

**2015**

Minutes

Sixty-third Annual Meeting

# Tarrant County

## Baptist Missionary Association

September 19, 2015

Calvary Baptist Church

Arlington, Texas

Next Meeting

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Sheppard Drive Baptist Church

219 North Sheppard Drive

Eules, Texas 76039

9:30 a.m.

Moderator ..... David Pickard

Vice Moderator.....Jeremy Franklin

Clerk/Treasurer .....Timothy Fish

Assistant Clerk/Treasurer ..... Ken Strong

WMA Representative .....Jo Strong

Annual Message .....Jeremy Franklin

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 9:30 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 ..... David Pickard  
417 N Trail, Crowley, Texas 76036  
Phone: 817-371-9238 E-mail: david.pickard@spbcfw.org
- Vice Moderator ..... Jeremy Franklin  
6315 Branch Hollow Lane, Arlington, Texas 76001  
Phone: 817-557-5440 E-mail: pastor@oasisarlington.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  
Phone: 817-480-0888 E-mail: JoKenStrong@juno.com

*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 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

September 19, 2015

## Opening

The annual meeting of the Tarrant County Baptist Missionary Association met on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Calvary Baptist Church in Arlington hosted the meeting.

Jerry Phillips, led in congregational singing.

Jeremy Franklin read Hebrews 4:13-16 and lead in prayer.

The letters were read and the messengers were seated.

## Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

**Moderator:** David Pickard

**Vice Moderator:** Jeremy Franklin

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Timothy Fish

**Assistant Clerk/Treasurer:** Ken Strong

**WMA Representative:** Jo Strong

**Annual Message:** Jeremy Franklin

**Alternate Speaker:** Gaylan Henry

## Annual Message

David Pickard, brought the annual message.

## Reports from the BMA of Texas

Jerry Burnaman, Director of Missions for the BMA of Texas, gave a report concerning all of the departments of the BMA of Texas.

Will Cumbee, Jacksonville College Director of Bookstore, gave a report concerning the school.

Gaylon Henry led a prayer for Jacksonville College.

## Reports from the BMA of America

Pat Quesenbury spoke concerning Lifeword.

## Obituary Report

James Schoenrock gave the obituary report, read from Psalm 90 and led in prayer.



## **Financial Report**

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

## **Other Items of Business**

Motion carried to continue giving \$500 each to the seminary and college.

Motion carried to discontinue giving to the mission fund and to give \$300 per month to Fil Kakilala's work fund.

Motion carried to print 50 minute books.

Motion carried to pay the Clerk/Treasurer \$350

Motion carried to accept the invitation to Shephard Drive Baptist Church in Euless for the next annual meeting.

Motion carried to amend the article 19 of the constitution to replace "10:30 AM" with "9:30 AM".

## **Closing**

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissal prayer by Jerry Phillips.

A meal was served after the meeting.

# Reports

## Funds Received and Messengers at Annual Meeting

| <b>Church</b>  | <b>Messengers</b> | <b>Funds Received</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Calvary        | 2                 | 100.00                |
| Centro de Vida | —                 | —                     |
| Lonesome Dove  | —                 | —                     |
| New Beginnings | —                 | —                     |
| Northridge     | —                 | —                     |
| Oasis          | 5                 | —                     |
| Sheppard Drive | 3                 | 50.00                 |
| South Park     | 5                 | 100.00                |
| Wyatt Drive    | —                 | —                     |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b>         | <b>250.00</b>         |

# Financial Report

September 19, 2015

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Mission Fund Brought Forward .....                       | 6,678.30         |
| General Fund Brought Forward.....                        | 4,992.03         |
| <b>Balance Brought Forward in Checking Account .....</b> | <b>11,670.33</b> |

Income:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Interest in Checking Account: .....         | 0.00             |
| Regular Offerings from Churches:            |                  |
| Calvary.....                                | 943.00           |
| Oasis.....                                  | 933.01           |
| Lonesome Dove.....                          | 700.00           |
| New Beginnings.....                         | 657.00           |
| Sheppard Drive.....                         | 258.00           |
| South Park.....                             | 1,900.00         |
| Total Regular Offerings from Churches ..... | 5,391.01         |
| Income from Other Sources.....              | 0.00             |
| Total Monies Received from All Sources..... | 5,391.01         |
| <b>Grand Total All Working Funds.....</b>   | <b>17,061.34</b> |

Expenses:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| BMAA Theological Seminary .....                          | 500.00           |
| Jacksonville College.....                                | 500.00           |
| Filomeno Kakilala.....                                   | 3,600.00         |
| Minute Books .....                                       | 158.86           |
| Clerk Hire .....   | 350.00           |
| Other .....  | 18.17            |
| Total Monies Expended.....                               | 1,527.03         |
| <b>Balance Carried Forward (Check Book Balance).....</b> | <b>11,934.31</b> |

## Obituary Report

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

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Calvary .....    | La Trell Bateman |
| Oasis .....      | Paula Teel       |
|                  | George Hale      |
| South Park ..... | Marci Smith      |
|                  | Dorothy Farmer   |
|                  | Doris Clennden   |
|                  | Jean Whitley     |
|                  | Christine Bobbit |
|                  | Mildred Jann     |
|                  | Rita Nortan      |
|                  | Billie Grimes    |
|                  | Faye Durham      |
|                  | Faye Nowell      |
|                  | Micah Berry      |
|                  | Charlie Neal     |
|                  | Jean Yeager      |
|                  | Violet Latimer   |
|                  | Sue Marshall     |

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.—Psalm 90:12

## Jacksonville College

Dr. Mike Smith, President  
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Jacksonville, TX 75766  
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### PRAISES

The 2015 Jacksonville College graduation ceremony saw a record number

of 74 students walk across the stage and receive diplomas. The oldest graduate was Sandy "Granny" Jones, a JC women's residence hall director for 11 years. After many years of dedicated service to Jacksonville College, Sandy received her degree.

In July of 2014, Jacksonville College was recognized as the second most affordable private nonprofit 2-year college in America. As of July 2015, Jacksonville College ranked fourth best two-year college in Texas. Jacksonville College is unique in that JC is the only faith-based, two-year college in the state of Texas.

The 2015 Fall Semester started out with a hallelujah chorus as we saw 37 students respond to an altar call after volunteer chaplain Donnie Sadler, pastor of Woodland Heights Baptist Church, preached the gospel.

Our student housing is full and enrollment is up. Over 600 students are receiving a quality education from a biblical worldview.

### **PRAYER**

On May 25, 2015, 80 mph winds struck Jacksonville with devastating results. Twenty-four trees were knocked down on our campus. A student housing unit was crushed, and other buildings, along with the tennis courts, were severely damaged. Electrical power was out for a week, which delayed the start of summer classes.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 said, "Blessed be God ... who comforted us in all our tribulations that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble...." God helped us with our problems. Southern Baptists of Texas and Dogwood Trails Baptist Association Disaster Relief chain saw teams moved into our new SBTC Dorm and helped clean up our campus as well as several homes in Jacksonville. The Master's Builders of BMA, led by Eddie Sykes, moved onto campus for two weeks and rebuilt the crushed housing unit. Alumni volunteers and staff led by Randy Decker completely painted the inside of Collins Hall. Churches, associations, and individuals gave generously. We still need another residence hall (\$500,000), a roof on the Joe Wright property (\$100,000), a tractor mower with a front-end loader (\$15,000), and a 52 passenger bus (\$10,000).

### **PERSONNEL**

Neatha Cagle, Alumni Liaison, retired after 17 years to get married. Jacksonville College alumnus Randy Decker, President of the Bearden Bonner-Gaylor Chapter of the Alumni and Ex-Students Association, is now the Director of Alumni Relations. Jeananne Gaylor Galyean, Jacksonville College alumnus and wife of Financial Aid Director Paul Galyean, is now Alumni Liaison.

### **PRAISES**

God is at work all the time, and we are blessed at Jacksonville College. We thank our supporting churches, associations, and individuals of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas. We thank God for the Cooperative Program gifts of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and Dr. Jim Richards for their faithful support of Jacksonville College.

## State Missions

Jerry Burnaman, Director  
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This is my last report as Director of Missions. It's been a joyful ride and we've accomplished a few things. However, it's essential for the work of the Lord to continue until He calls us home.

We initiated the process of assessment, training, coaching and continual training. This is an enormous help to our church planters, assisting them to develop leadership skills, systems and strategies for ministries. For these almost eighteen years I've made every effort to do my best. I have no regrets; however, at times I've been disappointed because we were unable to have a massive motivation among our churches. I pray the new director will be able to really motivate our churches and have a stirring vision to reach the 20 million unchurched Texans.

Words of appreciation are inadequate for my initial team: Bob Lane, Orval Barger, Owen Dry, George Copper and Lloyd Cashion. These men were the catalyst that moved us forward. They assisted in the recruiting and training of good church planters with sensitive hearts and passions to reach lost souls for Christ. I'm confident this movement will continue.

The church planters you elect for 2016 deserve your respect, your encouragement, and your offers to help them as much as possible. Get to know them personally.

Here is the list of our Church Planters:

Matthew & Amy Prather, Celina

Will & Kelly Hutchinson, Hutto

Cecil & Sue Linke, Allen

George & Nicole Martinez, Lewisville

Gary & Rhonda Southard, Valley Ranch, New Caney

Darren & Becky Lemons, Terrell

Amulfo Maldonado, Houston

The Hispanic work continues strong and is growing. Amulfo has nine groups in the Houston area, and the most recent one is a group in the facilities of Southline Baptist Church, Cleveland.

I commend our churches for being faithful with your prayers and financial support. It is extremely urgent for pastors, church leaders and members to pray continually for our Aggressive Mission Movement. The Pew Research Center reports that America is rapidly becoming less Christian and more atheistic. The number of adults claiming no religious affiliation increased to 56 million, an all-time high. Almost a third of those are self-described atheists.

Indeed Satan is *"going to and fro in the world seeking whom he may devour:"* The only way to defeat him is for faithful believers to go into their prayer closets, pray to be filled with Holy Spirit power, and emerge as conquering Christian soldiers. Jesus has already won the victory but His courageous servants have to deal with a few more skirmishes before He comes again. Remember what the Bible teaches us: *"You are o/God, little children, and have overcome the, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"* ( 1 John 4:4).

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.

## **Texas Baptist Home for Children**

Eddie Marsh, President

P.O. Box 309

Waxahachie, TX 75168

972-937-1371

emarsh@tbhc.org

A good and loving home can mean the difference from a kid who goes on to contribute to the world and one who doesn't. In the year of 2014, 170 children were placed in the care of Texas Baptist Home for Children, from January through August of 2015, 252 children entered for care. It is our prayer that the hundreds of children who come through this place not only know what a family is, but become a part of the family of God.

### **FOSTER CARE...**

At the end of the fiscal year 154 children and youth were in the care of this ministry. The Baptist Home is probably larger now than any other time in her history. The purpose of this ministry is to not only provide for the physical needs of the children, but most importantly the spiritual needs. In the past we have sought

to share with you the number of children on campus who accepted the Lord as their Savior during the past twelve month. This year, with

the assistance of Program Administrator Jami Hogan, an effort has been made to recognize those who live in the community homes that are licensed by The Baptist Home. We rejoice to report that 34 children made what the Home emphasis as, the greatest decision they will ever make, by giving their heart to Christ. We commend Kayla De Los Reyes, Waxahachie Foster Care Director and Jennie Schmitz, Bedford Foster Care Director and all the staff who work under their leadership. Two very exciting happening this year were the fact that one of our teenage girls, who had no religious background before entering the Home, now has a personal relationship with Christ and was able to lead one of the other girls to the Lord. The two of them live in the Palmer Cottage on the campus. One of the children, who are in the care of the Home through the Bedford Office, has had many health problems this year that requires him to be hospitalized. On one occasion, he was very ill and was recovering from surgery. His biological father requested permission to visit him in the hospital and while he was there the foster mom of this child lead the biological dad to the Lord.

### **ADOPTION...**

Adoption Director, Dana Holt reports that 37 children found a forever family through the Adoption Program of Texas Baptist Home for Children. The total of children who have found permanent homes through the years now numbers close to 300.

In the process of Private Adoption the interested couple prepares a "life-book" which shares information about themselves and their journey toward adoption. The book is shown to the birth-moms who are permitted to have a voice in the decision on the home and family where their child will be placed. A couple who live in East Texas were chosen for a child and when the time of birth came they made the three hour journey to Waxahachie. The birth-mother is given 48 hours after the birth of the child to decide if she wants to follow through on the agreement of placing the child with the couple. This birth-mother changed her mind. The weather was terrible due to heavy rain so the Baptist Home provided over-night housing for the couple on campus. The President of the Home visited with them and as you might assume they were broken hearted. However, they were confident in the Lord that His will would prevail. Not long after this incident another birth-mom chose to place her expected child for adoption and chose a couple. Prenatal test revealed a heart condition with the child that would probably require surgery shortly after birth. This couple chose not to proceed with this adoption. Upon getting the news about their decision, our staff contacted the couple whose adoption had fallen through. The couple were made fully aware of all the expectations for this child. However, they related that they had previously prayed and had decided that if the Lord provided a child they knew that He would help with any problems. Not long after this time, a perfectly healthy little girl was born with none of the problem that were predicted. A few months ago the staff celebrated the adoption of this precious child. Her birthmother was present. She and this couple



have developed a relationship that will probably last for many years.

### **CHANGE FOR CHILDREN...**

A BIG WORD OF THANKS goes to each one who helps with the change for children campaign. This activity provides funds for activities for the children throughout the year. The day of celebration was a blessing to all as the chapel was filled with child who your support was well as many church groups. At this time the total is \$54,492.18.

We are indebted to each one of you who promote this in your churches and place the cans in public places where they can be filled and give sacrificially to help a group of kids you love although you will never get to meet many of them on our campus. Our goal is that you will come to know them in the future as they contribute to society.

### **THANK YOU...**

This ministry could not do the things we have been able to accomplish through the last few years without the assistance of the churches of the BMAT and SBTC. Our ministry cherishes the relationship that we are blessed to share with both of the forces for the Lord. Every victory that we celebrate is your victory as well. The list is too long to share everything but I will share a few. You help to provide Christmas Gifts, School Supplies, Paper Goods, Linens and Pillow Cases, fresh vegetables (which has been going on almost as long as the Orphanage/Home has existed.) , Canned Goods, Clothes for Babies and Mothers.

Your Texas Baptist Home for Children is recognized as one of the finest Child Placing Agencies in the State of Texas.

Once more silent prayers for the sound of the cry of a baby were answered for many couples as they became parents. The silent prayers and heart desires of children were granted as they became part of a loving, God honoring family.

One more a child who at one time- did not know where their next meal would come from of if they would see the next day or year of life, now work as the dream becomes reality that they will be the first in their family to graduate from high school.

None of this would be possible were it not for both of these great denominational groups who have partnered together to love and provide for children. It is a sincere honor and privilege to be counted worthy to work with both of you. Thank you for loving my kids.

| Church       | Pastors Salary | Local Missions | State Missions | Interstate & Foreign Missions | Jacksonville College | Texas Baptist Home |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Calvary      | 26,208         | 843            | 2,807          | 2,507                         | 1,588                | 1,838              |
| Oasis        | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0                             | 0                    | 0                  |
| South Park   | 85,377         | 1,900          | 3,989          | 40,372                        | 5,375                | 2,289              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>111,585</b> | <b>2,743</b>   | <b>6,796</b>   | <b>42,879</b>                 | <b>6963</b>          | <b>4,127</b>       |

| Church       | Additions |           |           |           | Losses   |           |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|              | Baptism   | Letter    | Statement | Total     | Letter   | Death     | Exclusion | Total     |
| Calvary      | 1         | 2         | 0         | 3         | 0        | 1         | 0         | 1         |
| Oasis        | 2         | 0         | 1         | 3         | 2        | 2         | 0         | 4         |
| South Park   | 11        | 24        | 4         | 39        | 1        | 15        | 0         | 16        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>45</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>21</b> |

stics

| Baptist Progress | BMATS        | DiscipleGuide | Lifeworld    | MRS        | Moral Action | Other        | Total Associational Expenses |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 400              | 1,688        | 617           | 1,688        | 280        | 562          | 0            | 15,818                       |
| 0                | 0            | 0             | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0            | 0                            |
| 180              | 4,375        | 300           | 4,343        | 360        | 436          | 8,208        | 72,127                       |
| <b>580</b>       | <b>6,063</b> | <b>917</b>    | <b>6,031</b> | <b>640</b> | <b>998</b>   | <b>8,208</b> | <b>87,945</b>                |

| Current Membership | Sunday School |                    | WMA        |                    | Brotherhood |                    | Youth Program |                    |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                    | SS Enrollment | Average Attendance | Enrollment | Average Attendance | Enrollment  | Average Attendance | Enrollment    | Average Attendance |
| 309                | 25            | 20                 | 6          | 4                  | 8           | 7                  | 0             | 0                  |
| 61                 | 0             | 0                  | 0          | 0                  | 0           | 0                  | 0             | 0                  |
| 1,066              | 237           | 153                | 30         | 15                 | 30          | 15                 | 92            | 62                 |
| <b>1,436</b>       | <b>262</b>    | <b>173</b>         | <b>36</b>  | <b>19</b>          | <b>38</b>   | <b>22</b>          | <b>92</b>     | <b>62</b>          |

## Loan Association

Jerry Burnaman, Business Manager

P.O. Box 73

Waxahachie, TX 75168

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jerryburnaman@yahoo.com

The assets of the BMLA continue to grow. Presently our total assets are about \$10.1 million, an increase of \$800,000 in the past year. We appreciate, and give a big thanks to individuals, churches, and associations for supporting the Loan Association.

Presently we provide loans for 25 projects and have money available to assist more churches with funds to help with their growing ministries. If your church plans to build or buy property, it would be a joy to talk with you about a loan.

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% on share accounts and 2.5% 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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editor@baptistprogress.org

Ten years ago, you elected me as editor of *Baptist Progress*. Thus far, directing this ministry has been fulfilling, while always challenging. One challenge we have tried to overcome is keeping our publication relevant in this technological age.

Most agree that the Internet became extremely popular around 1999. Of course, vast improvements have been made to the Web since that time. The popularity and improvements to the Internet have placed hardships on the newspaper industry.

In recent years, revenue has plunged while competition from Internet media has squeezed older print publishers out of business. Sales of classified advertising and huge drops in circulation have resulted in a large number of newspapers being slated for closure or severe cut-backs. The industry has shed a fifth of its journalists since 2001. To make matters worse, a recession followed the already declining industry cutting deeper into profits.

To face the onslaught of challenges, to which could be added the rising cost in paper and postage, two major Baptist newspapers in Texas have been among those publications that have made changes in their publishing schedules. *The Baptist Standard*, the official publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, no longer publishes a print newspaper. Instead a print magazine is printed monthly, and a weekly digital *Baptist Standard* is delivered by email and accessed through a browser on computers, tablets or mobile devices.

*The Southern Baptist Texan*, has ceased publishing a weekly print newspaper. Instead, *The Southern Baptist Texan* publishes a monthly print newspaper, in addition to a weekly digital version.

In spite of constant pleas for *Baptist Progress* subscribers to switch from print subscriptions to email subscriptions, the email format has never caught on with our readers. Most subscribers to the *Baptist Progress* still want to hold the publication in their hands. I understand, as I prefer the print version.

Our department did not meet its budget this year. In fact, our expenses exceeded our income by approximately \$7,000. The amount is not great, but as postage and paper costs continue to increase, so will

our budget shortfalls. In light of this reality, some changes will need to be made in the future.

As editor, it is my desire to continue publishing a print version of *Baptist Progress* on our current schedule for as long as possible. Therefore, cutbacks must take place in other areas. While we expect the pending sale of the Baptist Book Center property to cover our current shortfall in the next fiscal year, the *Baptist Progress* trustees and I will take advantage of the time afforded us to decide what recommendations should be made in order to keep our department's ministry as effective as possible for years to come.

In the meantime, every church is encouraged to join our church plan, whereby your church covers the cost of one subscription per church member household at \$1.50 each per month. If your church cannot afford the church plan, then consider including a monthly offering to *Baptist Progress* in your church budget. Any amount will be helpful

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your editor for the past decade. May God continue to bless the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas.

## BMA of America

### BMA Seminary

The more "Relevant" we try to be, the less "Relevant" we become. The *religion industry* in the US has spent untold millions of dollars on research seeking ways to lure people into church, producing new techniques and programs without end. Simultaneously, Christianity is at its lowest ebb ever in our country. The largest Baptist denomination in the United States and the world has lost 15% of its membership in the last 5 years. The same group's number of baptisms (in 2014) was the lowest since 1947. "Relevance" in the world of church work means being pragmatic. Doing anything that can be done to draw a crowd and increase attendance is pragmatism. Usually the most pragmatic thing a church can do for increasing attendance is to mimic something from the arenas of entertainment, sports, or business.

When our zeal to do something for God is accompanied by the frustration of a lack of popularity with the world, we will do almost anything "worldly" to make them like us. Sadly, many churches realize too late that the body of Christ is not an athletic team, a retailer, or a talent show. When we try to reflect the wisdom of the world, God replies, "My ways are not your ways." When we try to bring the atmosphere of an entertainment venue, components of a political rally, or the frenzy of a sporting event into God's house, He replies, "Be in the world but not of the world."

We work at being irrelevant at BMA Seminary-irrelevant to the world, but relevant to God. When God says, "preach the Word," we teach our students to prepare sermons faithful to the Word, sermons that present the main idea of the passage as the main idea of the sermon. When God says, "Don't try and worship me the way the world worships their gods," we instruct our students to include only those elements in the service that can be sanctioned by the Bible. When God says, "Be witnesses unto me," we equip young preachers with the knowledge of how to take the gospel into the homes of those who never attend church. When God says, "Go and make disciples," our faculty and senior students disciple new students so that they can disciple others. When God says, "Pay attention to your doctrine," we instruct our men in time-tested historic Baptist theology. If you want preachers who, as II Corinthians says, are the "stench of death to the world, but who are the savor of life to those who are being saved and drawn into the Kingdom by the Holy Spirit," send them to us! We will do our best to train them in the Biblical way to make sure that they and the churches they pastor are relevant to God.

We are anticipating a blessed fall semester. Our Dean, Dr. Philip Attebery, reports today that over the past few months the number of prospective students he is working with is about double the number he was working with last year. Additionally, 52 new students are expected

to complete registration by the end of enrollment week, which is August 17-21,2015.

We also have indications that our student housing will be full. We recently finished the summer with two classes that were well attended. All of these factors indicate a strong fall enrollment. Dr. Attebery and Dr. Cleaver are continuing to increase the number of classes that are available through distance education. We now have three degrees that can be earned through distance education. If distance education students avail themselves of our winter and summer short courses on campus, they can get the best of both worlds!

With the help of our Arkansas Campus Administrator, Brian Rickett, and his new fulltime professor, Dr. Andy Snider, we continue to offer as much training as we can to the churches of Central Arkansas. While we continue to work closely with our neighbor, Jacksonville College, we are also building new ties with Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. I am looking forward to helping President Danny Pitts with a new lecture series this September. The lectures will cover Baptist Foundations in the United States.

May 31, 2015 was the end of the seminary's fiscal year. Sadly, for the first time in several years we had a significant deficit. GLADLY, the deficit was erased in the month of June. The primary reason for the deficit was expanding efforts to help more students without having a corresponding increase in regular financial support. Precautionary steps have been taken and hopefully the deficit will not return. Additionally a couple of our major supporting entities have undergone setbacks and needed to reduce their level of support. Pray for us that God will replace the lost income with other sources from His storehouse.

Another note of blessing is the progress being made on the storm cleanup. Our churches and many individuals responded wonderfully to the appeal for help in restoring the campus after the terrible storm of July. Many have asked about our beautiful magnolias. None were uprooted like so many other trees, but all had their tops twisted off by the funnel cloud. The tree trimmers reshaped them and we are hopeful they will survive. The cleanup is advancing well and we are now down to fence rebuilding and stump grinding. Again, many thanks for the swift reply for assistance.





## Church Information

### **CALVARY**

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Phone: 817-275-7941

<http://www.calvarybaptistarlington.org>

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Treasurer .....Mark Bateman  
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Music Director .....Jay Juarez  
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### **CENTRO DE VIDA**

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### **LONESOME DOVE**

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## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

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## **NORTHRIDGE**

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**OASIS**

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**SHEPPARD DRIVE**

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Clerk ..... Cleva Jo Lilly  
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Treasurer ..... George Greener

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Clerk ..... Julie Thames  
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Treasurer ..... Financial Committee (Bob Rainey Chair)  
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Music and Education Director..... Phil Berry  
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Youth Minister..... Roger Koonce  
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## **WYATT DRIVE**

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Music Director..... Lucy Cook

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## Website

<http://www.tarrantbma.org>

# Notes

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## **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