

The MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS

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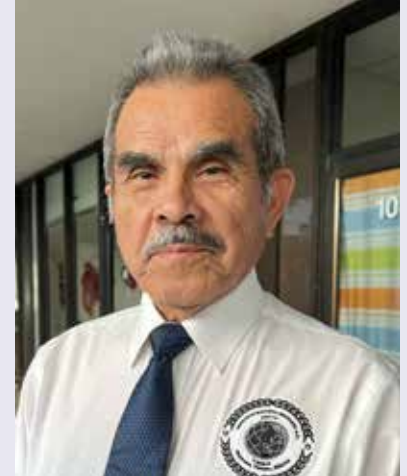
2025 LMBIS BIBLE CONFERENCE: MISSIONS



Bro. Doug Clements



Bro. Justin Coburn



Bro. Al Valladares

The 2025 LMBIS Bible Conference is all about missions. With mission work as the bedrock of the association of our churches, this conference is focusing on different aspects of mission work. Understanding the need for mission work and following the principles of mission work in the Bible are as vital as ever in our present age.

The speakers for the Bible Conference this year will be Bro. Doug Clements, Director of Students International Missionary Baptist Seminary School, Bro. Al Valladares, President of Mexican Baptist Institute, and Bro. Justin Coburn, Secretary/Treasurer of Missions for the American Baptist Association. Each day will start at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 12:00 p.m. followed by a lunch provided by the seminary.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 10, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Lunch will be served.)

- 9:00-9:45 – Bro. Doug Clements
- 10:00-10:45 – Bro. Justin Coburn
- 11:00-11:45 – Bro. Al Valladares

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Lunch will be served.)

- 9:00-9:45 – Bro. Al Valladares
- 10:00-10:45 – Bro. Doug Clements
- 11:00-11:45 – Bro. Justin Coburn

2025 EMPHASIS RALLY

Heritage Missionary Baptist Church of Bossier City, Louisiana, invites the faculty, staff, and students of LMBIS along with alumni and supporters to the annual Emphasis Rally on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The evening will include special music and a devotional by a first-year student. The church will provide a meal at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



Mike Wilkes

From the President

Help Us Reach Our Goal of \$50,000

I began my first year of seminary training at LMBIS in 1986. I vividly remember my multi-faceted ignorance. Understandably, I knew little about the school, her purpose, her faculty, her staff, her students, her organizational structure, and her finances. I also remember my ignorant surprise at the amount of the emphasis rally goal.

I could not help but wonder why the school needed an offering of tens of thousands of dollars. To an 18-year-old in 1986, \$20 was a lot of money, \$100 was more than a paycheck, and \$1,000 was more than I paid for my first 4 vehicles. To me, the amount the school was trying to raise was an unimaginable amount of money.

Moving ahead 39 years, here we are today. Now I sit behind the president's desk of LMBIS. Now I am the one setting the amount of the emphasis rally goal. Now I am the one asking others to help us raise what is still a large amount of money. The huge differences are these: (1) Now I know why these funds are necessary, and (2) I have seen the Lord's people meet the need time, and time again.

The Emphasis Rally Goal for 2025 is once again set at \$50,000. These funds are essential to the continuation of the ministry of the school. These funds take care of three primary needs of the school:

Our annual insurance premium. Last year our premium was over \$17,000. As of this writing, we haven't yet received our annual bill, but we have no reason to expect a decrease. On the contrary, we are expecting an increase. Over one-third of the emphasis rally offering is immediately used to pay for insurance.

Any monthly shortfall we might have in monthly support. While our monthly support is wonderful, and adequate to meet our normal operating expenses, it is not sufficient to cover the replacement costs of air conditioning units, appliances, etc. While these are not normal monthly expenses, they are somewhat predictable expenses.

Improvements. Stagnancy is not an option. We must always be looking at ways to improve our school. Sometimes these are building projects and remodeling. We always try to take a portion of the emphasis rally goal and set aside for the larger improvements for our school.

Rest assured; the offerings you send to LMBIS are appreciated for what they are. They are the hard-earned money of the Lord's people who then graciously give to the school either through their church or individually. Every major expense of this school is vetted as necessary by leaving my desk, being approved by the trustees, and then approved by Calvary MBC, the sponsoring church. This process ensures that much deliberation is given so that wisdom is the filter through which these funds flow.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal of \$50,000. "All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain. Who has borne all our sins and has cleansed every stain."



Nathan Luellen

From the Dean of Students

Missions is Our Middle Name

Several years ago, a church was gathered in a regular business meeting and the church's finances was the topic of discussion. The offerings had been running short of the necessary income to cover the monthly expenses for several months, and the situation was becoming dire. After examining the financial report, a sense of gloom hung in the air.

Members began discussing different ways to reduce expenses and even a few began exploring ways to raise extra funds. One person mentioned reducing the amount of mission giving and it was as if the air was sucked out of the room. As the thought hung in the air, one man exclaimed, "But missionary is our middle name!" The statement jolted the members back from the dreaded thought of reducing their support of missions. They moved on to other business without another mention of reducing mission support and, after committing the situation to prayer, God provided their needs.

That statement is so true today. For churches who identify as Missionary Baptist, they have chosen to identify themselves as being strong supporters of missions. It has been often said that mission work is the "lifeblood" of a church. The need for association among the Lord's churches is grounded in the need to support mission work. Churches assisting churches to send out missionaries and establish new churches is the primary reason for the existence of associations.

Being the bedrock of church work, mission work must be a priority of the Lord's churches. This includes churches sending missionaries to the fields of labor. Just as the church at Antioch was obedient to the Holy Spirit in Acts Chapter 13 by sending out Paul and Barnabas, churches must obey the Spirit in sending men to the mission field.

Once missionaries are sent, churches must support these men. Prayer by members of churches is a lifeline for missionaries serving in often difficult fields. Financial support is necessary to fund the needs of the missionary and his family. Continual communication is important for the overall well-being of the missionary as well as the church's ability to understand his needs. Sending the pastor and church members to the field to assist the missionary is vital. Sending a missionary is a great responsibility for a church, but it carries with it great rewards.

God never intended churches to support missions alone. He desires churches to work together in supporting missionaries. While some may not directly send, every church has a responsibility to support. This pattern of support is set in the Bible. Churches supported men as they served in other fields of labor. Supporting missions increases the gospel witness of the local church but also enhances the bonds of the associated work.

Every church must always remember- "Missionary is our middle name." The church is the vehicle that carries the Gospel to the world and mission work is the means by which it is done.

LOUISIANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY
November/December 2024

Balance Forwarded.	51,998.95
Receipts	34,054.27
Disbursements	38,190.88
Balance	47,862.34

Receipts: General Operating Funds

Acadiana BC, Lafayette, LA	50.00
Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	400.00
Anonymous	100.00
Bethel 2 BC, Rison, AR	345.00
Bethel MBC, New Orleans, LA	20.00
Bethlehem BC, Joaquin, TX	100.00
Big Sky MBC, Dillon, MT	50.00
Bryan & Sandy Simoneaux, Enterprise, AL	100.00
Calvary BC, DeRidder, LA	773.40
Calvary BC, Magnolia, AR	800.00
Calvary BC, Sheridan, AR	200.00
Carthage MBC, Carthage, TX	558.51
Center MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Central MBC, Bastrop, LA	900.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	600.00
Central MBC, Warren, AR	200.00
Corinth BC, Stephens, AR	150.00
Corinth MBC, Timpson, TX	400.00
Delight BC, Delight, AR	444.00
El Dorado MBC, El Dorado, AR	118.16
Emmanuel MBC, Bogalusa, LA	300.00
Fellowship BC, Joaquin, TX	100.00
First Baptist Church, Angie, LA	200.00
First Baptist Church, Wells, TX	600.00
First Springhill Association:	
Calvary, Minden, LA	2,000.00
Landmark, Stonewall, LA	158.80
Liberty, Shreveport, LA	200.00
Eastside, Minden, LA	432.00
Grace, Many, LA	529.00
Greenacres, Bossier City, LA	600.00
Heritage, Bossier City	1,200.00
Mansfield, Mansfield, LA	200.00
Old Sarepta, Sarepta, LA	839.75
Springhill, Springhill, LA	244.00
Stockwell Road, Bossier City, LA	500.00
Walnut Hill, Vivian, LA	200.00
Whispering Pines, Minden, LA	906.09
Forest Grove BC, Taylor, AR	200.00
Gary Eastside BC, Gary, TX	2,183.74
Grapeland MBC, Grapeland, TX	650.00
Hampton MBM, Hampton, AR	70.00
Hatley MBC, Amory, MS	400.00
Holleyman Chapel MBC, Maydelle, TX	400.00
Hughes Springs MBC, Hughes Springs, TX	200.00
Hyde Park BC, West Monroe, LA	100.00
Kimberly Durden Shreveport, LA	282.94
Landmark MBC, West Monroe, LA	100.00
Lawrence MBC, Loranger, LA	40.15
Lone Cedar BC, Joaquin, TX	200.00
Morris BC, Prescott, AR	400.00
Mt. Bethel MBC, Gary, TX	200.00
New Home BC, Stephens, AR	190.00
Oak Flat BC, Huntington, TX	300.00
Oakridge MBC, Maud, TX	147.00
Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA	100.00

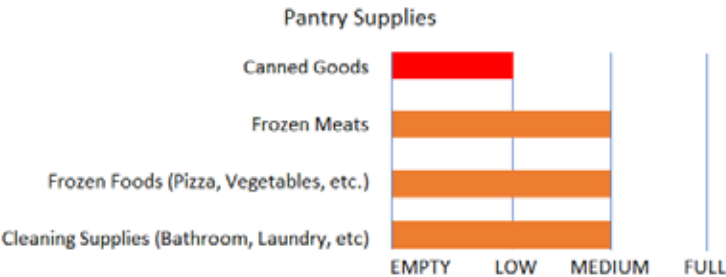
Park MBC, Prescott, AR	515.00
Pettitt Memorial BC, Bogalusa, LA	200.00
Pleasant Springs BC, Springfield, AR	390.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	400.00
Providence MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Providence Landmark MBC, Thornton, AR	50.00
Renee Jones Cotrell, Minden, LA	5,000.00
Robert Slack, Minden, LA	600.00
Lloyd Roper Family Trust	100.00
Salem BC, Rusk, TX	200.00
Second Avenue MBC, Strong, AR	400.00
Shiloh MBC, Springhill, LA	200.00
State Line BC, Taylor, AR	376.00
Timpson MBC, Timpson, TX	250.00
Trinity MBC, Camden, AR	200.00
Trinity MBC, Doyline, LA	200.00
Trinity BC, Carthage, TX	400.00
Union Heritage BC, Bogalusa, LA	50.00
Unity MBC, Camden, AR	275.00
West Heights MBC, West Monroe, LA	106.00
White Rock MBC, Center, TX	200.00
Enrollment Fees	80.00
Rent & Utilities	1,579.62
LMBIS Caps	100.00
In Memory of William Barnett	
James & Beverly Crain, Magnolia, AR	100.00

Scholarships

Hunter & Lexi Wilkes Scholarship	
Tracey Calogero, Bossier City, LA	50.00
Wayne Watson Scholarship	
Patsy McDaniel & Toni Ingle	210.00
Chapman/Rhodes Scholarship	
B1 Interest	230.63

Pantry

Adams Chapel MBC, Chidester, AR	400.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	100.00
Corinth BC, Stephens, AR	150.00
Corinth BC, Stephens, AR Youth Fund	150.00
Faith BC, Sterlington, LA	500.00
Gary & Monica Hlckss, Shreveport, LA	200.00
Grace BC of North Monroe	300.00
Hyde Park MBC, West Monroe	1,000.00
Landmark MBC, Libby, MT	100.00
Linda Chavers Bobbitt, Shreveport, LA	100.00
Old Shongaloo MBC, Shongaloo, LA	100.00
Promise Land BC, Hamburg, AR	500.00
State Line BC, Taylor, AR	100.00
Westside BC, Haynesville, LA	150.00
Whispering Pines MBC Ladies Auxiliary, Minden, LA	130.00
Calvary MBC, Jam Kids, Minden, LA	canned goods
Green Acres MBC, Bossier City, LA	meat & butter





Justin Coburn



ABA Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

As we look ahead in anticipation to all 2025 will hold, let us remember what Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13. There, we are commanded to forget what is in the past and to reach forward into the future. The word “forgetting” in that verse means to cease to be affected by. If you are like me, I had moments of victories and failures this past year. As we roll into a new year, we cease to be affected by our past failures and successes. May we trust the Lord with all our hearts and reach ahead to all God has for us in this coming year. We pray for God to do greater things in and through us in 2025.

It is with great joy to share the great reports from the missionaries. For the month of December, the missionaries report 414 professions of faith and 35 baptisms. That brings our totals for this associational year to 3,145 professions of faith and 278 baptisms. Please join me in praying for 6,000 professions of faith for this associational year!

I am once again in awe of what God has done through the generous giving of His people. Because of the sacrificial giving and great effort of the churches of the ABA, we have received over \$320,000 for the Thanksgiving Missions Offering. We believe there will still be some offerings coming in during January. We pray that we will meet our goal for this special offering. I would like to extend a hearty thank you to all churches and individuals who gave offerings to help meet this goal.

I did enjoy some much-needed rest and time spent with family this month. Amid some down time, we were blessed to preach, present and worship with Tanglewood MBC in Atlanta, TX and with Bethlehem MBC in Star City, AR.

It is our intention to send out the 2025 Missionary Recommendation Forms by the end of January. If you and your missionary have not received them by then or if you have questions, please feel free to contact us. Those forms will be due to our office by April 18, 2025.

December 2024 Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	2,568,582.01
Receipts:	
Interstate Salaries	187,938.74
Foreign & National Salaries	184,312.90
Designated	36,771.03
Undesignated	9,092.10
TOTAL RECEIVED	418,114.77
BALANCE FOR SALARIES	2,986,696.78
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Interstate Salaries	68,436.00
Foreign Salaries	34,191.87
National Salaries	25,585.00
Designated	36,771.03
Salaries & Expenses of Sec-Treas. Office	19,429.24
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	184,413.14
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	2,802,283.64
SURPLUS FOR OCTOBER	\$233,701.63



Ray Meigs



Louisiana State Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! This is a time where we reflect on the goodness of God and anticipate new opportunities to serve Him. May we always remember to serve God faithfully where we are and He will place us where He wants us tomorrow.

During our Louisiana State Association meeting in November many good things transpired. I would like to highlight two that affected our missions program. First, the messengers established a loan program available to the churches and missions in Louisiana. The funds to establish this program were from the generous gift of Calvary MBC in Minden in 2023. A church or mission can request a loan at zero interest no later than 60 days prior to the state association meeting. The standing Missionary Committee will evaluate the request and make a recommendation to the messengers for a vote. Second, at the end of each month any balance greater than \$1,000.00 in the Missions General Operating Fund will be transferred to the Emergency Fund. This will allow the Emergency Fund to grow to meet the needs of our churches in time of emergency while keeping an adequate balance in the General Operating Fund. I thank the messengers for these two actions and I believe they will have a beneficial impact for years to come.

Our missionaries continue to do a great job preaching and spreading the Gospel. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Thank you for your support of Louisiana Missions and God bless is my prayer.

December 2024 Report

Gen. Operating Fund Beg. Balance	\$1,000.00
Receipts	\$320.00
Disbursements	\$320.00
Gen. Operating Fund Balance	\$1,000.00
LA State Association General Fund Balance	2,746.03
Emergency Fund Balance	\$4,151.16
Offerings for the Goal	\$1,490.70

MISSIONARY BAPTIST NEWS
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Calvary MBC, Minden, LA	\$100.00
Central MBC, Pineville, LA	100.00
Forest Grove MBC, Taylor, AR	40.00
Grapeland MBC, Grapeland, TX	200.00
Heritage MBC, Bossier City, LA	240.00
Landmark MBC, Stonewall, LA	80.00
Liberty MBC, Shreveport, LA	50.00
Mansfield MBC, Mansfield, LA	50.00
State Line MBC, Taylor, AR	40.00
Whispering Pines MBC, Minden, LA	25.00
Total	\$870.00

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

Bro. Jason Hebert, Lafayette, LA:

I hope this report finds you in the New Year rejoicing over all that happened in 2024 and that you have a renewed zeal to serve the Lord more in 2025! December is always a great opportunity to look back on all that God has done and as I look back over the last 12 months, I am overwhelmed at what God has accomplished.

We began the year with our theme, "Friends," and I hoped it would encourage and foster the brotherly love that church members share with one another. Instead of mere acquaintances at church, deep friendships would be formed among our men and women. I remember seeing this become a reality as we built our new sign at the road during one of our breaks. The men swapping stories and laughing at jokes may seem inconsequential to some, but when you start with strangers and see them become family in faith and friends in the world, it does your heart good! As Cindy has poured into our ladies this year, she tells similar stories over craft parties and impromptu lunch gatherings! I cannot say it enough, but seeing what God has done since 2021, when we got into our new building, is almost unbelievable!

We also set out to put a sign outside, which we did. It has continued to alert people that we are a church, and they want to come check us out in person. It's shocking how many people still don't know we exist. It just shows that we still have a lot of work to do in our community.

The one goal we did not reach was to see 40 people in services. We got so close on many occasions but fell short. However, we will continue to move forward, inviting people and sharing the Good News of Jesus, and we know that God will honor our faithful service.

Above all else, we saw the salvation of 10 souls, 6 baptisms, 1 join on the promise of letter, and 2 weddings! PRAISE THE LORD! That is a good year, and we rejoice! This would not be possible without your faithful prayers and generous giving!

On another note, after much prayer, we have decided to take a break from hosting our annual Love On Lafayette event. We know that our organization is coming in the next year or so, and we need to make a summer ministry more manageable for our membership. We are praying and seeking the Lord for what our next big idea is going to be. We appreciate every youth group, every person, and every church that has come down to help spread the Gospel over the years; your labor was not in vain.

(Sponsored by Calvary MBC, Minden, Louisiana)

Bro. Scott Bourland, Hope, Indiana:

All the wheels are still turning. Prayerful by the end of January we will be ready to start through the approval process with the local planning commission and BZA as well as at the state level.

We are rejoicing at the salvation and baptism of Kevin. God has gloriously saved his family and brought them into our church over the past few months. We are also excited that Larry and Pam joined the work

here. They were a part of a church I pastored in the 90's, but had been out of church a long time. It is so wonderful to see them surrender to the Lord and be back in His church.

Our prayer outreach door to door ministry did continue, but we were very limited by the weather. We have designed a mail out that will be sent out during January. We are going to send about 5,000 of these. Please pray for it to get to the right people and for them to seriously consider its message. We also participated in the local Christmas of yesteryear event, which gave us the chance to serve and meet a lot of people.

Like most churches, 2024 had ups and downs for our work and the people involved here. There were some incredible triumphs and some deep hardships. Through it all the Lord is with us.

(Sponsored by Calvary BC, Magnolia, Arkansas)

Bro. Justin Coburn, Secretary/Treasurer of Missions for the ABA:

Bro. Justin Coburn and his daughter Kaley traveled to Parma, Italy, in October of 2024 to visit Parma MBC. He was able to preach in their prayer meeting and be the speaker for the second church anniversary. Bro. Coburn found that the church is zealously sharing the gospel in their area. They currently have 2 missionaries, one in Canada and the other, an ABA recommended missionary in the Philippines. Presently, they are beginning a new work in Berlin, Germany. The church is pastored by Bro. Ronald Ricafrente.





Micah Carter

From the Dean of Online Studies Are You a Missionary?

Are you a missionary? Perhaps you answer this question based upon whether or not God has called you into the ministry. Many would say they are not a missionary because they aren't called to a certain field to start a church. However, a missionary is simply one who has a mission to carry out. If you have been saved by the blood of Jesus, followed Him in scriptural baptism and joined a true New Testament church, then you absolutely have a mission to carry out. Our mission is to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ. I want to share with you some Characteristics of a Missionary from Romans 15:18-21. Are these things evident in your life?

First, A Missionary is Fruitful according to verses 18-19a. Paul says his purpose in preaching to the Gentiles is to make them obedient by word and deed. "Obedience to the faith" seems to be a reoccurring theme which Paul refers to throughout the letter to the Romans. This is a term he uses to refer to the evidence of changed lives in those who believed his message. In other words, when Paul left a place after preaching the gospel, he left behind evidence that he had been there. That evidence was saved people, new converts with changed lives in word and deed. Are we leaving behind this kind of evidence in our lives or are we leaving a mess behind? In verse 19 Paul credits success to the Spirit of God. A real missionary doesn't care about taking the credit, rather he wants God to receive the glory for the fruit produced.

Next, A Missionary is Faithful according to verse 19b. According to 2 Corinthians 5:20 we are to be ambassadors of Christ. That means that we are to represent the heavenly country in this foreign land called earth. We are to herald a message from our home land of heaven. We have all the authority of God behind our message. How faithful are we as ambassadors? Paul took this responsibility seriously. Have we been so faithful in mission work that we could echo the words of Paul when he said, "I have fully preached the gospel?"

Last, A Missionary is Focused according to verses 20-21. Paul was focused on the fact that there were people who had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was determined to take the Word where the Word had never been taken! Are we? Paul didn't go around recruiting saved people! Paul was focused on the lost people who needed Jesus!

I pray to God that we would allow Paul's burden to be our burden and allow his pattern to challenge us in our daily mission endeavors. Let us live our life focused on what matters most. Focus our eyes on Jesus and those around us who need to hear about His saving grace.



Chloe Gregg

A View from the Youth Change Is Necessary

Change is a part of life, but it is also vital in becoming a Christian and strengthening our faith. If change is rejected, the spreading of the Gospel would cease, our faith in Christ would never grow, and the lost would never accept Jesus into their hearts. They would remain broken, alone, and separated from God forever. This is proven by Romans 3:23 which states, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Transition has occurred in my life. Several years ago, my father, Bro. Doug Gregg, felt the call to pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Minden Louisiana. This was not the path I was planning to take in my seven-year-old mind. Mainly, I was focused on anything but moving from Oklahoma, and by doing this, my world turned upside down. We left my family, friends, and the only world I had ever known. This change allowed my faith to flourish, and I got new opportunities to share the Gospel.

Trials and temptations are challenges in our walk with Christ which push our faith. Because of this, we should be joyful and accept change which will grow our faith. James 1: 2 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

In conclusion, change is not always wanted, but it is necessary for God to move freely throughout our lives. Without change, Jesus would be the last thought in our minds.

-Sis. Chloe is an eighth grader at Glenbrook School and a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Minden, Louisiana, where her father serves as the pastor.



Aubrey Mercer

A Student's Testimonial

My experience at the LMBIS has been extraordinary. This is my second year at seminary and everyone, students and teachers alike, have been so welcoming and helpful.

My first year, unsure of what to do, I started out with only one class, and to some, would be considered one of the most difficult courses: Hebrew. I was, of course, teased for picking such a difficult subject let alone language to start with, but if I could do it all over again, I would do it the same exact way. Brother Nathan Luellen never fails to make such a difficult subject easy and fun to learn, prioritizing our ability to learn what was being taught over our ability to memorize answers and take a test. He helped us and walked us through how to translate the first several verses of the entire Bible: Genesis 1:1-20.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

We give God the praise for allowing us to see the new year, 2025. All is well in the work in Texarkana as we begin this new year with exciting expectations. We certainly have our ups and downs in the work, but that is normal. I'm glad God is constant and always dependable. I am reminded of what Paul wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This is so true, and we continually experience it.

January finds us beginning the mailing of literature for the Spring quarter, so it is a busy month for the shipping department. The Press Room is cranking up their printing of future materials. As we end the former year, our Perfect Binder machine has failed us. This is the machine that puts the square spine binding on the Sunday School Commentary. We are in the process of fixing it, but at the time of this writing, it is worrisome. The Perfect Binder is getting old and may have to be replaced soon at an estimated cost of \$250,000.00. Sending the materials out for binding also is cost prohibitive and only is an option if we have no other choice. So hopefully, we can get it fixed and keep using it until it can't be fixed.

Paper prices on our most used paper will receive an 8% increase in cost after January 1, 2025. This increase was expected as mentioned in an earlier report. We have purchased all we can store at the lower price. There is hope that by the end of 2025, the price will reduce somewhat.

The employees continue to do a great job week after week. At present, we have a full workforce. One young part-time lady will be leaving us soon to return to college, and another will be taking maternity leave. These ongoing changes are normal as God always supplies our needs with great folks. We have worked to lift the wages here to be more competitive in the community. After all, we have very deserving employees. I am glad to see a new level of pay being reached that is indeed much more competitive for our area. Thank the Lord.

Our finances are good, and our work atmosphere is great. If you are in Texarkana, come visit. If I can be of any service to you, please ask. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

J.A. Crain, Business Manager



"Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign. And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him"
(2 Kings 11:21; 12:2).

"Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them"
(2 Chronicles 24:17).

This year's Vacation Bible School—Timeless—will teach students lessons from a few lesser-known people in the Bible, among whom is Joash. The aim of our lesson on Joash, the upright king, will be to inspire students to do the right thing, no matter how young or old they are. Our prayer is that students will personally adopt the lesson's application: "I can set the right example."

King Joash was only seven years old when he took the throne, yet with God's help and the wise guidance of Jehoiada, he was able to lead great reforms among God's people. He obeyed God, instructed, trained and influenced by Jehoiada, bringing revival and repairing the Temple.

Yet, the history of Joash took a cautionary turn when Jehoiada died. The caveat for Joash's God-pleasing leadership was that he did what was right as long as Jehoiada was alive. Once Jehoiada passed, Joash began listening to the wrong influences, even when God sent prophets to warn him (2 Chronicles 24:19). Joash permitted God's people to leave the house of the Lord and serve idols, hastening God's judgment upon them.

When it comes to Christian education, the historical account of Joash provides us with an obvious but often neglected lesson: children require older saints to lovingly guide them with the wisdom of God's Word. Too often these days, young people are rarely in the presence of wise, godly adults. May we take the lesson of Joash to heart and create spaces in our churches for godly wisdom to be passed down from one generation to the next.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Clements, Editor in Chief
Mark.Clements@bogardpress.org

("A STUDENT'S TESTIMONIAL" CONTINUED...)

My second year, still slightly unsure but more ready to learn, I decided to take four classes in the first semester and three in the second. I continued my study of Hebrew and took Greek, Genesis through Ruth, and a new class on Thesis Writing. Brother Nathan continues to make Hebrew a fun language, covering the entire book of Jonah and opening our eyes to new information as we go. Brother Mike Wilkes takes the slightly easier-to-learn language of Greek and makes it both engaging and entertaining to learn, challenging us in the best of ways as he teaches us how to translate the first New Testament chapter of the book of John. Having Brother Chet Johnson in our first semester of Genesis through Ruth and Brother Nathan in our second, both have such different ways of teaching the subject that make the same material eternally enlightening and interesting. We are always learning something new that we had never noticed before.

All the teachers make every subject as easy to learn and digestible as they can, despite the difficult subjects most of them teach. A sizable portion of the time, I am the only female student at the school, but it doesn't seem to matter as everyone works hard to make sure I'm included in events and plans made for the students. I always feel included and welcome at the seminary and in the classes and I will forever be grateful for the things I've learned in this school from both the outstanding teachers and amazing students.

- Sis. Aubrey is a member of Green Acres MBC in Bossier City.

THE MB NEWS

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A New Pastor to be Ordained

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Blanchard, Louisiana, is inviting all ordained ministers and deacons to attend the ordination service of their new pastor, Bro. Mark Calogero. The service will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with a meal following the service.

Bro. Mark was saved and baptized while attending Whispering Pines MBC in Minden. He announced his call to preach and began attending LMBIS after graduating Airline High School in Bossier City. He has served as the youth director for Stockwell Road MBC in Bossier City, as well as provided pulpit-supply to many area churches. In December of 2023, Bro. Mark married his high school sweetheart, Karsyn Arrington.

Chapel Times & Speakers

Chapel is held on Monday and Tuesday of each week while school is in session from 1:25 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us any time.

- **Mon., Feb. 3** . . Bro. Jacob Schumacher
- **Tues., Feb. 4** . . Bro. Doug Gregg
- **Mon., Feb. 10** . Bro. Justin Gatlin
- **Tues., Feb. 11** . Bro. Chet Johnson
- **Mon., Feb. 17** . NO CLASSES
- **Tues., Feb. 18** . Bro. David Proctor
- **Mon., Feb. 24** . Faculty & Student Body
- **Tues., Feb. 25** . Bro. Mark Clements
- **Mon., Mar. 3** . . Bro. Tommy Barrios
- **Tues., Mar. 4** . . Bro. Jason Walker
- **Mon., Mar. 10** . BIBLE CONFERENCE
- **Tues., Mar. 11** . BIBLE CONFERENCE
- **Mon., Mar. 17** . Faculty & Student Body
- **Tues., Mar. 18** . Bro. Mac Banks
- **Mon., Mar. 24** . SPRING BREAK
- **Tues., Mar. 25** . SPRING BREAK
- **Mon., Mar. 31** . Bro. Donald Moore