

# Baptist Progress

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## New church planter speaks at Ellis-Hill Pastors lunch

By **JERRY FULTON**  
*Baptist Progress Editor*

Joey Cook, a newly elected State Missions church planter, spoke of his plans to begin a new church in Prosper when he met with pastors of the Ellis-Hill Association in December. Cook, his wife, Syndal, and children, Ryder and Mylee Jo, relocated to Prosper from Mountain View, Arkansas.

Located approximately 35 miles north of Dallas, Prosper is a wealthy suburban town located in Collin and Denton counties. As of 2013, the estimated population is close to 15,000. The median income for a family was \$111,000.

Prosper was named in *D Magazine* 2010 Best Suburbs List as the 5th Best Suburb in the Dallas Metropolitan Area.

State Missions and Genesis Metro, Frisco are partnering together to plant the new church. Cook became acquainted with Tim Bourne, pastor of Genesis Metro, whose father-in-law once served as Cook's pastor in Arkansas.

Cook said that he intends to start small and build community in the

north Texas town. Currently, there are life group meetings taking place at Genesis Metro with three families from Prosper that will help launch the new church.

When the time comes to have their first worship service, Genesis Metro will send several members to Prosper to serve as greeter, musicians and in other areas. "The plan," said Cook, "is to multiply groups with a goal to reach 80 persons," before the first service is held.

In the meantime, the church planter shared, "We are looking at property to rent and will host block parties to meet folks in the area." He hopes to have the church plant's first worship service by the end of 2013.

Prosper is expected to double to 30,000 by 2014 and eventually grow to a total of 130,000 citizens.

Cook said, "On paper, people in the town are affluent and have everything one could ever wish for, but still have emptiness within that can only be filled with Christ."

The church planter and his family



have covered their refrigerator with the names of neighbors they have met and pray over them regularly.

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and pray over them regularly.

Cook is available to speak to BMA churches and asks pastors to please give him the opportunity to do so by contacting him at 870-213-8158 or [joey.cook@genesismetro.org](mailto:joey.cook@genesismetro.org).

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# MEMORIALS—HONORARIUMS

## 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 December 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

**ENDOWMENTS**

E. ANN PACE: Mr. & Mrs. Karl Pace, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Houston  
MYRA STOKES: Bill Stokes

**HONORARIUMS**

CHRIST JESUS'S BIRTHDAY: Mrs. B. H. Conn, Pine Acres, Gilmer  
GAYLYNN BEASON: Wayne & Linda Beason  
JEAN CAMSTER BILLINGSLEY: Tom & Patti Youngblood  
CALEB/AMY BOLTON: McCown Veneer, Inc.  
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CHUCK BOSTON: Mrs. Joan Hartsfield  
STEVE/DEENA BRAND: McCown Veneer, Inc.  
BRO. EDDIE & ALL TBH STAFF: Harold M. & Jocie Lewis  
BEATRICE CONN: Norman & Tiffany Lyles  
CHARLES CONNELLY: Eunice Sunday School Class, South Park, Fort Worth  
MARY DUNAVANT: Margaret Wolf  
MARGERIE GILMER: Faithful Followers Sunday School Class, Bethel, Dallas  
PASTOR DAVID & NELDA HARKINS: Mr. & Mrs Roy Talbot  
CARL & SHERRIE HOLMES: Wayne & Linda Beason  
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W. DOYLE KING: Katrina King  
LADIES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Virginia Hopkins  
DOROTHY LAWSON: Jill Clark  
KELLY LINTON: Geraldine Cox  
JACK & JUNE LOYD: Jimmy & Jill O'Quinn  
JOSHUA/NATALIE MCCOWN: McCown Veneer, Inc.  
LUKE/KATY MCCOWN: McCown Veneer, Inc.  
RANDY/SHELLIE MCCOWN: McCown Veneer, Inc.  
GARY MCDONALD: Friendship Class, Calvary, Ennis  
MARGIE MCVAY: Mr. & Mrs Pat B. Patterson  
KYLIE & KENNEDY MICHENER: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Card  
OUR CHILDREN: Bro. & Mrs. Deward Mullen  
WAYNE & JO ANN PETREA: Brenda Reeves  
THE CHILDREN'S HOME: Mr. A. J. Henderson  
BRO. DUANE & CHARLOTTE TURNER: Adrian Turner  
RACHEL & ANNA USSERY: Lamar & Peggy Lee  
JOHN & BARBARA WILLIAMS: Wes Wright

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NATHAN LOYD BLAIR: Mrs. Peggy Blair  
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BRO. BOBBY: J. D. Murphy  
HENRY BREAK: Mrs. Willie Break  
LOIS BROOKES: Community, Killeen  
THOMAS BROWN: Fendley & Lois Tucker  
LOIS & ED BRUMMETT: Mr. & Mrs Pat B. Patterson  
LORENE BURNS: Mrs. Jan Holcomb  
BILL BUSBY: N. W. & Mary Sue Myers  
ADA CAMSTER: Mrs. Jean Billingsley  
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VERNADINE CLANCY: Eunice Sunday School Class, South Park, Fort Worth  
CORINE ADELE COOPER: Nora B. Arrington & Debbie Starnes  
MYRA COURSON: Mr. & Mrs. Bobby B. Nelson  
CHARLES COX: Geraldine Cox  
MARY DAVIS: James & Linda Sockwell  
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FRANK & DORIS DILL: James & Sharon Ramsey  
SHIRLEY DILLON: Tracy & Rose Moore  
CECIL DOWNEY: Carlisle Downey  
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VIRGINIA EAVES: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson  
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## CHURCH NEWS

Calvary, Mt. Pleasant called Bro. Jay Miller as pastor Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012. He had served the church as youth director since August 2011. Previously, he served as youth director at Mt. Olive and Meadow Park in Franklin County. Bro. Miller was saved when he was 9 years old and entered the Gospel ministry in July 2003. He was licensed Aug. 31, 2003 and to use one of his favorite quotes, "has been fired up for God" ever since.

Bro. Miller is married to Teresa. They have three children and two grandchildren. Teresa is a great help in his ministry, always working with him in the youth department. "Bro. Jay," as the youth and congregation address him, will continue to work with the youth in addition to his pastoral duties until the Lord sends another man to serve as youth director.



By **DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE**  
*Family Ark Ministries*

It is a new year. There is always a little bit more of optimism in the new year. Last year is history, and there is a potential for things to be different this year. Most Americans set New Year's resolutions. Things to do to make improvements in their personal life in the upcoming year. The last article I wrote was why we fail at achieving those goals, and how to have success. Some of you have already stopped working on your new year's resolutions. It was that hot fudge sundae that did it, right? Ha!

I encourage you to set some New Year's resolutions in an area that most people never consider. That is in the area of spiritual growth. People will set physical goals of losing weight, exercising, or getting into shape. They may set financial goals like curbing spending, or becoming less in debt. Still others may want to improve their education by taking a class on line, or reading some challenging books. But most people when I ask them; never set spiritual goals for the New Year. How much do you want to grow in the next year in your spiritual walk? What will you do this year to help you look more like Jesus by the next year? If I want to be closer and draw nearer to God; how do I accomplish this? For Christians, this should be critically important. We should always go about assessing our walk with the Lord, and finding new desires and dedication and discipline to grow towards the Son.

Here are some areas to set as New Year's resolutions for your spiritual growth and change.

**1. Encourage others** – I Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." Edify means to build up. We should build others up. If we want to be more like Jesus this year, if we want to let our light shine before others to give God glory, then a sure fire way of doing it is to become an encourager. We live in

a dreadful, depressed and demonic society. People gravitate to those who encourage them. You can help many others find hope in Jesus by following the scripture admonition to encourage. It will take a little work for most of us. It doesn't always come easy. Remind yourself daily with a note, a memo in your cell phone etc... to find someone to encourage each day. It may be a co-worker, a stranger at a store or someone in your home. Family members are excellent choices for encouragement. I always tried to find one thing to do or one thing to say each day to encourage each of my children. If we don't actually set our minds to this task; then there will be several days go by where we forget. Set this as a goal. Once a day – encourage someone.

**2. Witness to others.** Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Set a goal for how many people you want to witness to this year. It should be a number that pushes you, but it should also be reasonable. I didn't say set a goal of how many people will accept Christ as Savior that you witness to. Your job is to witness and tell people that Jesus saves. It is up to them and Jesus whether or not they accept the gift of grace. This always helps Christians grow in their faith. The main reason is because the Spirit of the Lord is really on you when you witness. His power is working through you. It keeps you excited about the gospel to witness. It forces you to study the Bible when you witness. It gives you bold utterance of the gospel. All of these things will cause you to grow and be in personal revival, whether or not the person you are witnessing to accepts Jesus or not. We pray they do. But you are simply a tool in the hand of the Lord to accomplish His will. We don't win people to Christ. Jesus does the winning. We just are willing and available as

vessels for Christ to use in the process.

You could witness to 12 people in the coming year (that is just one a month). There may not be one of them that you are aware of that accepts Christ. But you still will have done as the Lord commanded us to. And in the process of witnessing, you can't help but grow and be more on fire. That is what happens to us when we witness.

Don't worry about what to say. Just go and tell. The Holy Spirit will give you the words to say. Pray beforehand and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage, desire and words to witness. Ask in Jesus name and it will be done. You don't have to be a seminary graduate to witness. God will give you the ability because He desires this to be done. Witnessing is about availability more than ability. Don't worry if they reject the message. You threw seeds of truth out. Who knows, but years later those seeds, coupled with someone else throwing seeds out, may all come together and bear fruit. Romans 8:28. How many times a month do you witness to someone about Jesus? I Peter 3:15.

**3. Serve others.** Matthew 25:40. We must serve others. Every Christian needs a ministry. Write out an action plan. At least once a month, you need to do something in the community or in the church serving others. If you already do this, then set a goal this year of doubling up on your efforts. Jesus needs Christians ministering to others in a lost and dying world. What are your spiritual resolutions for the New Year?

*Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com).*





The following is a list of churches and the amounts they have given to the 2012 United Thanksgiving Offering campaign. The UTO is divided on a percentage basis between the departments of the BMA of Texas. A goal of \$125,000 was set for the 2012 UTO. If your church has not yet given, please help us reach our goal by sending an offering to: BMA of Texas, P.O. Box 73, Waxahachie, Texas 75168.

NAME	AMOUNT	NAME	AMOUNT	NAME	AMOUNT
Anthony Drive, Ennis	650.00	Farley Street, Waxahachie	1,545.04	Myrtle Springs, Quitman	2,076.00
Antioch, Fairfield	500.00	Fellowship, Edinburg	216.00	New Harmony, Tyler	1,699.54
Antioch, Gilmer	635.00	Fifth Street, Levelland	365.00	New Hope, Mineola	716.00
Bardwell, Bardwell	500.00	First Missionary, Cockrell Hill	60.00	New Hope, New Waverly	125.00
Beacon, Bryan	100.00	First Missionary, Morton	129.00	Northside, Conroe	1,500.00
Beacon Hill, Waco	1,000.00	First of Providence, Livingston	220.00	Oak Grove, Canton	557.00
Bethel of White Rock, Dallas	762.00	First Berean, Groves	1,000.00	Old Home, Joaquin	136.00
Bethel, Orange	78.00	First, Crandall	25.00	Pecan, Robert Lee	1,269.00
Bethel, Port Arthur	160.00	First, Gary	50.00	Phillips, M., Gilmer	800.00
BMA of Smith County	1,000.00	First, Jacksonville	1,917.10	Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	458.00
Buena Vista, Tenaha	50.00	First, Judson	500.00	Pilgrims Rest, Emory	500.00
Burnaman, Waxahachie	100.00	First, McAdoo	200.00	Pine Brook, Tyler	5,115.00
Calvary First, Mesquite	100.00	First, New Summerfield	288.00	Piney Creek, Kennard	500.00
Calvary, Arlington	175.00	First, Palmer	1,220.00	Red Springs, Tyler	355.00
Calvary, Centerville	680.00	Forest Hill, Quitman	605.00	Richland Heights, Grand Saline	43.00
Calvary, Ennis	500.00	Freestone, Teague	265.00	Rosewood, Gilmer	2,500.00
Calvary, Fairfield	1,449.20	Friendship, Jacksonville	503.17	Round Prairie, Fairfield	200.00
Calvary, Midlothian	196.00	Friendship, Mesquite	945.00	Sand Flat, Grand Saline	620.00
Camille Acres, Longview	500.00	Glade Creek, Gilmer	1,000.00	Sand Prairie, North Zulch	1,500.00
Carlos, Anderson	1,894.00	Glenfawn, Cushing	530.00	Sardis, Henderson	406.00
Cedar Creek, Teague	1,500.00	Harmony, Normangee	325.00	Sardis, Jewett	300.00
Center Hill, Oakhurst	1,000.00	Holly Grove, Livingston	76.88	Sheppard Drive, Euless	920.00
Central, Aspermont	1,000.00	Jackson, Joaquin	1,740.75	Sheridan Terrace, Palestine	150.00
Central, Bronte	85.00	LakeRidge, Lubbock	100.00	Soda, Livingston	2,347.00
Central, Mineola	100.00	Landmark, Cushing	340.00	South Park, Ft. Worth	1,687.00
China Grove, Eustace	270.00	Liberty, Henderson	500.00	Suburban Wood, Humble	270.00
Clover Hill, Quitman	100.00	Little's Chapel, Chireno	500.00	Sunset, Lamesa	1,000.00
College Avenue, Levelland	175.00	Macedonia, Etoile	440.77	Temple, Mexia	715.00
Concord, Gilmer	270.00	Macedonia Red Land, Scurry	200.00	Union Hill, Bowie	105.00
Corinth, Jacksonville	165.00	Macune, San Augustine	7,100.00	Union, Springtown	213.00
Dallas Park, Dallas	155.00	Magnolia Springs, Magnolia Springs	250.00	University, Nacogdoches	230.00
East Mayfield, Hemphill	500.00	Mahl, Nacogdoches	654.00	Walnut Street, Winnsboro	3,277.00
Ebenezer Friendship, Pittsburg	357.00	Missionary, Paducah	200.00	Ward Prairie, Fairfield	150.00
Ebenezer, Huntsville	519.00	Mt. Pisgah, Mineola	5,511.25	Weeks Chapel, Jasper	1,000.00
Fair Park, Tyler	353.75	Mt. Selman, Bullard	586.00	Winterfield, Pickton	75.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>81,201.45</b>

# Pastor, Granddaughter, Killed In I-30 Wreck

By **JEFF HERRING**,  
Associate Pastor  
Oak Park, Little Rock, Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Baptist Trumpet)—New Year's night, the family of David Harris, who has served as pastor of Oak Park, Little Rock since 1976, was involved in a tragic traffic accident. He, his wife (Christy), son (Paul) and grandchildren (Maci and Caleb)—had been to the airport to pick up his daughter (Beth) and were on their way home. Paul and Beth were in the front seat, Bro. David and Christy in the middle seat and Maci and Caleb were in the back seat.



▲ David Harris

On the way home, around 8:30 p.m., they came up on a wreck on Interstate 30 near Scott Hamilton Drive in Little Rock. Paul, who was driving, slowed down as he approached and passed the accident. As they cleared the accident debris, the car was rear-ended by a car going at a high rate of speed. This caused the Harris car to hit a guardrail and then be struck again by the same car.

First responders were on the scene within minutes and paramedics began working on Bro. David immediately and continued as they traveled to the hospital, but were unable to get a heartbeat. His 10-year-old granddaughter, Maci Harris—who received Christ as her Savior at GMA Camp last year (2012)—

died of her injuries around 12:30 the next morning.

The other four in the car were transported to area hospitals. Beth was treated and released the same night. Paul had several broken ribs on his right side and his lung was also bruised. He was released from the hospital on Friday. Christy Harris was diagnosed with bruised lungs and a broken arm and at this time is still being treated at the hospital.



▲ Maci

Caleb, 10, was diagnosed with a broken leg and several fractures to his sinus cavity. He underwent surgery to repair damage to his leg and was released from the hospital. He also had an outpatient surgery to repair damage to his sinus cavity and is continuing to recover at home.

It was later learned that the vehicle that hit the Harris car was the same one that caused the first accident where a two-month-old baby, Robert Cecola, Jr., of Texas, was killed. Both accidents are still under investigation.

Bro. David loved his Lord, his family and his church more than any of us will ever know. He was a true testament of unconditional love. We intend to honor him by loving each other and by keeping our faith in the One he taught us so much about.



▲ Maci



▲ David Harris

David Edward Harris was 64. He served as pastor of Oak Park, Little Rock, Arkansas for over 35 years.

Bro. Harris was saved in 1965 and surrendered to the ministry in 1966. His first pastorate was Union Valley, Beebe, Arkansas where he was ordained in 1968. He also pastored Central, Trumann and Ridgecrest, Jonesboro before accepting the pastorate of Oak Park in 1976.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Christine Harris; his father, Leo Harris; a son, Paul Harris; a daughter, Beth Harris; a brother, Gene Harris; and four other grandchildren.

Funeral services were Jan. 9 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, under the direction of Dial and Dudley Funeral Home ([www.dialanddudleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.dialanddudleyfuneralhome.com)).

Memorials may be made to the Harris Memorial Fund, Oak Park Baptist Church 8200 Flint Ridge Rd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72210.

## HOLY LAND TOUR 2013



**Hosted by: Dr. Allen Tilley**

First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas  
For more information call 903.693.3569

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## 64th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

Greetings,

Mark these date, April 22-24, 2013 for our national meeting which will take place in the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, Norman, Oklahoma. This is a very beautiful, and comfortable venue located within driving distance of many restaurants and shopping areas for your enjoyment between sessions.

Our desire is to make the national meeting an inspirational, and motivational time for all who attend. We realize that the churches have business to take care of but we also want to make the national meeting a time of worship, fellowship and information. Your officers have



▲ Ed Stephenson

committed themselves to making the national meeting an event that will be looked forward to rather than an event to endure.

Your presence is a key component to having a successful national meeting! Over the past few years we have watched our attendance spiral downward and we are asking you to help reverse this trend. The work of the BMAA is a work for the Lord and it deserves our attention and our attendance.

### Two areas for your consideration

1. If possible, please consider making your reservations with the Embassy Suites to help us fill the block of rooms that have been set aside for the messengers. Last year we failed to fill the rooms at the host hotel and it cost our association \$12,000.00 for the rooms that had been reserved but were not used.

2. It is important that our churches consider an increase in their offerings for the "Minute Fund" which is used to pay for the national meetings expenses. Over the past few years this fund has become more, and more, depleted and it is at a dangerously low level.

Our theme for the upcoming year will be "We Must" and it will be introduced during the president's message on Monday night. The local churches of the BMA of America "MUST" recognize that there are areas of our work which "MUST" be given special focus if we are to be successful for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the strength of His local churches that make up this cooperative work.

In His service,  
Ed Stephenson, President of the BMA of America



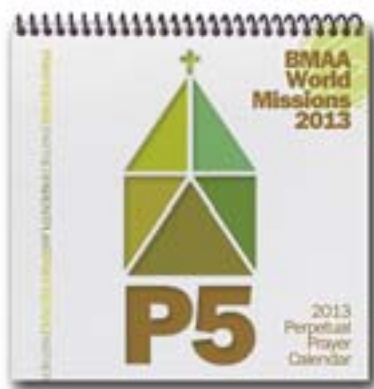
### World Missions Sunday February 24, 2013

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BMAA Missions)—World Missions Sunday is Feb. 24, 2013. The day is intended to draw focus toward a missionary God and the role of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) in His global mission. It is also a day to express gratitude to God for His faithfulness in and through BMAA international and North American missions. God has indeed blessed BMAA Missions to be able to expand to 78 countries in the world where hundreds of humble servants are proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ.

BMAA Missions stands poised to send as many as 10 new missionary families within the year. If this indeed takes place, it will represent the highest number of American missionaries that the BMAA has ever had on the mission field (around 60). Combine the number of American missionaries with the hundreds of national missionaries partnered with around the globe, and you see both the opportunity and responsibility the BMAA stewards.

The cry to God is to allow a church multiplication movement the U.S. Prayers are being offered that churches are becoming convinced of their need to reproduce. The BMAA Missions Department is ready to come alongside churches with orientation, assessment, training, coaching and partnerships in planting churches in the U.S.

The *Perpetual Prayer Calendar* will be mailed the first of February with the intention people will begin praying through the calendar on World Missions Sunday. The calendars are provided by the Department of Missions for use in praying for BMAA missionaries throughout the year. Calendars may be order by calling the BMAA Missions Office at: 501-455-4977 ext. .29 or by sending an email to kboyd@bmaam.com.



### BMAA Hotel Information

The following hotels have agreed to offer group rates to those attending the 2013 BMAA meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, April 22-24. The Embassy Suites has been designated as the primary hotel. When calling, please specify that you are attending the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting to receive the group rate.

Shown below are the names of the hotels, contact information, room rates and deadlines for group rate reservations:

- Embassy Suites, 2501 Conference Dr.; (405) 364-8040; single, \$120; double, \$130; triple, \$140; quad, \$150; March 22.
- Hilton Garden Inn, 700 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 579-0100; single, \$119; double, \$119; triple, \$129; quad, \$129; March 31.
- Courtyard by Marriott, 770 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-8900; \$89; April 7.
- Holiday Inn, 1000 N. Interstate Dr.; (405) 364-2882; \$89; March 31.
- Comfort Inn & Suites, 840 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-5200; \$79; April 1.

## 64th Annual BMA of America National Meeting April 22-24, 2013

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center • Norman, Oklahoma

### Program

<p><b>Monday Morning, April 22</b></p> <p>8:30 Display/Exhibit Set-up 2:30 Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)</p> <p><b>Monday Evening, April 22</b></p> <p>7:00 <b>First General Session</b> Patriotic introduction to session Welcome/Introductions Introduction of President for the presidential message Special Music President's Message and Introduction of Theme "We Must" Introduction of Missionaries Prayer — Meet your missionaries reception/exhibit hall</p> <p><b>Tuesday Morning, April 23</b></p> <p>8:00 Registration 8:30 WMA Brotherhood 10:00 Pastors' and Laymen's Conference</p> <p><b>Tuesday Afternoon, April 23 (Called Meetings)</b></p> <p>1:30 Committee Meetings Missions Department Baptist Music Fellowship Lifeword Media Ministries DiscipleGuide Church Resources BMA Seminary Nominating Committee Ministers Resource Services Moral Action</p> <p><b>Tuesday Afternoon, April 23</b></p> <p>3:00 <b>Second General Session</b> Video, Music, Missionary Speaks and Prayer 3:20 Enrollment Committee (Initial Report) Petitioning Churches &amp; Seating Their Messengers 3:30 Proposed Changes to the Constitution 3:45 Nominees for Nominating Committee 3:50 Clerk's Report 4:00 DiscipleGuide Church Resources 4:30 Special Music 4:40 Miscellaneous Business 5:00 Prayer/Adjourn 5:30 Seminary Dinner</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Evening, April 23</b></p> <p>7:00 <b>Third General Session</b> Video, Opening music and Prayer Special music requested by annual speaker Introduction of Annual Speaker Scott Attebery Ken Riley, Alternate Prayer/Adjourn</p> <p><b>Wednesday Morning, April 24</b></p> <p>8:30 <b>Fourth General Session</b> Video, Music and Missionary Speaks 8:50 Nominating Committee 9:05 Brotherhood Report 9:20 WMA Report 9:40 Moral Action 10:10 Coordinating Council Special Music 10:30 Baptist Music Fellowship 10:45 Master's Builders 11:00 Vote on Constitutional Changes Miscellaneous Business Prayer/Adjourn</p> <p><b>Wednesday Afternoon, April 24</b></p> <p>2:00 <b>Fifth General Session</b> Video, Music and Prayer 2:10 Final Nominating Committee Report 2:20 Minute and Clerk Hire 2:30 Election of Officers/Annual Speaker 2:40 Lifeword Media Ministries 3:10 Committee On Arrangements 3:20 Ministers Resource Services 3:50 BMA Seminary 4:20 Revolving Loan Fund 4:30 Election of Missions Advisory Committee Members 4:40 Final Enrollment Committee Report 4:45 Miscellaneous Business 5:00 Prayer/Adjourn</p> <p><b>Wednesday Evening, April 24</b></p> <p>7:00 <b>Sixth General Session</b> Video, Music and Prayer 7:20 Missions Department Closing of the 64th Annual Association Meeting via the sounding of the gavel and prayer Missions Commissioning Service 9:00 Closing Prayer</p>
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### Enrollment Committee Schedule

<p><b>Monday</b></p> <p>2:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p>8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m. 6:30-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p>8:00-8:30 a.m.</p>
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# TBHC receives 52 pairs of red shoes

By **MELISSA CADE**  
Daily Light Staff Writer

WAXAHACHIE (Daily Light)—It has been Marty's life-long dream to furnish an orphanage with 52 pair of red shoes representing each week of the year. And on Tuesday, Dec. 18, her dream became a reality.

When Marty was a little girl she was fascinated with "The Wizard of Oz." She always wanted to have a pair of red shoes like the character Dorothy in the movie. It was also then that Marty decided she wanted to bless an orphanage by providing them with the many pairs of shoes.

Throughout the years, Marty would share this wish with friends and family members. One of her nieces took it upon herself to begin collecting red shoes about a year ago. And as a Christmas surprise for her aunt, she showed up at Marty's house with all 52 pairs of red shoes.

Immediately Marty began searching for residential children facilities and stumbled across the Texas Baptist Home for Children. She then had a lady from her daughter's church contact TBHC to see if they would take the shoes.

"Unfortunately they weren't able to come to us," President of TBHC Eddie Marsh said.

"So I decided to drive to Fort Worth to pick up the shoes."

Marsh said upon arriving at her home, Marty's heart was bubbling over with joy, because she was finally able to give the shoes to those who needed them. And he was delighted to hear that someone would make this sort of sacrifice.

"I was very excited to learn that someone wanted to do this for us," Marsh said. "And it has been exciting to help her (Marty) fulfill her dream."

Marsh pulled an assortment of red shoes from bags and boxes. Some of the shoes were sparkling with glitter. There were several pair that could be used as athletic wear, and still others for a more casual look. He stated that Marty's desire was for some of the shoes to be given as Christmas gifts, and he assured her that would be the case.

"This is such a blessing to us," Marsh said. "These shoes will be used throughout the year for our campus and community kids."

He said Marty is a very dear lady in her 70s who finally got to fulfill her dream, and he was thankful that the children of TBHC were the recipients.



## YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 28TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST TEXAS PASTORS, LAYMEN & WIVES CONFERENCE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH • MT. PLEASANT, TEXAS FEBRUARY 4-5, 2013

*"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God"*  
1 Corinthians 2:5

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Register
1:00 p.m.	Sing and Welcome
1:20 p.m.	Bro. Nolan Richey
1:55 p.m.	Sing
2:10 p.m.	Testimony
2:20 p.m.	Sing
2:35 p.m.	Bro. Craig Stuart
3:10 p.m.	Break, Coffee, Fellowship
3:45 p.m.	Sing
4:00 p.m.	Testimony
4:10 p.m.	Sing
4:25 p.m.	Bro. Donnie Edwards
5:00 p.m.	Break for Fish Fry
6:30 p.m.	Sing
6:40 p.m.	Skit
6:55 p.m.	Bro. Jerry Fulton
7:30 p.m.	Sing
7:45 p.m.	Bro. Todd West
8:20 p.m.	Dismissal

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013

7:15 a.m.	Breakfast at Church
8:15 a.m.	Ladies' area opens for coffee, hot chocolate and juice
8:30 a.m.	Ladies Meeting
8:30 a.m.	Men Sing—Scripture—Prayer
8:45 a.m.	Men's Share Time
9:45 a.m.	Sing
10:00 a.m.	Bro. Carl Vonnoh
10:35 a.m.	Sing
10:45 a.m.	Bro. C. D. Walker
11:20 a.m.	Dismissal



No longer is there an excuse for pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers, or other church workers to say, "The seminary is too far from me," or "I can't leave work to go to seminary." Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is now coming to you, at your computer screen, in your home!

BMATS is gearing up to offer a FREE Old Testament Survey course during the upcoming spring semester. To sign up for the course, visit [www.bmats.edu](http://www.bmats.edu). There, you can download and submit the course application. The enrollment period is January 14-18.

The FREE Old Testament Survey course is an eight week course, beginning January 28 and ending March 20.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is training workers for Christ and His Church. You may call the seminary at (800) 259-5673 for more information about your enrollment.



# AUXILIARIES

## Out with the old; Bring in the new



By **CHARLOTTE JOHNSON**  
Texas WMA President

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Think back over the last year, what new way did you grow spiritually or in what new way would you like to grow spiritually in the coming year? The Texas WMA had a great year in the Lord. We went over our project goal and raised \$15,594.77 for the River Boat Ministry in Bolivia. The Texas WMA Project for 2012-2013 is 90 percent Jacksonville College Dorm Fund; 10 percent Youth Auxiliaries.

We welcomed First, Terrell WMA back into our organization. The ladies have become very active.

Over 200 people attended the Ladies Retreat at Rose Hill, Gilmer. The Texas State meeting was well attended and an inspirational program was presented. The scripture says, *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:13-14).

It is time to get our Women’s Ministry in gear. What do you feel the Lord is leading you to do for Him? All of us have special talents and resources we can use to serve Him. We need everyone to participate in encouraging each other. There’s nothing like the power of encouragement from other women. When ladies meet together, they can get to know each other better, give encouragement, and prayerfully support each other. It should be an exciting time when our ladies come together for our programs and meetings.

So many good things are done through WMA whether it is local WMA, District WMA, or the State WMA. Through our women’s ministry, we can improve our relationships with each other and our families. We can improve our prayer lives and Bible study. We can improve the way we mentor and teach the younger women in our groups. Through our meetings we can share laughter and relieve stress of our daily lives. Our local churches will see results of women reaching other women for His glory.

Our officers are traveling and presenting programs about WMA. Please let any officer know if she may help. I am truly blessed to be serving with such Godly women. Each one of them desires to improve WMA, reach younger women for WMA, and to serve God’s purpose through WMA. The greatest thing we can do for each other is pray for one another.

The new theme is “Fruit of the Spirit” and theme verse is Galatians 5:22, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”* God is glorified by our good fruit, and others will know we are His disciples when we bear much fruit. The fruit of the Spirit can be seen in our lives. The WMA program wants to encourage each lady to bear good fruit for the Lord.

Remember, we need an invitation for the Texas Women’s Retreat this year. Will your district or church volunteer and receive a wonderful blessing? I thank you for this opportunity to serve you as president and hope to meet you sometime. Contact me at 1044 S. Mimosa Road., Gilmer 75644. You may call me at 903-725-6366 (home) or 903-790-1385 (cell). My e-mail is [chj1054@etex.net](mailto:chj1054@etex.net). Keep bearing fruit for the Lord!

### Notice of change of address

Send all project offerings to:  
Jo Strong, Texas WMA Corresponding Secretary  
149 NW Suzanne Terrace  
Burleson, Texas 76028  
[jokenstrong@juno.com](mailto:jokenstrong@juno.com)  
817-480-0888

### Texas GMA Houseparty

Plans are underway for the Texas GMA Houseparty March 22-23, 2013 at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary. The theme this year is “Friend of God.” The project this year has been 80 percent Security System for BMA of Texas Office Building; 20 percent Texas GMA General Fund. For more information on deadlines for registration and other activities, please contact Kristi Key, 17304 CR 2852; Eustace, Texas 75124; 903-451-1929;

903-340-0845; [outnumberdad@aol.com](mailto:outnumberdad@aol.com).

### National WMA

Camp Christa, the major part of the National WMA project is still in need of many things. They are praying that they can schedule work groups in April and May to start building the chapel and kitchen at the camp. They are in need of mattresses for the bunks 30” x 77” and also sports equipment. Any kind of financial help or physical work or supply of needed materials would be a blessing. Bro. Jason Walters, missionary to the Navajo Indians can be contacted at P.O. Box 1442, Cortez, Colorado 81321, 970-739-6288 or [missionaryjason72@gmail.com](mailto:missionaryjason72@gmail.com). Please send all National WMA Project offerings to:

Pat Duncan  
P.O. Box 30  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542  
[pduncan2420@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pduncan2420@sbcglobal.net)  
501-351-1339

### Which Road Should I Take?

Today I took a stroll down memory lane.  
It wasn’t very far at all.  
I saw houses, streets, and many people  
Whose names were hard to recall.  
As I looked around I tried to remember  
A time and place for each one.  
But my memory was clouded by many years,  
So my trip down this road was done.  
I started down Tomorrow Street.  
It was interesting, to say the least.  
It was mysterious and a little scary-  
An uncertain journey for man or beast.  
I turned right on Today Avenue.  
And was very surprised to find,  
That everyone who passed me by  
Was cheerful, loving and kind.  
Memory Lane is closed,  
Tomorrow Street is under construction.  
For God only promises we have today,  
And we must seek Him for direction.  
~ Sharon Cole



# Preaching the Word to the Arabic Word

By ASHRAF SARA

“Life is not safe, but Jesus saves.” Have you heard it before? Most of you have not experienced growing up in a country where Muslims make up 99 percent of the population, but aren’t you glad that the Word of God is infallible truth!

What Joel prophesied in the ninth century B.C. is happening today: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Joel 2:32)

I was saved at the age of 13 when a Lebanese Baptist preacher came to my home city of Baghdad. That’s when I heard that “Jesus saves.” At age 14, I was baptized in a Baptist Church in Amman, Jordan, and began to see my faith and the faith of others grow during tribulations with the comfort that Jesus has overcome the world.

In 2000, I met my wife, Jenny, at a small group (underground) Bible study in Baghdad. (She and her mother were baptized in a bathtub in their home.)

The home churches and cell groups continued to grow rapidly and, in 2003, the Lord visited His people and the First Baptist Church in Baghdad was dedicated in January 2004. Jerry Kidd and another BMA missionary (editor’s note: name withheld for security reasons) came to Baghdad preaching the good news, and since then, over 400 people have been saved and baptized.

Several home churches have started in the Northern part of Iraq among the Assyrians, Caledonians and Kurds. Besides being the youth pastor at the First Baptist Church in Baghdad, I also served with the Baptist Publications in Iraq. In four years, we distributed 51,000 Bibles in hospitals, orphanages and to churches that needed Bibles. It was the most basic need, and it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. With this said, the enemy of goodness wasn’t happy!

In 2007, Jenny and I came to America. Seven weeks later, Jenny gave birth to our firstborn baby, John. I attended the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville. As a foreign student studying the original Bible languages (in a foreign language), I was concerned that I would not make it, but I wasn’t aware that God had a bigger plan for our lives.

I knew that Christianity was not the fastest growing religion in America anymore, and I found out later there are 79 million Arabic-speaking people in America. How could they hear the good news without a preacher?

For the next two years, while I was still a student, Jenny and I made monthly trips to another state, taking the gospel to a small population of Arabic-speaking people. We saw Arabs come to know Jesus and become disciples.



Those two years served as a period of preparation for a bigger task and bigger harvest in Dallas — one of the largest ethnic cities in America and the fastest growing metroplex (population-wise) in America.

The ministry among the Arabic-speaking people in Dallas started as a “parachute drop” — we began the ministry without a team of workers to help us. We just obeyed the call, began making contacts and moved to plant the seed for an Arabic congregation. We had a vision to plant an Arabic-speaking church called Living Word Arabic Church, where the Word comes alive. We knew “it is not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts.”

Living Word became the first fruit of an Arabic church planting movement in America. Our burden is that the Arabic-speaking people come to know Jesus and be disciples who also make disciples. God granted us our desire as we saw over 80 Arabic-speaking people confess Jesus as Lord and Savior in 2012. We have an average attendance of 50 every Sunday night and

they are mostly from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria.

We meet at Northside Baptist Church in Garland. Because the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex is so big, we also have cell groups that meet in homes during the week. Small groups and disciple-making are the heart of our church, and these home groups develop new leaders.

The DFW Metroplex has a population of over 6 million and over 100,000 of those are Arabic-speaking people. Many of the people we serve are refugees. According to the humanitarian and charity organizations, new Arab refugees will be coming soon from Syria, Egypt and Libya. That fact maximizes the need and produces more opportunity!

Arabic is the mother tongue for 22 countries around the globe and is the sixth most commonly spoken language in the world today. With a city like Dallas, where there are many American mega-churches, you may be surprised at how lost and unreached the Arabic speaking people are. Therefore, we have been praying and investigating the

possibility of Arabic Christian broadcasting in the DFW area.

We believe the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few and the time is short. Please pray for these major points as we seek God’s guidance and vision for 2013:

- Pray for more salvations and spiritual growth at Living Word Arabic Church in Dallas and for our small groups.
- Pray for the training of Christian leaders and for disciple-making among the Arabs (multiplication).
- Pray for the Arabic church plant in North America (movement). And for American churches to host Arabic congregations.
- Pray for Arabic video broadcast beside the weekly broadcast [www.AshrafSara.com](http://www.AshrafSara.com) at [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com).
- Pray for laborers among Arabs and the process and methodology of coaching them.

—Contributed by National WMA Editor Shirlene Smith

## EVENTS

**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

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

**August 15, 2013**  
Lifeword Media Ministries Rally  
@ Rosewood, Gilmer

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

**October 14 & 15, 2013**  
Liberty Association Annual Meeting  
@ Cross Roads, Pittsburg

**April 28-30, 2014**  
Annual Meeting of BMA of America  
@ Statehouse Convention Center,  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**November 5-6, 2013**  
BMA of Texas Annual Meeting  
@ Calvary, Fairfield

## CLASSIFIED

**First, Carthage** has a 2008 Chevy C-1500-EX 15-passenger van for sale. 45,000 miles. \$15,000. For more information call 903-693-3569.

**New Beginnings, Mansfield** will have a moving sale at 206 Smith Street in Mansfield Jan. 18-19. Items include a piano, a coke machine, pews, tables, televisions, lockers and more. The church is relocating to 700 Cordes Drive in Venus. For more information, contact Pastor Brian Merchant at 817-291-6727 or pastorbrianmerchant@gmail.com.

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## PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS

**Pastor**—New Home Missionary, Lansing, Michigan is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to the church at 3133 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing, Michigan 48910 or mankeygary@aol.com.

**Youth Minister**—Afton Grove, Jacksonville is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. Must be a man of strong spiritual character, purposefully called to lead our youth into a closer walk with Jesus Christ. We are looking for someone who is spiritually gifted, as well as a hard worker. The church is situated close to Jacksonville College and BMA Theological Seminary. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 1328, Jacksonville, Texas 75766 or oneilbet@yahoo.com.

**Pastor**—South Park, Fort Worth is seeking a pastor. Visit [fortworthbaptistchurch.org/PastorSearch/](http://fortworthbaptistchurch.org/PastorSearch/) for more information about the church or to submit a resume.

**Pastor**—Elwood, Wills Point is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Elwood is a smaller congregation with a rich 115 year history. Send resume to Larry Black, 3922 VZCR 3504, Wills Point, Texas 75169, lblackr47@yahoo.com or call 903-873-8184.

## DEATHS

**Beatrice Lynn "Bea" Baker Colvin**, 47 of Hermitage, Arkansas died Jan. 2 at her home. She was a member of Dickinson Baptist Church, where her husband, Mike Colvin, has served as pastor for over 20 years. Funeral services were held Jan. 5.

**Athaleen Cooper Ratliff**, 83, of Conway, Arkansas died Jan. 7. After her first husband (Dr. Harold Cooper, former president of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas) died in 1992; she married BMA Minister Roland Ratliff, who passed away in 2001. Funeral services were held Jan. 10.

**Edna Janada Rice**, 77 of Conway, Arkansas died Dec. 26. She was the wife of David Rice who served for over 50 years as a BMA minister. Funeral services were held Dec. 29.

**Vodallia Christine Holt**, 77 of Milligan Ridge, Arkansas died Dec. 22. She was a member of Milligan Ridge Baptist Church, where her husband of 57 years, Waymon Holt, has served as pastor for over 20 years. Funeral services were held Dec. 24.

**Evelyn Parrish**, 80 of Baker, Louisiana died Dec. 22. Mrs. Parrish was the mother of Donny Parrish, who serves with Lifeword Media Ministries, DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry and BMAA Missions. Funeral services were held Dec. 24.

**Mona Dell Hall**, 95, of Holly Lake Ranch, formerly of Mount Selman, died Jan. 7. Her husband, Charley Hall, was a BMA minister for over 50 years. Funeral services were Jan. 11.

## PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

**Jay Miller** is the new pastor at Calvary, Mt. Pleasant.

**Ron Namanny** is the new pastor at Faith, Waller.

## WANT TO MAKE A GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING?

The Lifeword Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to help carry the Gospel around the world. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. For more information, call the LifeWord Development Office at 501-472-2183.

## CHURCHES IN REVIEW

### DECEMBER 30, 2012

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	58	83	
Cedar Creek, Teague		24	
Davis Street, Sulphur Springs	76	159	2 letter
Farley Street, Waxahachie	362	522	
First, Palmer	53	75	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	19	35	
Harvest, Lufkin	22	43	
Jackson, Joaquin	75	104	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	39	61	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	63	66	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	16	17	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	51	61	
Pine Brook, Tyler	23	50	
Rosewood, Gilmer	84	142	
Walnut Street, Winnsboro	126	148	

### JANUARY 6, 2013

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	62	104	
Cedar Creek, Teague	12	21	
Elwood, Wills Point	25	46	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	387	571	1 baptism
Fellowship, Winnsboro			2 letter
First, Blooming Grove	223		
First, Palmer	56	86	
Harvest, Lufkin	25	45	
Jackson, Joaquin	82	105	1 baptism
Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs	78	111	2 baptism
Lighthouse, Rowlett	23	36	1 profession of faith
Little Mound, Big Sandy	41	62	
Long Creek, Sunnyvale	74	81	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	20	21	
New Harmony, Tyler	241	297	
New Hope, Mineola	72	136	
Oak Hill, Gilmer	23	63	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	53	70	
Pine Brook, Tyler	30	75	2 letter
Sand Flat, Grand Saline	63	71	
Suburban Wood, Humble	42	52	
Temple, Mexia	36	40	
Tundra, Canton	107	130	
Walnut Street, Winnsboro	146	197	
Woodland, Splendora	51	76	

For publication, statistics for Churches in Review must be received by Monday at 5 p.m.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## A Heart for God

By GARY HOUSE

**DATE:** Jan. 20, 2013

**TEXT:** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13

**LESSON IN BRIEF:** God uses people who have a heart that trusts in Him.

The quest for Journey into Greatness shifts from Joshua, a humble servant who assumed responsibility and led God's people in claiming the promises of God, to David, a simple peasant who rose to royalty. David's whole-hearted trust in God enabled God to use him for His glory.

**A DEMAND (16:1)**—There is a demand for a new King of Israel. Why did God reject Saul as King of Israel? Basically Saul is a proud man who turns out to be stubborn, impetuous, with a strong self-will. These character flaws lead to his downfall. Because of his deliberate disregard for God's Word and his inability to place himself completely under divine control, the Lord ends up taking the royal monarchy from Saul. God tells the aging prophet Samuel, "Quit grieving over Saul, get up and go anoint the One I have chosen."

**A DIRECTION (16:2)**—God directed the steps of Samuel in anointing a new king. At first, Samuel objects, thinking, "If Saul hears of this, he will consider it treason and I shall be killed." God told Samuel to take the heifer to the house of Jesse and tell him he had come to sacrifice. God said, "I will show you whom you should anoint."

The most important part of this entire narrative is the activity of God.

1. It was the Lord who rejected Saul as king.
2. It was the LORD who told Samuel to go to Jesse in Bethlehem.
3. It was the LORD who told Samuel how to keep his mission secret from Saul.
4. It was the LORD who did not look on outer appearance but on the heart.
5. It was the LORD, who when David was brought before Samuel, said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." God is the one behind the scenes, directing the appointment of a new king.

**A DIMENSION (verses 6-7)**—The Lord gave Samuel the proper dimensions of Israel's new king: "When [Jesse's sons] came, [Samuel] looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height or his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'"

When Samuel saw Eliab, the eldest of Jesse's sons, he knew instantly he had found the anointed one. From the reaction of Samuel he must have really looked the part of a king. Like most of us, Samuel looked at the oldest son and assumed he was the one God had chosen. He was wrong. Saul was the kind of man Israel wanted for its king. The oldest son of Jesse was probably something like Saul in terms of age, height, and strength. Saul was a man who was physically dominating – he stood head and shoulders above his countrymen (1 Samuel 9:2), but his heart was not inclined toward the Lord. This time God would appoint a man whose heart was rightly inclined toward him. The outside appearance isn't the all-important dimension; the heart is. When we look at people, do we often not have a tendency to pull a "Samuel" and judge by outward appearance? The heart, not

the outer appearance, is really what matters. Do we judge too quickly by outward appearances?

**A DECISION (verses 11-13)**—The Lord made an important decision. After all Jesse's sons have been brought before Samuel, "he said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers."

Finally, David comes in from the field sees his brothers all dressed up, everybody's standing around. David has on his shepherds garb and still smells like sheep. And God basically says to Samuel, "There, he's the one!"

The prophet of God comes over to him, pours oil on his head, it runs down the back of his neck and says, "You're the next King." And I think David may have said, "Huh?" What an unexpected, unorthodox, unanticipated choice! Here is a boy that nobody seemed to notice. Yet, God did, because God doesn't look at the outward appearance but on the heart.

David is such an unlikely candidate in human terms—a young shepherd boy—that his father hadn't even bothered to call him in from tending the sheep. But when he finally turned up God was unequivocal: "Rise and anoint him; he is the one. He is the one..." David is the one.

God has given the people the best possible earthly king that they could have. He was not perfect, but ultimately he was a man whose heart was devoted to the Lord,

God does not see people as the world does. That David would be anointed Israel's next king would not have been the world's choice. Too young, no combat experience, no education, a sheep herder! But in the mind of God, impressed not by brawn or brains but by a heart completely His, it made perfect sense. God shows us through the choosing of David that someone that evidently was unnoticed by man, had great worth to God.

**Four qualities in David that prompted God to select him as King (These qualities set a standard for us):**

1. David possessed a heart of dependence on God Psalms 62:6-8
2. David also had a heart of obedience for God. Psalms 40:8 Psalms 119: 1
3. David possessed the heart of a servant Psalms 89:20
4. David possessed a heart of integrity psalms 78:72

The people have learned a lesson—a worldly king is not the solution to their problems. So God gives them a king who is different from Saul in two very significant ways. First, he is not an obvious choice from a human point of view, and second, he has a heart that is right with God.

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## Defeating Giants

By GARY HOUSE

**DATE:** January 27, 2013

**TEXT:** 1 Samuel 17:1-51

**LESSON IN BRIEF:** "You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Have you ever faced something so big, a problem, a trial, a difficulty, that it seemed impossible to overcome, insurmountable. It was/is your giant. No not literally a 9 ft., ½ inch tall person. Your giant may be a sickness (like cancer), depression, worry, fear, an addiction, a habit, an attitude, a sin, financial trouble, failing marriage, broken relationship, a lawsuit or unemployment. Difficulties in life are inevitable.

While difficulties in life are inevitable, your response to those difficulties is optional.

**DEFEAT, DISMAY AND DESPAIR (verse 11)**—Every day the Israelite army, including King Saul and David's three oldest brothers, would run in fear back to their camp. In their eyes there was no way they could defeat Goliath, he was an impossible problem.

**DETERMINATION, DECISION (verse 26)**—David wasn't going to hear any of it. He wasn't going to let this giant insult God and God's people. He wasn't going to live in fear. He was going to defeat the giant. He was going to face the problem head on, and deal with it right away, not on his own strength but by God's might.

Let's face it. Goliath was a big guy. He was huge. His head was almost as high as a basketball goal. The armor he wore weighed 125 pounds, probably more than David did. He was huge. Saul and the other soldiers looked only at the giant. They looked at the obstacle and responded with fear.

David was different. When he looked at Goliath, he didn't see an obstacle. He didn't see a giant. He looked and saw an opportunity for God to work, so David responded with faith.

David and the soldiers both looked at the same situation, but they saw completely different things. David shows us that we need to face our giants head on, and step out in faith believing God will help us overcome our giants, whether that means eliminating them, or helping us to bear the burden so they no longer have a grip on our life

The enemy wants us to live in fear of the giants in our life. He wants us to think our problem is so big that it is impossible even for God to overcome. Yet what did Jesus say?

"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37—NIV).

**GUIDELINES FOR GIANT KILLERS**—If you want to be victorious in life, if you want to be used in a mighty way, if you want to make a difference, there are several guidelines you must follow

**1. Face the problem.** Don't run away or get sidetracked. When we face giant problems in our life, we tend to do the same thing the Israelite army did. We become so overwhelmed by our problem that we tend to run from it or ignore it because we are either afraid of it or we don't know what to do about it. Unfortunately, our problems rarely go away on their own, when we run or ignore them, instead they have a tendency to get bigger, and every day the problem seems more intimidating than the day before.

Sometimes the most courageous thing we can do is turn away from people who are sidetracking us, and face the real issue, the real problem, the giant with courage.

**2. Ignore the doubters—Most of us would have gotten ticked off at being falsely accused by our big brother and wasted our time defending ourselves or blasting him back getting in a heated argument over a trivial issue. Instead David wisely ignored him and turned to face the real issue, the giant who was insulting God's people, and therefore God himself.**

If you decide to take a stand for God, if you decide to take a stand of faith and to take God at His word, some people will question your motives. They will question your

spirituality and your heart. If you live differently than they do, some people will attack you out of jealousy. Ignore them.

God chose Saul and set him as king over God's people. Saul was a giant of a man, prepared to fight other giants. On the day Goliath came, however, Saul was unable to stand before Goliath because God's spirit had left him. He once trusted and obeyed God. Now, he's a backslidden shell of what he used to be.

So how did Saul respond when Goliath came? He, with his troops, trembled in fear. How did he respond when David was brought before him? He tried to discourage and dissuade David. He told him it couldn't be done.

If you want to be victorious, if you want to make a difference, if you want to slay the giants in your life, ignore the naysayers.

**3. Review the Victories (verses 34-37)**—When a giant confronted David, David reviewed the victories. He looked back at how God had been faithful in the past. He said, "God helped me when a lion attacked me. He gave me victory when a bear attacked me. If God protected me then, if He helped me then, He will help me now." David reviewed the victories.

When struggles come, when hard times approach, review the victories. Review the times God has been faithful in the past. Review the times He has answered your prayers and taken care of you in the past. Review the victories.

**4. Use your own God given abilities and skills.** Never assume that what worked for somebody else to defeat their giant will automatically work for you.

**5. Trust the Lord (verses 37, 45-46).** When David went to fight Goliath, he didn't trust his own strength. He didn't trust his own ability. He didn't trust in his own planning. He trusted the Lord. He said in verses 45-46, "I come against you in the name of the Lord. The Lord will hand you over to me."

It isn't you that will defeat that giant. It isn't you that will win the victory. It is God. Jesus Himself said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Trust the Lord. Trust that He knows what's best. Trust that what He leads you into He will lead you through. Trust the Lord.

**6. Get to it (verse 48).** If you have a situation to handle, if you have a problem to deal with, if you have a giant in front of you, then get to it. Put actions to your words.

David trusted God so strongly, so confidently, that verse 48 tells us that he ran toward the giant. He didn't hang back hoping things would work out. He charged the situation. He looked forward to seeing God work.

There are those who would say, "Well we need to wait and pray about this. We need to pray that God will strike this giant down." Well, sometimes God works like that, and sometimes, after praying, God expects you to get on with it, and to trust Him to use and work through you.

David didn't jump out there in his own strength. He ran out there because he trusted God and because he was led by God to do so.

Don't sit around whining about the giants in your life, if you're doing nothing to help the situation. There's a time for praying and a time for doing. Get to it! Don't sit there and kid yourself by thinking about what you're going to do one day. Dear friend, God can and will defeat the giants in your life. He will give you victory, if you get to it.

What is the giant in your life today? What difficulty are you facing today? Will you today, step out and say, "God, I will trust you?" What giants are you facing in our life? What giants seem so big you can't imagine how they can possibly be overcome? Don't run, don't be afraid, face the issue because with God's help you can overcome it. Nothing is impossible with God. Are your eyes focused on the problem or are your eyes focused on God? What steps are God inviting you to take today or this week to step out in faith and overcome your giant by God's might?





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