

2013

Minutes

Sixty-first Annual Meeting

Tarrant County

Baptist Missionary Association

September 21, 2013

Oasis Baptist Church

Arlington, Texas

Next Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2014

South Park Baptist Church

7201 Crowley Road

Fort Worth, Texas 76134

10:30 a.m.

Moderator Jason Daughtry

Assistant Moderator Jeremy Franklin

Clerk/Treasurer Timothy Fish

Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Ken Strong

WMA Representative Jo Strong

Annual Message David Pickard

Alternate Gaylan Henry

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Constitution

1. This Association shall be known as the Tarrant County Baptist Missionary Association.
2. This Association shall be composed of churches, by means of messengers that are members of, and elected by, the church sending them.
3. The officers of this Association shall consist of moderator, assistant moderator, clerk-treasurer, assistant clerk-treasurer.
4. It shall be the duty of this Association on the first day of each annual meeting to elect her officers for the following year.
5. New churches may be admitted to this fellowship on presentation of petitionary letters at the annual session of messengers sent from their church for such purpose, providing that on examination they be found to be in fellowship, in doctrine, faith, and practice with the churches of this Association. The moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the messengers.
6. Each church shall be allowed five messengers.
7. It shall be the duty of the churches of this Association to provide a fund to defray expenses of the Association, including local missions, correspondence, and clerk hire.
8. It shall be the duty of each church in this Association to send a letter annually by her messengers, naming the messengers, the number of members received since the last Association, and how received, number dismissed and how. Also, the amount of funds sent in and for what purpose.
9. This Association shall have no power to lord over the churches, but shall function as an advisory council.
10. In all cases where there is difference between church or individuals of this Association, the same rule shall be observed as taught in Matthew 18 and other Scriptures corresponding therewith.
11. In the event of heresy in doctrine or unscriptural practice on the part of any church of this Association, having come to the notice of the Association, and after the Association has exhausted every scriptural effort to convert the church of the erroneous ways, it shall

be the duty of the other churches of the Association to withdraw fellowship from the offending church.

12. This Association shall correspond with other associations of like faith and order as she may direct.
13. All matters coming before the Association shall be determined by will of the majority of the members present, except that of receiving churches, which shall be by unanimous vote. Associations that we correspond with shall be determined by a two-thirds majority.
14. No query shall be received by this Association until it shall have been taken up and elected upon by the church in which it originated. Then if the church fails to get satisfaction, it may be received.
15. This Association shall be governed by regular decorum.
16. As Baptists we do not hesitate to say that as it respects Missionary Institutions, we will not be bound to contribute to any, but will be left to act as the Word of God may lead us to do.
17. This Constitution may be changed, amended or altered at any regular meeting of the Association, by a two-thirds majority of messengers present.
18. This Association endorses the New Hampshire Confession of Faith as a representative compendium of what Baptist have historically believed through the centuries. We refer particularly to the edition in J. E. Cobb's *Church Manual* (third edition), published by the Baptist Publications Committee of Texarkana, Texas.
19. This Association shall meet annually at 10:30 AM on the third Saturday in September at such place as may be designated by the Association in annual session.
20. Newly elected officers shall not take over until the end of the annual meeting.

Rules of Decorum

1. The Association shall be opened with prayer.
2. All officers shall be chosen on the first day of the annual meeting by the messengers present.
3. The moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member shall have the right to rise to a point of order as they deem necessary.
4. Any member not satisfied with the moderator's ruling may appeal to the Association for a change on the same day; not later.
5. Only one person may speak at a time, after rising and addressing the moderator and getting recognition, then only shall he speak.
6. The speaker shall not be interrupted until he has given his light, unless he gets out of order, then shall he be called to order.
7. The speaker shall adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the ones who have spoken before, by remarking of his failings or the ones who have spoken before, by remarking of his failings or imperfections, but shall strictly present his idea of the matter at hand.
8. No appellation except that of Brother or Sister shall be used in the Association.
9. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called as often as the Association may require.
10. The moderator may not interrupt any messenger, nor prohibit any member from speaking until he has given his light, except he be breaking the rule of the decorum.
11. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other provided the chair is filled, but shall not vote unless the Association is equally divided.
12. If any member shall knowingly and willingly break these rules, he or she shall be removed as the Association may think proper, This is to be done on the same day of the offense.

Association Officers

- Moderator Jason R. Daughtry
2380 Lonesome Dove Road, Southlake, Texas 76092
Phone: 619-578-1317 E-mail: Jason@thedovechurch.com
- Vice Moderator Jeremy Franklin
6315 Branch Hollow Ln, Arlington, Texas 76001
Phone: 817-557-5440
E-mail: pastorjeremy@oasischurchofarlington.com
- Clerk/Treasurer..... Timothy Fish
1604 Hunting Green Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76134
Phone: 817-551-1854 E-mail: timothy@timothyfish.net
- Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Ken Strong
149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028
Phone: 817-480-0888 E-mail: JoKenStrong@juno.com
- WMA Representative Jo Strong
149 NW Suzanne Terrace, Burleson, Texas 76028
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At the recommendation of the Tarrant County Women's Missionary Auxiliary, the association elected a WMA Representative to represent the association at state and national meetings of the WMA. This is due to the Tarrant County WMA voting to discontinue its formal organization.

Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting

September 21, 2013

Opening

The annual meeting of the Tarrant County Baptist Missionary Association met on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Oasis Baptist Church in Arlington hosted the meeting.

Jeremy Franklin, pastor of Oasis Baptist Church welcomed the messengers and visitors to the meeting.

David Pickard, pastor of South Park Baptist Church read from John 3 and opened the meeting with prayer.

Vice Moderator Jeremy Franklin, serving as moderator for the first part of the meeting, called the meeting to order. This was due to Moderator Jason Daughtry also being responsible for bringing the annual message.

The letters from the churches, including the names of the churches and the number of messengers were read. Motion carried to seat the messengers.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

Moderator: Jason Daughtry

Vice Moderator: Jeremy Franklin

Clerk/Treasurer: Timothy Fish

Assistant Clerk/Treasurer: Ken Strong

Annual Message: David Pickard

Alternate Speaker: Gaylan Henry

Annual Message

Jason Daughtry, pastor of Lonesome Dove (The Dove) Baptist Church, brought the annual message. His scripture was taken from I Peter 5 and II Timothy 4.

The Work in Tarrant County

A partial report concerning the Hispanic mission was given. This included information that the mission had found a place to meet, though not where they had hoped. The man who had been leading the effort is no longer doing so, but the mother church is still supporting the effort.

Motion carried to work with Buddy Johnson and Luis Ortega to determine how we can help this effort.

Motion carried to continue supporting the mission as before. (80% of all undesignated offerings to be placed in a mission fund to help with future needs.)

Jo Strong gave a report from the WMA. She reported that the country WMA has voted to discontinue its organization as before. The recommendation of the WMA was that the Tarrant County BMA elect Jo Strong as a WMA representative to attend the state and national WMA meetings. The association accepted the report and elected Jo Strong as the representative.

Reports from the BMA of Texas

Eddie Marsh, president of Texas Baptist Home for Children, gave a report concerning all of the departments of the Texas BMA.

Leon Ross, representing Jacksonville College, gave a report concerning the school.

Reports from the BMA of America

Matthew Dean, representing the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, gave a report concerning the seminary.

Obituary Report

The obituary report was given, followed by prayer.

Financial Report

Clerk/Treasurer Timothy Fish gave the Financial Report. Motion carried to adopt the report.

Other Items of Business

Motion carried to print 50 minute books.

Motion carried to pay the Clerk/Treasurer \$350

David Pickard, pastor of South Park, extended an invitation for the association to hold its next annual meeting at South Park Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Motion carried to accept the invitation.

Motion carried to send \$500 each to Jacksonville College and the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary.

Closing

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissal prayer.

Jeremy Franklin invited everyone to stay for the meal Oasis had prepared.

Reports

Funds Received and Messengers at Annual Meeting

Church	Messengers	Funds Received
Calvary	3	100.00
Centro de Vida	—	—
Lonesome Dove	2	—
New Beginnings	—	—
Northridge	—	—
Oasis	5	50.00
Sheppard Drive	—	—
South Park	5	—
Wyatt Drive	—	—
Total	15	150.00

Obituary Report

The following church members have gone on to be with the Lord:

Calvary Marilyn McDaniel

Lonesome Dove Earl Minor

Debbie Lewis

South Park Edward Durham

Linda Bankston

M.G. Bobbitt

Nellie Brooks

Virginia Frady

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.—1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

2013 Financial Report

September 21, 2013

Mission Fund Brought Forward	2,333.48
General Fund Brought Forward.....	1,939.63
Balance Brought Forward in Checking Account	4,273.11

Income:

Interest in Checking Account:	2.97
Regular Offerings from Churches:	
Calvary	837.00
Oasis	911.24
Lonesome Dove	1,300.00
New Beginnings	100.00
Sheppard Drive	357.78
South Park.....	2,100.00
Total Regular Offerings from Churches	5,606.02
Income from Other Sources.....	0.00
Total Monies Received from All Sources	5,606.02
Grand Total All Working Funds	9,882.10

Expenses:

BMAA Theological Seminary	750.00
Jacksonville College	950.00
Minute Books	110.96
Clerk Hire	350.00
Other	13.47
Total Monies Expended.....	2,174.43
Balance Carried Forward (Check Book Balance).....	7,707.67

(In addition to the above, \$25.00 Savings Account Balance for Membership)

WMA Report

To the Tarrant County Baptist Missionary Association
September 2013

Due to our inability to meet together and function as an organized body, we have made the decision to discontinue the formal organizational structure of the Tarrant County Women's Missionary Auxiliary.

It is our desire to:

1. Continue working together as ladies of our local churches to assist and support associational ministries whenever appropriate and possible.
2. Continue sending messengers from our local churches to participate in State and National WMA meetings, supporting projects with our prayers and offerings.

REQUEST: That the association elect one lady to serve as a representative of this district to keep ladies informed and connected, so they may be involved whenever appropriate.

Tarrant County WMA

Jacksonville College

Dr. Mike Smith, President
105 B.J. Albritton Drive
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God is doing an exciting work at Jacksonville College. In the fall of 2012, JC had a record enrollment of 560; all indications are that the final number will exceed 600 this fall. In 2012, the College had 100 on-campus students. This year 150 are expected; therefore, JC purchased and remodeled several homes around campus and plans to build more residence halls.

The Jacksonville Independent School district built a new facility, leaving the elementary school adjacent to the JC campus vacant. Hobby Lobby visited the JISD facility and agreed to purchase the property

and lease it to the College for one year and one day. Afterwards, they will donate it to the College. The property is nine plus acres, nearly 41,000 square feet, and is appraised for \$1 ,000,000. This transaction will be a valuable asset for growth.

The 2012-2013 year experienced changes in the area of academics. After several years of excellent service as Academic Dean, Dr. Tampa Clark resigned to take a position elsewhere. Dr. Ray Thompson served as interim dean during the transition. Lynn Nabi now serves as the new Academic Dean. To keep pace with current trends in education, JC is expanding online courses offerings as well as continuing education courses for adults.

Traditionally, the Athletic Department offered only men's and women's basketball, but last year both men's and women's golf and tennis were added. In the fall of 2013, men's and women's soccer will be included. The golf and tennis teams made it to national finals. Khadijah Carter, women's basketball player, made the NJAA All-American team and received a scholarship to the University of Alabama. Five other athletes received scholarships to Division I universities.

The Fine Arts Department contributed to the College and the community through music and theater performances. The choir and Singers performed at various churches as well as at annual meetings for the SBTC, the BMA of Texas, and the BMA of America. On August 30, the choir sang the National Anthem at the Houston Astros game. The Theater Department presented two productions each semester, hosted a summer children's theater camp, and performed in various civic activities.

Last fall, JC conducted a successful witnessing opportunity for the community through a haunted house experience that concluded with a gospel presentation as the main focus. Attendance exceeded 800; some waited two hours to get inside. By the end of the event, 163 had prayed to receive Christ.

The Jacksonville College motto is Challenging Minds, Transforming Lives. Faculty members are committed Christians and creationists, and everyone attends a weekly chapel program. Ministerial students must take four semesters of one-on-one discipleship training. JC also still has a mandatory curfew.

Jacksonville College thanks the BMA associations, BMA churches, and individuals for their support.

Please pray for the College and come visit. Dr. Smith invites every visitor to enjoy a free meal. We now even offer all the Blue Bell ice cream you can eat.

State Missions

Jerry Burnaman, Director

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It's essential to trust the Holy Spirit for guidance in making future plans. That was our objective last year; however, things did not go as planned. After a good start in Prosper, Joey Cook decided to go another direction and moved back to Arkansas. Kyle Sears moved to California to restart a church, but the Hutto Mission continues strong. Dean Renfro is working with them for six months until we can discover a new leader. Johsua Kamau moved to St. Louis and Ronny Rogers is now leading the Green Tree Village Mission.

With a population of more than 26 million, Texas remains an enormous mission field. Statistics show that about 17 percent attend church on Sunday so there are many prospects and many opportunities to start new churches. One continual great challenge is to discover church planters. Jesus said to His disciples, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"* Matthew 9:37. This should be our prayer also. We have two or three potential church planters but we need a pipeline of several more.

The Hispanic work continues strong and is growing. Arnulfo Maldonado has seven groups in the Houston area and we provide a stipend to help him with traveling expenses. It's a possibility he will start a work in San Antonio and he also works with several pastors in the DFW Metroplex. We are looking at some potential sites to begin new Hispanic congregations.

It is extremely urgent for church leaders and church members to pray for our aggressive mission movement to become more aggressive. A greater mobilization among our churches would give an exciting impetus to the movement.

Here is list of our church planters:

- Matthew Prather, Celina
- Dean Renfro, Hutto
- Ronny Rogers, Amarillo
- Cecil & Sue Linke, Allen

- George & Nicole Martinez, Lewisville
- Gary & Rhonda Southard, Porter
- Todd Cox and Darren Lemons, Terrell
- Arnulfo Maldonado, Houston

We commend our churches for being faithful with your prayers and financial support. By working together we can accomplish much more.

Remember our **Vision: to have an aggressive mission movement among the BMA churches of Texas by healthy pastors, leading healthy churches, to plant new healthy churches.**

Church	Pastors Salary	Local Missions	State Missions	Interstate & Foreign Missions	Jacksonville College	Texas Baptist Home
Calvary	26,208	865	2,874	2,699	1,618	1,618
Centro de Vida	24,000	2,400	0	13,200	0	0
Lonesome Dove	0	2,000	0	12,000	0	0
New Beginnings	0	100	300	0	0	300
Oasis	0	911	0	0	0	0
South Park	51,772	2,300	5,062	24,557	6,225	3,943
Wyatt Drive	35,620	0	0	5,060	180	0
Total	137,600	8,576	8,236	57,516	8,023	5,861

Church	Additions				Losses			
	Baptism	Letter	Statement	Total	Letter	Death	Exclusion	Total
Calvary	3	1	0	4	0	1	0	1
Centro de Vida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lonesome Dove	11	0	0	11	0	2	0	2
New Beginnings	6	0	15	21	2	0	0	2
Oasis	8	8	4	20	1	1	0	2
South Park	4	15	10	29	2	5	0	7
Wyatt Drive	2	0	0	2	8	0	0	0
Total	34	24	29	87	13	9	0	22

Texas Baptist Home for Children

Eddie Marsh, President

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A famous missionary is quoted as saying, "God's work done God's way will not lack for God's blessings." There is no doubt that the work of Texas Baptist Home for Children is God's work (James 1:27). He has shown His love and provision for 103 years. It is truly exciting to see fellow Christians discover this ministry and choose to invest their time and resources. Members of Baptist Missionary Association of Texas churches have provided invaluable assistance with back-to-school supplies to ensure that every child in care has everything he or she needs to start classes. We now have 148 children in care, which means many presents to be purchased and wrapped at Christmas time. You have helped to champion this cause and make the job much more manageable for our staff. The support you provide through church and individual donations has enabled this ministry to enter many doors of service for our clients that would otherwise be closed and to continue to provide the quality service that is associated with this ministry.

New Ministry

In July, I completed nine years of service in this position. This is the longest time we have spent in one location in our ministry. Last summer my wife and I purchased a home in Waxahachie. Discussion arose concerning what would be the future of the house that had been the home for Presidents of the Baptist Home since the mid-1950's. There was an urgent need for a place to house birth moms who were planning to place their child for adoption. The call went out and the house has been converted into a beautiful temporary home for these ladies. "ABBA'S HEART" ministry is now a reality.

Foster Care

In the past year, the Baptist Home was blessed to provide ministry in the lives of 315 children through foster and foster to

adopt care. The greatest news that is ever heard on campus is that another child has given his life to Christ. On Sunday July 28, my wife and I attended First Baptist Church of Red Oak and saw six of our girls baptized. The Bedford office continues to enjoy substantial growth. This has necessitated the expansion of the office and the addition of another case manager.

Adoption

One of the goals of this ministry is to provide permanent homes for children. Twenty-two children moved from Foster Care to finding forever families. We praise the Lord for four private adoptions as the birth mother chose life for their child. This now brings the number of children who have been adopted by Texas Baptist Home to over 200. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Future Plans

Plans are in motion for improvements on our campus which we feel will be very beneficial to the population we serve for many years. Last year we were forced to reduce our budget, however, God provided richly for this ministry. Our purposed budget for the year is \$4,049,660.

A Word of Thanks

The goal for Change for Children has been \$55,000 for a number of years. However, last year, due to your generosity and the blessings of our Lord, we were able to exceed that by more than \$10,000! At the time this report is being prepared you have donated over \$50,000, therefore, we anticipate another excellent year in giving to this cause. A special word of thanks goes to each church and individual who helped with this effort. The funds raised through this campaign go to provide for the activities for the children throughout the year. Your continued support to this campaign is encouraged and deeply appreciated.

A Prayer Request

Once more, changes are being made state-wide in foster care. Re-design is on the horizon. One of the reasons Texas Baptist Home has been so effective is due to this ministry being able to adapt to change. Once more there will be changes in the way Foster Care is done. We request your prayers as we walk this journey.

I commit to you that Texas Baptist Home will continue with the same goals as when it was first established. This ministry exists to protect the sanctity of human life and to promote the preservation of the family. It was my privilege to travel to Austin in July, as did many of you, to represent you in providing support for those who took a stand for the unborn. We praise the Lord for senators and representatives who stood for those who cannot stand for themselves. The bill passed.

Loan Association

Jerry Burnaman, Business Manager

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The Baptist Missionary Loan Association is in very good condition. Presently our total assets are about \$9 million. We appreciate, and give a big thanks to individuals, churches and associations for supporting the Loan Association.

I am very thankful for our faithful trustees who give their time and support to help the BMLA have an effective ministry in assisting our churches and missions. We have people on our trustee board with very good financial expertise: bankers, businessmen and pastors. They are a great help to me and I appreciate their leadership.

There are three ways to support the Loan Association:

- A contribution from an individual or church
- An interest free loan
- Interest loans that compound quarterly

(Currently we are paying 2 percent on share accounts and 2.5 percent on CDs. These rates may change during the year depending on the financial climate.)

Your financial support and prayers are essential for the BMLA to have part in assisting the BMA to plant churches and provide funds for growing churches.

Baptist Progress

Jerry Fulton, Editor

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A New Century Begins for Baptist Progress

The purpose of *Baptist Progress* is to promote interest in missions, evangelism, benevolence and Christian education among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. *Baptist Progress* will celebrate 101 years of ministry on Nov. 21, 2013. We appreciate the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas for their continued partnership in ministry.

Services Provided by Baptist Progress

- **News.** In addition to publishing an issue every first and third Wednesday, *Baptist Progress* provides email subscribers with e-News Updates containing news and information on most weeks the paper is not published. News alerts, death announcements, important reminders and more are also emailed on a regular basis. Those who subscribe to *Baptist Progress* by mail are encouraged to switch to an email subscription. The advantages of having an email subscription include receiving news faster, getting more news and receiving the news alerts.

Website. The BMA of Texas website (www.bmatexas.org) is managed by *Baptist Progress*. Visit the site for information about the BMA of Texas and important announcements.

- **Every Sunday Bulletin Service.** Visit www.bmatexas.org and click *Baptist Progress*, then "Bulletins" to order. We have a large selection of sizes, styles and quantities. Bulletins are delivered to your door each quarter enough bulletins for each Sunday of the quarter.

- **Books, Bibles, gifts and supplies.** Whenever you need Christian books, Bibles, gifts, music, supplies, postcards and more, visit www.bmatexas.org, click the flashing Christian book Distributors link on the right side of the homepage and place your order. Christianbook Distributors shares a percentage of their profit with *Baptist Progress*. The only way we will be credited is if your order through our website.

The Church Plan

All BMA churches are encouraged to join the *Baptist Progress* Church Plan. For only \$1.50 per month (\$18 per year), per mail sub-

scription, or \$1 per month (\$12 per year) per email subscription, churches can provide each of its member households with 24 issues of *Baptist Progress* for one year. The Church Plan cost is a discounted rate plan. The standard rate for mail subscriptions is \$21 per year and for email subscriptions, \$18 per year.

Advertising Prices Reduced

Baptist Progress is glad to announce that our advertising rates have been lowered considerably. The cost of a 1/4 page ad is now only \$100, 1/2 page ads are \$200 and full-page ads are \$400. Smaller ads are also available for \$12 per column inch. A 10 percent discount is available for all recurring ads.

Let Us Come to Where You Are

Editor Jerry Fulton is available to speak in BMA of Texas churches on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evening or others times. He would be more than happy to share with your congregation about the various departments and ministries of the BMA of Texas.

Have Sound, Will Travel

Editor Fulton has begun a new venture in recent months. As an opportunity to fulfill his passion and promote the ministry of *Baptist Progress*, the editor is available to perform Southern Gospel concerts. He has recorded three CD's and sings regularly at local Christian/family venues. Editor Fulton has a portable sound system and is available to sing during regular worship services or at other events. All love offerings received will be given to *Baptist Progress*. Samples of his CD tracks can be found at www.jerryfulton.com.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Lord by serving you as the editor your state publication for the past 9 years. I look forward to the "progress" we will make together for the glory of God in the future!

BMA Seminary

Dr. Charley Holmes. President

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My name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of Hosts (Malachi 1: 11).

Every knee shall bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus

Christ is Lord to the glory of God (Philippians 2: 11).

Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

Today's Headlines:

Boston, Massachusetts: April 2013, Chechen Muslims detonate bomb on Boston street side, killing 3 and wounding 264.

Nigeria: July 30, 2013, Pastor murdered by Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist group.

Bosnia: Serbian Orthodox Church vandalized by Muslims in Sarajevo

Central African Republic: Islamic rebel leader proclaims himself president and threatens destruction of Christian Churches.

Egypt: May 2013, Two Coptic Christian Churches attacked by 20,000 Muslims; one in Alexandria, the other in Upper Egypt.

Iran: May 2013, Tehran church raided by security forces during a prayer meeting, books and equipment seized, agents post a sign stating that "this church is now closed."

Such headlines are all too common in our day. Most informed people realize that these attacks on non-Muslims, though widespread geographically, are a part of the ultimate goal of Islam: subjugation of the world including us, our children, and grandchildren. Sometimes we wonder, "What should I do to retard the spread of this 'peaceful' religion?" Perhaps, more often we ask, "What CAN I do?" Perhaps unknowingly, you are already doing the only thing that will really help, assisting BMA Seminary to train Muslim converts to take the love of Christ to their friends and family.

Several years ago, Ashraf and Rasha Sara came to the Seminary from our church in Baghdad, Iraq. Both Ashraf and Rasha were excellent students and Ashraf is now working in a thriving BMAA mission in Dallas, reaching Arabs from many countries for Christ, and Rasha will soon be working with him in the same mission.

Fifteen years ago, after attending the University of Texas, the Lord saved Iraj, a middle-aged man who was born in a Muslim home in Iran. Later, God called him to preach and providentially sent him to the BMA Seminary campus in Jacksonville. Iraj has since planted an Iranian Baptist Church in the Dallas area, worked with LifeWord in broadcasting the gospel into Iran, and makes multiple trips to Turkey and Armenia each year to evangelize Iranian refugees. Iraj is also a "Paul." He knows he must pass his knowledge and discipleship skills to others.

God has called two other Iranian men to preach under his ministry in Dallas. One has started classes in Jacksonville and the other will follow as soon as finances are available.

You are doing the only thing that really changes the lives and hearts of Muslims-training. You are training men to win Muslims to Christ and training them to reach their family and friends.

Nothing facilitates that better than Christ-Centered Preaching, Christ-Centered Worship, and Christ-Centered Discipleship. These are the very things that are at the core of the BMA Seminary. We believe what Jesus said in Luke 24:25-27 is true, that all the scriptures in existence at his time (the law, the prophets and the psalms,) spoke concerning him. And we know that he pre-authenticated the writings of the New Testament. Every preacher's goal should be that of Paul, to preach Christ and him crucified. That is done by connecting application to any Scripture passage containing something Jesus has done, is doing, or has promised to do.

Christ-centered worship means that we search the Scriptures of the living Lord to find a precedent for anything we do in public or private worship. We believe that if the Bible does not command it or give solid approval of God's blessing on it, we must shun it; otherwise we are worshipping ourselves and it is worthless before God (Colossians 2:23 & Matthew 15: 8-9 to the Pharisees).

Christ-centered discipleship is making disciples the way that Jesus did. Jesus preached to multitudes, taught smaller groups, and spent perhaps the majority of his time mentoring individuals. One-an-many, one-an-some, one-an-one. Baptist preachers have done well through the ages with the one-an-many and one-an-some aspects, but have largely failed at what Jesus worked the hardest, ONE-ON-ONE. The Seminary is doing all we can through the BMAA's DiscipleWay ministry to make sure the current and new generation is equipped to make disciples the way Jesus did.

This year is the BMA Seminary's 56th year of taking faithful men and equipping them to teach faithful men, who can teach others also. This year you are not only doing well in training men from the Arab world to reach their own, you also are equipping disciple makers from China, Korea, Mexico, France, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bolivia, Honduras, and states other than Texas: Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Washington. This current semester, we have students registered from Nevada and Hawaii. The total number of students from this past year was 186.

The Lord has also blessed in the area of our stewardship. The Seminary has no debt. The only blemish on the year's finances was that

we ended the year May 31,2013, with a small deficit (\$2,505.00). The minor deficit came primarily from a good thing. Through the years we have bought properties adjacent to the campus to increase our student housing and control the safety of our neighborhood. In May, a house across the street from the campus came on the market and we were able to purchase *it* for \$63,000. The money came from endowment earnings and the current fund. The purchase put us in the red for the year. However, God has blessed and friends of the Seminary from across the U.S. have given over \$36,000 toward the purchase-more than half of the purchase price.

We are asking that the local associations, as they meet, consider using 10% of their surplus bank funds to help us cover the cost of this student dwelling. It was a timely purchase. The new student from Iran, mentioned earlier in the letter, needed housing for his family and we had no place to put them; however, the Iranian family was able to move into the newly purchased property the week of the closing.

The Seminary is not only sound in Baptist doctrine, but also sound in our educational credentials. Last year we passed our third 10-year renewal with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the premier accrediting agency of the southern U.S. That means that any degree earned at BMA Seminary is recognized at the same level as any master's degree from the major universities in the South.

The Seminary has also launched a process to establish an online degree program to help those who can't move to Jacksonville. This degree can be augmented with one week intensive classes on the main campus in the winter and summer. We also launched a series of free online classes for those who want to learn, but don't want the pressure of completing a degree. Completion of seven (7) of the free classes earns the participant a Certificate in Christian Leadership. The initial offering of free classes this past fall was a success, with over 30 new students enrolled.

Anyone interested in online degrees or the free class program should stay in touch with the Seminary by visiting our website: bmats.edu, or connecting to the Seminary's Facebook page for updates on class offerings and special events.

As always, we gladly accept any invitation to share the ministry as a special program for associational, Brotherhood, or WMA meetings. If your association would like to schedule a visit please call 800-259-5673 and ask for the president's office.

If your association is able to assist with a special offering to help payoff the new addition to our married student housing we would be happy to schedule a visit to say "thank you" in person.

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Notes

Notes

Order of Business

1. Open with a singing, prayer and Scripture reading
2. Call for Church Letters and Read (Article 8)
3. Seating of Messengers
4. Petitionary Letters
5. Election of Offices (take office at the end of the annual meeting)
6. Annual Message
7. Reports
 - A. BMA of Tarrant County
 - County Missions
 - Auxiliary Reports
 - B. BMA of Texas
 - C. BMA of America
 - D. Obituary Reports
 - E. Financial Report
8. Other Items of business:
 - Hosts for Rallies and Amounts to be given each
 - Number of Minute Books to Print
 - Amount to Pay Clerk
 - Miscellaneous Business
9. Announcements and Benediction