

# Gulf Coast BAPTIST News

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This Edition...	
From...	1
Woman Point...	2
Philosophy...	2
Gonnella...	3
Sermon.....	4
Announcements.	5
Mission...	6
Missions...	6
Financial...	15
Printing News...	16

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Number 3



*Dr. & Mrs. Strickland*

# Merry Christmas

I send everyone greeting from me and my wife, Irma. I trust that the Lord is continuing to richly bless you all.

This past year has been filled with tremendous challenges. I totally agree that when the Lord closes one door He opens another. The circumstances have no baring on what He does. When people lose sight of the direction of the Lord as well as the opportunities to make a distinct impact on the work of the ministry, it is then their loss. However, the Lord always has something great for those who are willing to follow the leadership of the Holy Ghost.

The ministry is not where I would like for it to be at this time. There are so many that are working extremely hard to ensure the success of all the work. There are a few individuals and churches that have been so faithful in their support of all the ministries. For those who have "stayed by the stuff" we are so grateful and I continually lift you before the Lord.

I trust that, as we all prepare for the coming celebration of the birth of our Savior that our focus will continually be toward Him and what He has done and is doing for all of us. In the midst of the difficulties there is great hope in our Lord. All of our plans and desires must be submitted to Him and then we must be willing to accept His will for all things. I am looking forward to greater things in the coming months and year. The Lord always gives us opportunities for service. The only thing that He expects of us is faithfulness in our service to Him.

We are currently in the process of locating a facility that can house both the print ministry and the school. It is much better for us to have our own facility. The cost has been extremely prohibitive so far but we are trusting the Lord to provide for us. The income, for both the school and the print shop, is not sufficient to carry a large monthly

payment. I had hope that by now, we would have been able to make the permanent move into our own facility.

I am so grateful to pastor Marty McCoy and the Schillinger Road Baptist for their help in the ministry. They have stepped up and assumed the role of support and have endorsed the ministry of Gulf Coast Baptist College as well as the print ministry. I have a long and enjoyable relationship with this church. I praise the Lord for the love and concern for me and my wife.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas celebration. We will be visiting with our family and enjoying their fellowship. I always have the opportunity to present the reason we celebrate and I am glad that I have a family that worships and praises our great God.

May the Lord continue to richly bless you all.

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE**

**Feliz Navidad y Prospero  
Año Nuevo**

From a  
**Woman's Point**  
 of View



By: Loretta Pritchett  
[lorettapritchett@yahoo.com](mailto:lorettapritchett@yahoo.com)

**The Year 2023 Comes To An  
 End**

Once again, we are leaving another year behind and moving into a new one.

November was here and gone before we even knew it. For me it was a busy month as there were doctor's appointments, Birthday's, Veterans Day, and of course Thanksgiving.

I pray that on Thanksgiving each and every one of you remembered to thank the Lord for all the wonderful blessings He has given us throughout the year.

Sometimes we get so busy and forget to say a simple thank you Lord for everything. But there is a reason for that and the name is Satan. He tries so hard to make us not appreciate the blessings we get from God.

We all know that Satan will never give up until Jesus comes. So, we need to be ever vigilant watching out for Satan causing you problems.

Now it is December, a month the Lord has given us to remember Him and what He did for us and why He was born. Let's not let Satan take away the Christmas spirit and remember what Christmas is all about.

My goal for the new year is to tell as many people about Christ as I can. I don't want to lose any blessings the Lord has for me.

My prayer for the New Year is for every Christian to share the Gospel with everyone



Dr. H. H. Strickland

**WHERE HAVE  
 THEY GONE?**

I would like to deviate from my usual article on philosophy to address something that is very needful. I have read many articles and talked to many people that share the same sentiment as I do regarding the situation among so many churches. There are far too many churches that are struggling to maintain their ministry or in some case they are closing the doors. It is sad that so many of the people of God are leaving their church service in leu of something else. The internet was somewhat of a blessing when, in some areas, people were not allowed to gather during the covid period. I understand the need to reach out during that period of time. However, the question is, why have those that chose not to attend services not returned?

I recently spoke with a pastor that was terrible concerned for the fate of his church. His estimation was that, I have no idea that the church will ever be back where it was. That is really a sad situation.

The problem is that, apparently, many people do not consider that it is a rejection of the command of the Lord

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he can. God wants all of His children to be in Heaven with Him and we can help by sharing with others who may not have heard the news about Jesus.

Praying you have a wonderful Christmas and thank the Lord for coming to offer us Salvation and be in Heaven with Him forever.

Merry Christmas

to assemble together. There is no amount of internet, or any other social media, that can take the place of assembling to worship the Lord.

One pastor told me that he drove up to their church building on Sunday morning and observed a car close to the building. As he looked, he saw a man looking at a pad resting on the steering wheel. He looked for a short time and then saw him put the pad away and drove off. He must have felt that he had been to church just because he was in front of the church building. This would be no different than sitting at home doing the same thing.

We all have observed that our country is headed in the wrong direction and we pray often that the Lord would bring conviction upon our leaders. However, the first responsibility of a nation turning to the Lord rest on His people and they obeying the commands of the Lord. In other words, "If my people..." If God's people are not willing to follow the commands of the Lord then how can we expect Him to bless our nation. Repentance begins in the house of the Lord.

People are quitting on the Lord. They are quitting on their church. They are quitting on themselves. It has been said that looking at a sermon on a screen is much like looking at a picture of a fire place, it might be pretty but there is no heat coming out to warm.

I am reminded of the film that circulated some years ago entitle; "If the footman tire you, what will the horsemen do?" When people are so easily deterred from assembling to worship with what we have lately gone through, what will they do when real persecution comes?

The greatest need of the hour is for the people of God to return to assembling to worship our great Lord and Savior. Then we can pray for God to heal our land.



David Gonnella, Th. D.

## We Try Our Best to Fit You

Too many of those who want to study for the ministry, are in the ministry and want to earn an advanced degree, or who simply want to learn more about the Bible are discouraged by a “one size fits all” program in many Bible colleges and seminaries. It seems that most schools seek to answer the question, “How do we teach.” At GCBC we seek to answer the question, “How do people learn?” Once we know how they learn, we can tailor the program to fit the student.

We offer four different methods of instruction to meet the needs of various students. You may find that one of these fits your learning style and the requirements of your schedule better than the others. Or you may want to mix the methods to meet the changing needs of your life. The important thing is, instead of trying to fit you into our mold, we try to mold our school around you. Here are the methods we currently offer:

**Traditional Classroom Instruction.** This is the method with which most are familiar, having attended a government school, private school or Christian school. This offers the advantages of personal involvement with the instructor and a structured environment of regular classes and times of meeting. The clock and the calendar offer a disciplined schedule in this form of instruction.

**Zoom Instruction.** This is an online method of instruction that provides the advantages of traditional classroom instruction with the convenience of staying at home while “attending” class. The class meets at a set time or times each week. Each student in the class logs on with a code and so the instructor and students see and hear each other on their computer screens.

**Internet Instruction.** Many of our classes have been recorded for use in internet instruction and more are on the way, with the goal of making most of not all available in this fashion. The student downloads the lecture and assignment, completes the assignment and

receives a grade. This process continues until the subject of completed. The advantage of this is that it can fit the schedule of the student. Instead of taking a class at a specific time, the student can adjust the class to his or her schedule. This method is especially advantageous to those whose work schedule does not permit attendance in a traditional classroom, and is especially attractive to self-starters, who provide their own disciplined approach to the class. An additional benefit is the ability to take the class at the speed appropriate for the student. For example, if a student has difficulty in a particular subject, he or she can take the time necessary for more complete understanding, while students with a ready grasp of a subject can go as fast as their minds can take them.

**Directed Study.** This is a method best described as home schooling on the college level. Here, as with internet instruction, the student does not progress according to the clock and calendar, but according to mastery of the subject. The course is finished when all the material has been covered, unlike the traditional class and Zoom class, where the class ends when the semester ends, whether or not all the material has been covered. This allows for more complete mastery of each subject. The student and instructor meet either in person, on Zoom, by e-mail or even snail mail. The instructor gives the student an assignment which, when turned in, receives a grade. When all the material is completed, the class is finished. Thus, as with internet instruction, students can take more time to understand difficult subjects or sail through subjects that are more easily understood by them. No student is left behind by a lock-step class schedule or held back by the same. This is ideal for self-starters and those with schedules that do not allow for regular class meetings.

All of these methods can be used by students who take classes for credit or audit, full-time or part-time, day or night, those who want to train for the ministry, are in the ministry and want to further their educations or anyone who wants to learn the Bible better. Please call us and let’s see if we can “fit” you.

## Schedule a Bible Conference With Dr. David E. Gonnella

A partial list of 4-part Bible conferences all tested in Baptist churches across America.

*The Synagogue - Precursor to the New Testament Church*

*Replacement Theology-The Old A-Millennialism*

*Justice – God’s View and Man’s View*

*Biblical Numeric*

*Living the Pilgrim Life*

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Glen Davenport, Th.D.

# THE FAMILY OF GOD

TEXT: Eph 3:1-21

In recent Sundays, we have considered “The Son of the Father” and “The Father of the Son”. Today, we will consider “The Family of God”. This is the most prominent family of the Scripture

As I think about the family of God, I can’t help but think of my own family and other families with many similarities. From personal experiences, I know what a father goes through with and for his children.

1. Having children born into his family is an awesome time of his life.
2. Watching the children grow and mature compiled into beautiful memories.
3. Helping them in times of troubles, education, sickness, Christian services, and a host of things that make them what they turn out to be, challenges all of our several abilities.
4. Having hopes and goals for his children is every father’s dream but seeing them go in wrong directions can be his nightmare.
5. God had one perfect Son but the rest of us must trouble Him.

God inspired men to write a Scripture and gave deliberate instructions that were and continue to be valid for all people. Believers are born into His family and can rightfully be called the “sons and daughters of God”.

I. V6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel

V7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

While we don’t all have the same calling, our Father chose certain men to instruct us. We must be thankful to have a brother such as the Apostle Paul.

II. V8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Teaching generation after generation of descendants to appreciate their heritage and to wear the FAMILY name with respect and pride is quite challenging.

There may be some ‘rebels’ in the family. Yes, there is a ‘black sheep’ in every family - so we have heard.

Our brother, Paul, faced the challenge.

III V10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

A. V11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

B. V12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

C. V13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

IV 14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

A. V15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, Some of our family is already in Heaven!

Some of our family are deathly sick!

Some of our family are wandering where children of darkness play.

Some are yet to be born!

Some are willing but need to be taught.

1. V16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

2. V17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love

A. V18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

B. V19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

B. V20 Now unto him (OUR FATHER) that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, V21 Unto him (OUR FATHER) - 1. ... be glory in the church by Christ Jesus 2. ... throughout all ages, world without end. 3. ... Amen.

CONCLUSION: We Must Not Take Our Family Duties Lightly. A. There are many ‘unbelievers’ - children of the devil - in this world. B. There are many ‘rebels’ in the Family of God. C. We are ‘children with a cause’. II Cor 6:17-18 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## *Doug Clements*

I returned from the October Solomon Islands trip in the month of November, and my plan was to visit the state meetings in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. As it turned out, I only made it to Louisiana. The merger of SIMBSS and the Amazon Project is a great and exciting development, but I can already see that we need to raise additional support for us to care for seminary instruction in two locations. My desire for attending all three meetings was to personally thank our current supporters, and to present the increased need to potential supporters.

If you know anything about SIMBSS, you know that for several years we have experienced a fairly easy go from a financial standpoint. We thank God for that! We also have many churches and individuals to thank for their faithful and continuous support, but the truth is, for several years we've been asked if there was anything we needed and it has been such a blessing to say that there wasn't...just pray!

During the trip in October, we did reach an agreement with one of the churches in the Solomon Islands to begin hosting classes and providing the lodging accommodations for the students. It is just one step of many in moving from a school sponsored by a church in the states, to a school sponsored by a church in the Solomon Islands.

The Peru seminary will begin in the month of March, so it won't be very long before we start getting things in place for that trip. As always, we covet your prayers for us as we strive to carry out this work of God in a way that brings Him the most glory and equips His men!

## SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Bethany Missionary Baptist Church . . . Verbena, Alabama  
 Contact: Ralph Wilson / 205-351-1640 / wralph@live.com or Jerry Vines / 205-755-5424 / jerryvines@bellsouth.net Bethany MBC in Verbena is prayerfully seeking a pastor. We are a small church.. Our church is interested in a man who is willing to lead his flock as well as be able to go out and visit the lost in our area. If you are interested in this position, please contact us and we will happily send you a questionnaire to fill out. If interested, please email or call Ralph Wilson or Jerry Vines. Thank you for considering this position

## SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Big Sky Missionary Baptist Church of Dillon, Montana, seeking the God-called Pastor He would have for us. We are a small, doctrinally sound church established in 1975, preaching and teaching the inspired and complete King James Version of the Word of God. We believe in and practice the two Church Ordinances which were only given by our Lord and Savior to those churches that practice the Doctrines the Lord set forth in His first Church that began on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The Lord's Church did NOT start on the Day of Pentecost. A parsonage with an attached two-car garage is provided, plus utilities and a small salary. The man God has for us should be bi-vocational. Please contact IVAN HALE, 524 Barnett Ave, Dillon MT 59725-3905 (406-683-5421) OR imhale@q.com

## SEEKING GOD-CALLED PASTOR

Frankfort Missionary Baptist Church is in search of a pastor. We are located in Russellville, Alabama. Please contact Harold Taylor at 256.332.4666, or Larry Greenhill at 256.415.3700. You can also e-mail: frankfortbc@gmail.com

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Justin Coburn,  
Secretary/  
Treasurer

# MISSION NEWS AND VIEWS

## MONTHLY REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,390,894.27</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$53,991.38
Foreign & National Salaries	\$51,918.61
Designated	\$35,131.20
Undesignated	\$10,617.67
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$151,658.76</b>
<b>BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$2,542,663.03</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Interstate Salaries	\$62,467.25
Foreign Salaries	\$31,438.78
National Salaries	\$25,550.00
Designated	\$34,518.69
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	
Office Salaries	\$13,120.64
General Office	\$3,093.33
Automobile Expense	\$93.75
Sec/Tres Expenses	\$170.56
Postage	\$825.67
Total Office	\$17,303.95
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$171,278.67</b>
<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$2,371,274.36</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR OCT.</b>	<b>\$(19,619.91)</b>

Psalms 107:1-2 says, "O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;" We have so much to praise God for and to be thankful for. We rejoice that our recommended missionaries of the American Baptist Association report **406 professions of faith** and **68 baptisms**, bringing our totals for this associational year to **2,182 professions of faith** and **268 baptisms**. Keep all missionaries, serving near and far, on the top of your prayer list. October was a very busy but blessed month for

me and my family. I began the month with my last official Sunday at Austin Chapel MBC. Please pray for them as they search for a pastor. It was a blessing to attend MTM in beautiful Mt. View, AR. We were especially blessed to see a lady saved during that week! The following Sunday my family and I enjoyed the fellowship and worship as I was given the opportunity to preach and present ABA Missions at Unity BC in Texarkana. It was a privilege to be able to speak at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock. The next weekend my wife and I attended a Missions Conference at Bay Lake MBC in Groveland, FL. They were a wonderful blessing to us, and it was great to hang out with some missionaries and families that weekend. The next Sunday I enjoyed being with Pinecrest in Corinth, MS for their Missions Sunday. The month ended with being a part of "The Commission" online event and it was a tremendous blessing. I hope that you are planning, promoting, and praying to receive the upcoming Thanksgiving Missions Offering. We are asking you to receive this special offering on or before November 19. Our goal this year is \$325,000 and is a great way to be a blessing to many and be blessed in giving.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

**L.A.M.B.**  
*James Gage, Missionary*

November 13-15, more than 20 ladies from our church's auxiliaries met for a Spiritual Retreat studying "Growing in Grace." Some forces work against your faith. To grow in Grace prepares our offences and defences to combat evil. Indeed, our ladies received multiple benefits from attending these studies. The campers took advantage of First Landmark MBC, Clarksville, Ark, and a newly constructed Youth Camp in Guamo, Colombia. We want to thank Bro. Edgar Rubio and our sister churches in the ABA for

helping make this Camp possible.

Bibles and Materials to the Jungles of Colombia and Venezuela "Offerings from Sister Churches have made the printing and distributing of Bibles and Materials possible in the original Indigenous languages. Gilberto Bautista, Darin Lovett and myself will coordinate the delivery.

I want to introduce the Durate family that God has sent to answer our prayers. May God grant a fruitful ministry, and we sincerely ask for your prayers. We all need help, and we are all helpers— that's part of being mortal. As senior Missionaries, Carmenza and I have been praying for someone, a family or students we could mentor. We want to invest time into their lives, praying God would slow them down long enough for us to authentically connect, teach, and mentor them.

**A.B.A. Colombian Missions**  
*Carlos Julio Mendoza, Missionary*

In Girardot, Cundianarca. We had an attendance of 8 people, 3 visits, 2 professions of faith, 2 candidates for baptism. Glory to our God, Brother Juan Carlos and Amparo, are doing the process to get married and then baptized.

Last October 31, we had the closing of the Baptist Missionary Biblical Seminar of Colombia, ABA. 19 students finished. We thank Pastor Carlos Machado, director of the Seminary on Costa Rica, who taught the Reformed Baptist Doctrine class. We are studying the book of Acts.

We, continue praying to God on our knees, for the property for the work in Ibague. We have **\$19,444.51** dollars in the fund, as of A **NOVIEMBRE.30/23**. We need **\$69,554.99** dollars. Thank you for your prayers and financial help

We continue looking for a new place for the work in Ibague MB. It is not easy, since the owners of the homes do not rent to Iglesias. They say they make a lot of noise and don't let you sleep. We urgently need a

property for the work in Ibagué. Thank you for your prayers and abundant financial help.

### Colombian Missions

*Gilberto Pinzón, Missionary*

To the glory of God, we have had good services. Pastor Gabriel Sánchez and his wife Esmeralda, spent a few days with us. He preached good sermons Sunday Oct. the third and Wednesday the sixth. Please pray for Pastor Gabriel and his plans to come to the city of Monteria, Colombia, to do mission work, sent by a church in Arkansas.

Lord willing a team of four pastors and deacons will be traveling to the city of Santa Marta, in three more weeks, for a revival and the ordination of brother Hernando Cubillos, preacher of our work there. Please pray for great services and the money to cover the traveling expenses.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** The Florence Street MBC of Broken Arrow, OK, pastor Dwight West for sending \$5,000 for the new mission property Fund. To: Friendship BC. Henderson, TX. pastor David Gatlin and to M. Fox, Manhattan, KS. For starting to support me. God continue to bless each one of you richly as you love and support God's work around the world.

### Spain

*Daniel Estrada, Missionary*

Sister Teresa Cardozo is faithful to the Lord and finishing some disciple lessons and is showing her love of God.

Eloisa is teaching her how to witness to people on the street, what a joy to see all this happen this past month.

The bible says: "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart." Ecclesiastes 7:2. Brother Marco who was our disciple for many years went to be with the Lord last August 22nd and on September 24th, we held a memorial service to witness to people in Spain, and in Guatemala, Central America where he was born and where his mother and brother still live. We preached the Gospel and several lost people attended and listened on Facebook live.

As a result of this service, Marco's son contacted me and asked a lot of questions on the day that we met; then he came to church and liked it a lot. Later on, we met again in his community and finally he received Christ into his heart and now he is attending church regularly. By the way, he is Spanish and an answer to one of our prayers. Pray for him we have started Bible discipleship lessons this week and hope to see him obey Christ in baptism and then keep growing in the Lord.

Also, as a result of this there is a new family that want to join us. We are talking and praying about. Damian and Carolina keep them in your prayers.

### Romiana

*Kolt Mackrill, Missionary*

From our family to yours we want to wish you a very happy thanksgiving spent with friends and family! Last month was a difficult month for us as a family as we dealt with a lot of sickness. We praise the Lord that we are all feeling much better now. We had to make a special trip to Bucharest to renew Amy's, Layla's and Vivian's passports before our trip back to the States next year. The cost for that was \$400. One of the highlights of last month was the opportunity to preach at a sister church in Rotbav. Rotbav is a small community a little further north of Feldioara. The theme was thanksgiving and I was given the honor of delivering the morning message. We enjoyed a special fellowship lunch and enjoyed getting to know everyone there better. We also enjoyed fall break and being able to take time out of our busy schedule to spend special time together.

We want to thank the kind brothers and sisters of the Hopewell Baptist Church, Cunningham, TN for their generous love offering which made that possible.

Feldioara & Zrne'ti churches & Humanitarian outreach Our services went very well last month in both churches. Feldioara enjoyed great attendance in each service and I continued to preach on rotation there as well. Zarnesti attendance was also very good and we kicked off our Thursday evening online bible study again after our summer break. Last month at Zarnesti we had a special baby

blessing and dedication for a young family in attendance with fellowship afterwards. The humanitarian work went well last month also. Please pray for these families as we continue to be a witness to them that they would be saved.

### SE Asia

*Rusty Teer, Missionary*

It was extra special to have our pastor here the 5th -15th. After he got a new passport and booked his trip, he was rerouted through L.A. and then delayed due to the Russian volcano explosion. He rebooked to make it here ASAP. He is determined and courageous! Last time he came was Feb. 2020 after a strange illness was taking over Asia. We are blessed that he comes and visits with us and gets to know our students, teachers, neighbors, and their families. He knows how we serve daily, and he can see firsthand the impact our Father is having here.

I have been stopping by the SSW school drink shop before class. That's right, the home economics department has a little shop near the street so I stop in and get coffee before I teach. I met the barista, Ms. Tdang, and as we were talking she asked me if God and Allah are the same. We talked about the obvious difference of oneness vs triune and how He has to be a Triune God to be a God of love. Otherwise God had to create humans in order to be loving. As a Triune God He has loving fellowship within Himself. That shows what value He gives to us. He does not need us but wants us!

We had another chat yesterday and were able to go a bit deeper. I was able to explain that if we were simply accidents of nature we would not have any reason to serve others, but if we were created by God, we have every reason to serve and love one another because we are made in His image. We also talked about how karma makes you have fear serving or helping others with lower karma, like females, children, handicapped, and the poor. The Judeo-Christian ethic is what motivated missionaries to start educating females as well starting hospitals and modern medicine.

## Interstate Missions

### Lighthouse Ministries

*Toby Cribbs Sr., Director*

We attend our home church Hillside BC in Knoxville, Tennessee once a month. The rest of the month we are in a church in our area. We have visited about 30 Baptist Churches in our area.

I am still waiting for the results of the spine MRI.

I had my hearing tested. The results was I was about deaf. We ordered a set of hearing aids. Will have them in about two weeks. The cost was \$4540.00. I have tried the amplify ones, They just did not work.

In November 19th we will be at Long State Prison in Ludowici,, Georgia. It has been about a year since we have been there. It takes six hours to drive and is 348 miles from Copperhill. Tn.,

I finally got the man that drives the inmate work truck to cut down the under brush in back of the office.

Do continue to pray that God will send help in this Ministry, This is one of the most rewarding Ministries.

### Topeka, Kansas

*Evertt Ledbetter, Missionary*

It is so hard to believe that the year is almost gone. So many great things happened this past year and this past month. I was blessed to be able to attend the Louisiana State Meeting this month and to give updates about the ministry with Zion BC of Rowland, OK and Landmark BC of Vian, OK. This month we had several good things happen. We were able to have two Firepit Fridays. We had nine people come out for each of those nights. It was a real blessing to simply sit around the fire and discuss God's Word. We also had a Thanksgiving service with great attendance. This month we averaged 20 in worship, with two first time visitors. We have a few people that have slipped away for various reasons that we would ask you to pray for. This month, I was able to deliver cases of gatorades to our fire department.

The expense of showing kindness to 12 stations in the city adds up, but the Lord has provided. My efforts as a Chaplain are going well. I am openly received both by the Police and the Fire. In fact, I took part in some training that they were both at, and it was good to interact with both departments at the same time.

We need your help. The Lord has opened a wonderful opportunity for us. We are currently in contract negotiations to purchase a beautiful church building in Topeka, KS. The purchase price is \$550,000. Their listing price was \$675,000. The selling church is willing to let us make installment payments for 3 years, and then have a balloon balance at the end of those years. In order to get this property, we need \$60,000 down payment in 30 days.

There will also be some repairs needed. I do not have a working total on that. It does need carpet and some furnace repair.

### Logos BC

Hattiesburg, MS

*Bruce Betts, Pastor*

God has recently used a great tragedy in our church to bring family member, church member and the city as a whole together. We had a young man this month to lose his life as a result of a hit and run. I'd had that young man for 21 years. He was a great guy who loved people loved his family both church and home. He also loved his pastor. His homegoing celebration was by far the toughest thing I've done as a pastor. I preached God's word one Sunday morning a few years back and he walked the aisle and made a profession of faith. Youth ministry is vital to the furtherance of the Kingdom. I had consolation that the young man had prepared for the prepared place. Please pray for our church family as we deal with the aftermath of this untimely death. There was more than 420 people who attended his homegoing. The church accommodated them we had room for at least 250 more. From that we've had new people to come these past couple of Sundays. I was pleased to hear people say that they loved the gospel being preached at such a time as this. My reply to them was to God be the glory this is what's preached every Sunday, we'd love to have you.

### Benchmark Baptist Fellowship

*Alan Schoeff, Missionary*

**October was a blessing!** But then again, every day that God gives us is a blessing! The Lord richly blessed us and we thank Him for it! The month started with my first every river baptism! The combined water and air temperatures were just a tad cool, about 65 degrees each. Brother Jerry Adkins began visiting with us a few months ago and upon his profession of salvation requested to be baptized and added to the church. We secured permission to use for free a private for-pay boat ramp which provided a beautiful location with plenty of parking. **October was busy!** On the 9th I drove Julie to the airport for a trip to Florida where she was able to enjoy the blessing of attending the Faith Promise Mission Conference at Bay Lake Missionary Baptist Church. This church family and her pastors, Brothers Darrell Sheeley and Ben Britton, have been such great blessings to the Eyes on Christ Ministry! We are thankful for them. On the 13th, as I was driving to Indiana, Julie flew to Indiana. Our nephew was getting married on the 14th. On the 15th I drove three more hours to celebrate mom's 80th birthday while Julie stayed in Columbus to get a grandbaby fix, She has a strong addiction and I'm pretty sure we won't be able to fix that habit :-)) I drove home on Monday the 16th while Julie stayed in Columbus for more of that addiction therapy

### Antioch Baptist

Dextae, MA

*Geroge Dever, Pastor*

The work in Dexter is coming along with visitors in attendance and lively studies. Remember these visitors in your prayers. They have been saved but do not attend anywhere regularly. Mike, the owner of Foley's Floors, one of the visitors, volunteered his time and materials, and he and I just finished refinishing the fellowship hall and front entryway floors. The floors were polyurethane about five years ago and were showing wear and tear. Antioch is blessed by Mike's giving nature.

Being sick for about a month and a half slowed down my ability to get church work done. Hopefully, next month's monthly letter will have more ministry to report.



**J. A. Crain**

## **Business Manager Report**

November reminds me of being Thankful and truly, I have much for which I can be thankful. I often feel like Paul, when he used the phrase “O wretched man that I am” (Romans 7:24), yet God’s good grace set my feet on the solid rock of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Jacob, in his final blessings upon his sons, said of God blessing Joseph, “the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: the blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren” (Genesis 49:25, 26). God blessed Joseph abundantly and every child of God can count their many blessings and know that God is good, all the time.

Things are well at Texarkana. God has blessed the labors of His people. The job-flow through the building and through the processes are ahead of schedule so that we have been able to catch up on some needed maintenance on printing presses and in other areas. The bookstore has new books, Bibles, and other items out for sale. Their Christmas items also are on the sale floor for customers to choose from. Our Editorial department is working ahead of schedule and the 2024 Vacation Bible School kits are available for church VBS workers to start preparing for next Summer’s VBS.

We have had a water drain problem for a while, even causing water to back up into our rear buildings, but we believe we have found the reason for this problem and are presently working to solve it.

I recently had the joy of visiting a world printing trade show in Atlanta, Georgia. I spent many hours walking through the many exhibits and talking to company representatives about products. I learned things like how various printing machines worked, what products companies have to offer, who to contact for particular needs, what is the future of the printing industry and many other valuable things for someone in the printing business. The show was very educational and a rare opportune time for me. I appreciate the Committee allowing me to attend.

Bro. Mark Clements and I have been visiting various church or association meetings as we can. I recently preached at the First Union Association of South Arkansas. Also, I had the privilege of visiting both the Little Rock Seminary and the Louisiana Seminary for special services. Other visits are planned as we go through the Fall season. Call or come visit me in Texarkana anytime.



**Mark Clements**  
**Editor in Chief**

“And the time that he reigned over Israel *was* forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three *years* reigned he in Jerusalem. And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead,” 1 Chronicles 29:27, 28.

This Winter quarter, we eagerly anticipate our journey through the Bible texts of 2 Samuel 5—24, 1 Kings 1; 2 and 1 Chronicles 11—29 in the Bogard Press Adult Sunday School curriculum. The title of this quarterly study is “The Reign of David—Sweet Psalmist of Israel,” and the aim of the quarter is for the student to learn the character traits that contributed to David’s reputation as a man after God’s own heart.

When God determined to remove Saul from his position as King of Israel, the prophet Samuel informed him that God had instead sought for Himself a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), which David ultimately satisfied. This quarter, we will observe the leadership of King David, and the curious Bible student may have trouble understanding how David could be characterized as pursuing God’s heart considering the many blunders and sins he committed.

The apostle Paul had no trouble acknowledging this quality about David when he preached to the Jews in Antioch, coming to the same conclusion about David’s devotion to God (Acts 13:22). What is it about David that made him a man after God’s heart? How might God’s people be described in the same manner?

David trusted God completely. He exhibited faith that led him to find his ultimate satisfaction in God’s presence and provision. His faith in God led him to become a man of love, forgiveness, humility and integrity. David’s faith compelled him to worship God alone with all his being, and his example led others to do the same. His faith in God made him a man after God’s heart, and it is our faith that will inspire us to the same degree of devotion. Of all the things we may pursue, let it be the presence of God we desire most.

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
GULF COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE  
September/October 2023  
P.O. Box 1183  
Theodore, AL 36509**

	<b>Income/Expense</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Donations	\$1,27.00
Designated Funds	\$1,350.00
Tuition	00
Building	\$500.00
Press	\$196.59
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,873.59</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Utilities	\$184.75
Support	\$1350.00
Salary	\$1200.00
Travel Expenses	\$550.23
Website	\$103.95
Postage	\$228.60
Bank Fees	\$14.00
Supplies	212.24
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,843.77</b>

**NOTE:**

There is a notable change in the treasurer’s report for the last period. This is due to some criticism that was received regarding the method of reporting. It is not our intention to deceive anyone but the treasurer is often blamed for which is not their problem.

I trust that we can continue to receive your offering as the ministry goes forward.

The fall semester is completed. The students have completed all their assigned lessons. We are looking forward to the coming semester. Dr. Gonnella and Judeth are working hard to promote the school. In addition to the online classes and inhouse classes, students can now enroll in a new program called “**directive study.**” We have one student that has already enrolled.

If any supporter would like to receive more information regarding your contribution, please do not hesitate to let me know.

There are more changes coming that are necessary in regards to the school and its ministries. Please continue to remember us all in your prayers as we endeavor to follow the Lord.

We are continuing to search for a facility that can house the printing ministry.  
HHS

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**CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR**

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Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church is in search of a pastor. We are a small church but are interested in growing and serving the Lord in our community and surrounding area. We are located 6 miles east of Ola, Arkansas.

Please contact Kenneth McCoy at 479-747-3760/email kenneth@arkwest.com or Don McCoy at 479-747-3403 for more information and to set up and appointment.

Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Bedford, Indiana is seeking a pastor. We are a conservative King James only church. If you are interested please email us at landmarkbaptist47421@gmail.com

Liberty Baptist Church, Collins,MS. seeking pastor. Contact Ricky Lott 601-543-4561 or rickylott4@gmail.com

Highlands MBC, North Highlands, CA is seeking a part-time youth pastor. All inquiries are to be sent to Pastor David Butimore, Sr. At (559) 260-0093 or brob@bigvalley.net.

Landmark MBC of Amite, La. is in search of a pastor. Located about 40 miles east of Baton Rouge and about 50 miles north of New Orleans along the I-55/I-12 corridor. We are a conservative country church, traditional in worship, doctrinally sound, with a big heart for missions. Church and annex sit on 3 acres debt free. We associate locally within the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Association. We are calling for a seasoned Missionary Baptist pastor of same mold. KJV only. If interested or for more information, please contact:

Joseph Holden, Deacon  
985-517-8582

[biglefty27@gmail.com](mailto:biglefty27@gmail.com)

Franklin Parker, Deacon 985-507-2884

william f [parker@hotmail.com](mailto:parker@hotmail.com)

Melissa Wallace, Church Clerk

985-286-9324

[mrwalla59@gmail.com](mailto:mrwalla59@gmail.com)

# PRINTING NEWS

The ministry of printing the many helps for studying the Word of God continues. It has been very difficult to maintain the work because of the distance from Mobile to Pensacola. However, I am still able to go over and do some much need printing.

The orders continue to come in and I try to keep everything moving in an orderly manner. I am still working on completing the ten year cycle for the adult literature in Spanish. I am waiting on two translations at this point and as soon as they are completed, the New testament will be completed. I will then focus on completing the Old Testament.

I have not taken on any new book production. I am able to reproduce the

necessary material so that orders can be filled.

I will be offering several books that will be grouped together and sold at a reduced rate. Dr. Gonnella is now offering these books for sale as he travels in promoting the ministry, especially the school.

Both of our small presses are down. I hope to be able to replace them soon. Once we locate a facility, it will be necessary to be able to produce items that cannot be done on the digital press.

One of the presses must be worked on but I have waited to get it repaired until the move is made. Presses often get out of adjustment in moving and it would be necessary to have someone back in to do the work all over.

I personally thank everyone and ever church that have been so faithful in supporting this ministry. I have resisted doing work outside the ministry just to

bring in revenue. This ministry was dedicated to the work of the Lord and that has been all that I have done over the years. I have printed calling cards for preachers and letterheads for churches but I have not taken on commercial projects.

I ask that you prayerfully lifts us before the Lord. We need support and we need a facility. If and when the facility is sold, all of the equipment would have to be moved. If we were to rent a building, that would soon get expensive. Just ask the Lord to move on the situation so that we can facilitate the permanent move.

**Note:**

**Please note that the mailing address for both GCBC and the press has changed. Please send all mail to P.O. Box 1183, Theodore, AL 36590**

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Herman Strickland; editor

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