nights lodging, 5 meals, and a MERGE t-shirt for only $100 per person by the Dec. 5 early registration. To register or for more information go to www.discipleguide.org/merge or call DCN at 501-513-3726.

MEMORIALS-Honorariums
December 27-29

Daniel Springs Camp in Garry, Texas

A worship experience for Junior & Senior High Students
$100 Inclusive Per Person by December 5
www.DiscipleGuide.org/merge or 501-513-3726

Speaker
Andy Comer
Worship
Nathan Brewer
MC - Shawn Hammontree
Concert Artist
Rhett Walker Band

December 27-29
JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE

Spread the Truth: Proclaim the Gospel

We as Christians are commanded, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Yet each day, according to Spread the Truth Ministries, 66,000 people die without any chance of hearing the gospel. What are we doing about that? As Christians in America, we have convinced ourselves that we are doing all we can to help people in other parts of the world to hear the Gospel. We give to the church, and the church supports missionaries who evangelize the world. While God does not call all of us to serve on the foreign mission field, we all still have a responsibility to evangelize people groups where God’s word has not been heard. According to the Joshua Project, an unreached or least reached people is a people group among whom there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group. Current Joshua Project estimates show that there are over 7,000 unreached people groups or 42 percent of the world’s population who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and do not have an opportunity to hear. We tell ourselves that it is too big of a job, and one person cannot make a difference. Wrong! If we work together with a purpose, God will provide a way.

At Jacksonville College, we are becoming partners with Spread the Truth Ministries in order to provide tools for teaching the Gospel throughout the world. These tools include Bibles ($10), computer tablets ($500) to show the Jesus film to small groups, and MP3 players that play the New Testament Bible. One example of the MP3 players is the Proclaimer ($100), produced by Faith Comes by Hearing ministry. The Proclaimer comes preloaded with the New Testament in one indigenous language, with over 500 different languages available for this remarkable tool. The Proclaimer utilizes three available power sources: electricity, solar power, and a hand-crank device. This capability enables people in developing countries to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of the circumstances. The students, staff, and faculty of Jacksonville College are raising funds for the purchase of these tools to send to missionaries and indigenous pastors throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central America.

Today, 66,000 people will die without ever hearing the “Good News” of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us in this partnership with Spread the Truth ministries. For more information about Spread the Truth, or to invite them to speak to your congregation or organization, send an email to info@spreadthetruth.us. If you are part of a mission team or know a missionary who could use a Proclaimer, send contact information to tiane@jacksonville-college.edu so that Jacksonville College can offer them this incredible tool. This need is URGENT. Please join us in this ministry by sending financial contributions so that the unreached people groups have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Coats for Kids

Jacksonville College Phi Theta Kappa International honor society members annually collect “Coats for Kids.” This year, current Alpha Beta Alpha Chapter members and new pledges were able to collect 87 coats to donate to HOPE for the Coats for Kids campaign. The students use their funds to go to local garage sales and buy the coats to donate.

Jacksonville College english instructor receives Ed.D.

Jan Tolar Modisette, Department of Literature and Languages instructor, recently earned the doctoral degree in Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction in Higher Education from Texas A&M University at Commerce. Dr. Modisette holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism/English and a Master of Arts degree in English from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. She has taught developmental English at Jacksonville College and produced The Guiding Light, the College yearbook, since 2008. Dr. Modisette is currently teaching integrated reading and writing courses she designed for developmental students and is establishing the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), which provides math and writing assistance for all students enrolled at Jacksonville College.

Contributions may be sent to the following address:
“Spread the Truth: Proclaim the Gospel” Fund
Jacksonville College
105 B.J. Albritton Dr.
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
EVENTS

December 13, 2012
International
& North American Missions Rally
@ Matinburg, Pittsburg

January 17, 2013
BMA Theological Seminary
Rally @ Oak Hill, Gilmer

March 14, 2013
Texas Baptist Home for Children
Rally @ Pine Acres, Gilmer

April 22-24, 2013
Annual Meeting of BMA of America
@ Embassy Suites Hotel
& Conference Center, Norman, Oklahoma

May 16, 2013
LifeWord Media Ministries
Rally @ Rosewood, Gilmer

June 11-14, 2013
National Galilean Camp
@ Daniel Springs, Gary

September 10-11, 2013
BMAA Missions Symposium
@ Central Baptist College,
Conway, Arkansas

October 14 & 15, 2013
Conway, Arkansas
@ Central Baptist College,
BMAA Missions Symposium
September 10-11, 2013
@ Daniel Springs, Gary
National Galilean Camp
June 11-14, 2013
Rally @ Pine Acres, Gilmer
Texas Baptist Home for Children
March 14, 2013
Rally @ Rosewood, Gilmer
International
December 13, 2012

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS
Pastor—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a pastor. Visit
fortworthbaptistchurch.org/PastorSearch/ for more information about
the church or to submit a resume.

Pastor—Elwood, Wills Point is seeking a pastor. Send resume
to Larry Black, 3922 VZCR 3504, Wills Point, Texas 75169 or
lblacksr47@yahoo.com or call 903-873-8184.

Pastor—University, Nacogdoches is seeking a pastor for full-time
service. Send resume to the church at 2505 North St., Nacogdoches,
Texas 75965.

AVAILABLE MINISTERS
Jimmy Daugherty is available to serve as pastor, associate pastor,
student minister or for pulpit supply. He has 15 years of ministry
experience, having served as a pastor, music minister and youth
minister. He has been married for 18 years and he and his wife have
four children. He is a member of First, Rice. Contact him at 903-519-
4157.

Wyndall Swelling is available for preaching appointments. Contact
him at 817-447-0691.

Tommy Hall is available for pulpit supply and interim work. Contact
him at 903-885-2366 or 903-440-4608.

David Busby is available to serve as pastor. He is a member of
Circle Drive, Bridge City. Contact him at: brodbuzb1@netzero.net or
409-351-1687.

Wiley Dorman is available for preaching appointments. Contact him
in Jarrell, Texas at 512-746-6085.

ORDINATIONS

Darrell Howerton, a member of the New Haven, Dallas, was
ordained to the Gospel Ministry on Nov. 30, 2012, and chosen to
serve as our pastor. Bro. Ernie Williams of Shady Grove, Balch
Springs brought the message of charge to the candidate and church.
Bro. Howerton and his wife, Dina, were honored with a reception
following the service.
As the Christmas holidays approach, everyone seems strapped for time. There are so many places to go, so much to do, so much to buy, so much to cook, and so much...that many have lost sight of the real meaning of the reason for the season. Store shelves are laden with the perfect toy, clothes, appliances and more. Clerks are anxiously waiting for the tired, last-minute shoppers to spend their last dollar.

Most every American family will gather around a brightly decorated tree Dec. 25 and open a lot of presents; but, many will not. Many will sit down to a big turkey, again, with a lot of vegetables, salads and sweets and forget that some will be hungry. Is this what Christmas is all about?

To many people without Christ in their heart, it is sadly true. Christmas is the time that has been chosen to celebrate and remember the birth of Christ. Christmas is about giving because Christ gave himself for us. Truly, Jesus is the reason for the season.

The Wise Men did bring gifts to Baby Jesus, but they came primarily to worship Him. And each gift was for a specific purpose.

Children imitate what we say, what we do and how we feel. If we are tired from all the shopping, parties and entertaining, then we give our children the idea that Christmas is a time of materialistic frenzy and going into debt to impress family and friends.

Yes, Christmas is a time when we want to give and receive gifts, but it is because we are symbolically remembering the gift that God gave us—eternal life through Jesus Christ. God so loved us that He gave us His Son to die for us so we might have eternal life. This gift is to all people.

Many of us can remember as children we were happy just to have a bag of fruit and one small homemade toy. Today, children are given so many toys and items of entertainment that break or wear out, or they get bored with them before the warranty expires.

The majority is letting the minority change traditions and history. There are people who do not have Christ in their heart trying to take away freedoms that we who do, have enjoyed since this country was founded. This country was founded upon the principle of freedom for believing in the Almighty God, Creator of the Universe, not freedom from it.

In the melting pot of America, traditions and customs come from any lands. Many have filtered from generations until they have become an integral part of our Christmas celebration. Nowhere in the world is Christmas observed with a greater variety of customs and traditions than in the United States.

Although many Christmas customs are secular, many have a spiritual symbolism that contributed to their beginning and can make them more meaningful to Christians. As parents and grandparents we need to ensure that the true meaning of our customs will ring out in a secular world to separate the secular from the spiritual and to see that our children know the difference.

It is critically important for us to explain to the little ones why we do the things we do at Christmas time. It is part of passing on our holy heritage and our Christian values. They need to know the reason for the season. Most little children associate Christmas with two things, getting a lot of presents and Santa Claus. Unless someone who loves them teaches them differently, they will never know. It is important to begin with worship and prayer to teach our children why we celebrate.

Plan special times of worship with your family at home and church. One way is to plan a Christmas morning candlelight breakfast. As you light a centerpiece of candles, flowers and greenery, explain that the candles illustrate the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus.

Giving doesn’t have to involve expensive items. Children need to be taught that the most sought after, expensive, special toy doesn’t satisfy them for very long. Let us leave with them the wonder and simple beauty of Christmas, adorned not so much with presents under a tree, but with praise and thanksgiving for God and for one another.

There are many people in nursing homes, shelters, prisons and jails. There are homeless people on the street, those who have lost their jobs, single moms trying to make ends meet. All need a personal touch to help them remember that there is still good in the world. As individuals or as a church group, you don’t have to look far to find someone in need. Your gift of time creates more memories and leaves people feeling good more than anything you could buy.

Give cuttings of favorite plants or make an herb garden in a pot and give to someone, then encourage them to grow for the Lord. Invite some children to your house and help them make and decorate cookies for their family for Christmas. This teaches sharing, kindness and cooperation.

Visit the Humane Society or Animal Shelter and adopt an orphan animal for a child. Gift-wrap a package of fabric scraps for a quilting grandmother. Take a checkerboard or dominos to a nursing home and challenge someone to a game.

When children or grandchildren beg for one more story, say “Yes.”” Then tell them the greatest story ever told. Give grown children handwritten recipe cards of “mom’s favorite dishes,” the ones they grew up enjoying.

Do some yardwork for an elderly neighbor who is unable. Promise a friend with handwritten coupons a year’s worth of lessons in something you do well: baking bread, baseball pitching, a creative craft or painting. Invite a person to dinner who will be alone on Christmas day. Write an encouraging letter to the editor and secretaries of the Baptist Progress for their dedication in serving the Lord through the printed page.

In order to minister to others, we have to give ourselves. Benevolence, or giving to others unselfishly, can be a positive way to express the love of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the needs of a church family or someone else in the community. Most of us are so busy with our own lives we sometimes neglect the little things that mean so much. Love isn’t love until it is given away.

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

A Letter of Thanks to the JC Drama Department

Dear Dr. Smith,

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment a group of your students. Recently I was tasked with preparing a mock crime scene for a training class for the Jacksonville Police Academy. I contacted Mary Lewis with your drama department and requested a group of students to participate as role players. Candice Stewart, Elizabeth Woods, Rob Carter, Jataria Taylor, Ellie Borja and Caleb Shelton all came through with flying colors. They far exceeded my expectations. Each student accepted their task and performed it with enthusiasm and grace. The students’ actions and attitude brought much honor and credit to themselves, and to Jacksonville College. If these are the kind of students Jacksonville College is producing, I look forward to working with these, or other students, in the future should the need arise.

Thank you again, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Jason Price
Master Peace Officer
Jacksonville Police Department

Barnabas Touch prepares to touch the world

By DANNY BULLOCK
EIM Barnabas Touch

A couple of years ago, the BMAA Missions Department asked EIM (Evangelistic International Ministries) to plan and implement the Barnabas Touch trips to take pastors and others into various nations and serve as encouragement to missionary personnel. When I left the full-time pastorate several months ago, Mike Goodwin, president of EIM, asked me to assume this task in a voluntary position.

After meeting with the Missions Department directors and considering the most pressing needs right now, the destinations and dates for those trips have been set for 2013. Our plans are to visit four different nations where the BMAA and EIM have personnel.

We have had to change some of the original dates we set after corresponding with the missionaries about the best time to come to their fields. Presently we plan to go to Nepal March 15-24 to teach an Old Testament Survey course to some pastors. April 25-May 6 we will go to the Philippines to help teach a Multiplication Training strategy they wish to implement. Anyone going on this trip will need to attend a training session at the Missions Office on Jan. 15-17.

In Aug. 13-20 we will go to Accra, Ghana to help teach and train pastors. Then on Oct. 25-Nov. 2 and Nov. 2-10 we will work with pastors in two locations in India. Those wishing to go to this country can choose which week and location if they can only be gone one week.

All of these dates are subject to some adjustment once the teams are set, specific teaching dates are chosen, and airline schedules are found. All participants are responsible for their own costs. Those exact costs are unknown until airline tickets are purchased and lodging is arranged, but each trip will probably be in the range of $2,500-3,500. Maybe churches will consider it an investment in outreach to pay the cost for their minister to go with us. Please feel free to contact me for more information. This is a new endeavor for me so please be patient if my efforts result in a few “bumps” the first year.

For more information, contact Danny Bullock at 870-904-5032.

2013 standard mileage rates up 1 cent per mile for business, medical and moving

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2013 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2013, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

56.5 cents per mile for business miles driven
24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The rate for business miles driven during 2013 increases 1 cent from the 2012 rate. The medical and moving rate is also up 1 cent per mile from the 2012 rate.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

These and other requirements for a taxpayer to use a standard mileage rate to calculate the amount of a deductible business, moving, medical, or charitable expense are in Rev. Proc. 2010-51. Notice 2012-72 contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Dates for Spring 2013
November 26 - December 7, January 15
Placement Testing: January 14

Christmas Cards, a musical revue presented by the Music and Drama Departments
Tuesday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

Homecoming
January 18-19

Homecoming Basketball Games
January 19 at 2:00 p.m. Lady Jags play Blinn College
January 19 at 4:00 p.m. Jaguars play Blinn College

Jag Days (campus visit days)
January 19: for public school students
February 8: for private school students

Jacksonville Tour of Homes:
Sunday, December 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Includes Christmas at the Newburn/Rawlinson Home and refreshments in the Jag Bookstore
Cost is $5.00 in advance and $7.00 at the door.

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Amazing Grace

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: December 9, 2012
LESSON IN BRIEF: The name “Rahab” denotes a wonderful trophy of grace, a glorious reminder that where sin abounds, grace can abound all the more. Rahab is proof that God can transform anyone who puts his or her faith in Him.

1. Joshua 2 records the salvation of Rahab, the prostitute. The place of Rahab in the history of Israel is two-fold. First, she was chosen of God to provide the information which He desired Israel to have at this time, namely that He had melted the hearts of the enemy in fear of Joshua and his army, even as Moses had earlier prophesied (Exodus 15:13-18). Second, Rahab would be for all centuries to come a vivid example of the sinner, through whom God accomplishes his purposes and in whose heart He works a change.

2. Joshua 2 serves to remind us of God’s abundant grace to the lost sinner, and of God’s abundant goodness to His chosen covenant people. Rahab is a carrier of the power of the Lord Jesus to transform any life that comes to Him by faith. The Lord takes sinners who will place their faith in Him and changes them by His power and grace. God specializes in taking old, lost sinners, saving them by His grace and then using them to touch the world by His power.

Outline of Joshua 2:
- Spies are dispatched (verse 1)
- Spies are protected (verses 2-7) (Rahab’s works)
- Spies are informed (verses 8-11) (Rahab’s faith)
- Spies promise safety (verses 12-22) (Rahab’s reward)
- Spies give report (verses 23-24) (Part of Joshua’s preparation for leading Israel into the Promised Land involved gathering information on the city of Jericho. Jericho was a city that covered about 8 acres. It had an inner and outer wall with a total thickness of 18 feet and was 30 feet high. Upon this wall, Rahab hid the spies in order to protect them from the king’s men, who were seeking to destroy them, and allowed the spies the opportunity to escape. Escaping through the secret passage from Jericho, Rahab hid the spies in order to help these servants of Jehovah. She was willing to risk everything for the sake of proving the reality of her faith in the God of Israel. Wherever there is genuine faith in God, it will always be accompanied by good works.)

3. Rahab’s Works—She proved her faith by her works (James 2:25). This is seen in her dealings with the two spies. She hid them from the king’s men, who were seeking to destroy them, and allowed the spies the opportunity to escape. Her faith in God was so real and so strong that she was prepared to put her own life at risk by hiding the two spies. In her declaration in verse 25, Rahab clearly identifies herself as a warm supporter of God and His work through others.

4. Rahab’s promise of safety (verses 12-22) (Rahab’s reward)

5. Rahab’s works (verses 23-24)

6. Rahab is rewarded (verses 25-29)

7. Rahab is blessed (verses 1-21)

8. Rahab’s faith—while we are here, safe in our sanctuary. Only as we take our faith, and live it in the “real” world, will we find that we can cross over the Jordans of life.

Crossing Over

By GARY HOUSE

DATE: December 16, 2012
TEXT: Joshua 3:1-17

LESSON IN BRIEF: Jordan is a dividing line, it’s the line where we are called on to step out and cross the Jordan River. It must have been a bit confusing for the people, because no one had explained how the river was going to be crossed. Joshua had an answer for them, however: “Move out and follow the ark, because you’ve not traveled this way before.”

SANTIFY (purify) yourselves for the Lord. Joshua was referring to spiritual cleansing which was represented through ceremonial washing by the priest in the Old Testament temple. The sprinkling of ceremonial sacrifices, and which represents consecration and repentance for us. This purification process compares to our own spiritual walk: the need for confession of sins, repentance, and faith as we step out to follow our Lord and seek to do His Will.

There is a time to step into the water (8, 14-16). Notice when God parted the water. It was not before the priests stepped out into the water, but after they took that first step. The lesson we understand from this passage is simply that we can trust God to lead us, to handle the obstacles when we want to do His will, and perhaps not all the obstacles will be removed at the time we step out in faith.

There is a time when, knowing God’s will, that you are called on to step out even before you clearly see obstacles in your way. All you know is to pray, which is where we should turn first. And when you step out, maybe all you will know is that you remember the people on the banks of the Jordan. And you will remember that you can trust Jesus to bring you through and remove the obstacles in the path. And maybe you won’t know much more than that, and it will be for you to abandon all selfishness and step out into the waters with pure motives.

Finally, remember Jesus defeated death, probably the scariest river any human being contemplates. If we can trust Him in this great promise, surely we can trust Him with all the other rivers we will be called upon to cross.

A beautiful picture we have of our Gracious Heavenly Father in this chapter of Joshua! He wants us to go before you, open the way, stand in the midst, hold back the flood, as well as follow behind us out of the Jordan and through the river, as we cross Jordan. We can trust God to always be faithful to do His part.

SUMMARY: To cross over, we need faith centered on the Lord. The people of Israel were ordered to follow the Ark of the Covenant. If we are to go, we will for you to abandon all selfishness and step out into the waters with pure motives.

To cross over, we need dedication. Sanctification means to “set apart” The Israelites were called upon to consecrate themselves before the Lord. God wants committed followers. Through that commitment, we find the strength to cross over our Jordans.

To cross over, we need action. A moment in time came when the Israelites had to act on their faith. We find it easy to speak of Jesus, commitment, faith—while we are here, safe in our sanctuary. Only as we take our faith, and live it in the “real” world, will we find that we can cross over the Jordans of life.

Faith begins with the first step. Standing on the banks is not enough. The priests were commanded to stand in the water. Only when the feet of the priests hit the water would the waters be cut off. Only as we take our faith, and live it in the “real” world, will we find that we can cross over the Jordans of life. Just as God glorified Himself in the Red Sea, He is glorified when we as believers are willing to cross over Jordan! God loves to prove Himself to us. We can trust Him at the edges of our Jordans as surely as Israel trusted Him at the edge of the Red Sea!
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For more information call 903.693.3569

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Seats are limited. Call now. Full package price $3290 per person.

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Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Start Time: 9:00 a.m.
To Register visit
www.texasbaptisthome5K.org

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