

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LXI

JUNE 2026

Number 6

BMA National Meeting Emphasizes Gospel Partnership and Multiplication

By Jeff Herring,
Executive Editor Baptist Trumpet

The 77th annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America was held April 21-23 at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR.

Messengers gathered under the theme "Until Then..." from Acts 1:8, focusing on the ongoing mission of the church as it faithfully proclaims the gospel until Christ's return.

According to the final Enrollment & Finance Committee report, 164 churches were represented, with 338 messengers and 166 visitors registered, for a total registered attendance of 504.

The meeting's Minute Fund offering totaled \$4,705. Actual attendance exceeded that number, as many attended without registering.

The meeting began Tuesday evening with a Missions Celebration that highlighted the BMA's global impact and emphasized the importance of developing indigenous leadership. Speakers noted that the goal of missions is not long term dependency, but a lasting gospel presence through trained local leaders who can carry the work forward in their own communities — not just extending reach, but deepening impact.

Testimonies from missionaries serving in various regions reinforced the importance of relational ministry, discipleship, and church planting.

Leaders emphasized that missionaries serve as catalysts rather than the final product — helping establish works that can stand on their own. Sending was also described as a shared effort, not a solo act, as churches partner together in prayer, giving, and engagement.

Throughout the evening, a consistent theme emerged: the gospel advances most effectively through multiplication.

BMA of America President Charles Johnson delivered the President's Message from Acts 1:4-11, challenging messengers to consider what believers are called to do "until then" — until Christ returns. He pointed to the example of the early church, emphasizing diligence in prayer, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and faithful proclamation of the gospel. Video of the President's Message can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185342546.

During the first business session, the officers were introduced, principles of biblical conduct and cooperation were emphasized, and the 77th annual meeting was officially declared in session.

Five churches petitioned for membership and were received into the association.

The Moral Action report was also presented during the first business session. Executive Director Dr. John Adams encouraged messengers to pray for national leaders, men and women in the military, the people of Iran, Israel, the protection of the nation, and revival.

He reminded messengers that God rules over the nations and is in control. Wednesday morning included several auxiliary gatherings alongside the national meeting schedule.

The National WMA Women's Conference met at Central Baptist College, emphasizing the theme of disciple making and encouraging women to invest in others through intentional discipleship.

The BMA National Brotherhood also met, continuing its focus on equipping men with practical, biblically to strengthen communities.

The families, Pastors' Conference, sponsored by Healthy Church Solutions, focused on strengthening ministry leaders through an emphasis on Healthy Souls, Healthy Men, and Healthy Rhythms, encouraging pastors and ministry leaders toward long term faithfulness and effectiveness.

Videos of the Pastors' Conference sessions, *Healthy Souls*, *Healthy Men*, and *Healthy Rhythms*, are available
atvimeo.com/1186970867,
vimeo.com/1186970866,
and
vimeo.com/1186970868.

The Hispanic Baptist Missionary Association also gathered on Wednesday morning for a time of training and encouragement. Elvis Garcia, Hispanic Director of Church Planting and Ministry Coordinator for Hispanic People in the United States, along with other leaders, shared on developing indigenous leadership, strengthening theological formation within the local church, and equipping pastors for the unique realities of Hispanic ministry.

Teaching also emphasized a stewardship approach to leadership, focusing on faithfulness, character, and multiplication.

Wednesday's schedule continued with departmental reports, followed by the Legacy Missionary Celebration and commissioning service.

During the commissioning service, all BMA Global missionaries and staff gathered on stage as BMA Global Vice President Larry Barker led in a prayer of commissioning, asking God to continue using them as they carry the gospel around the world.

This year's Legacy Missionary Celebration honored Buddy Johnson and also included the recognition of Harold Morris, who was scheduled to be honored as a 2025 Legacy Missionary.

Last year's Legacy service was canceled after Morris' son, John Morris, suffered a medical emergency as the service was beginning. Though no members of the Morris family were able to attend this year, BMA Global President Dr. John David Smith shared that John Morris is doing well.

("National Meeting," cont on pg 8)

CBC Announces 2026 S.O.S. Team

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year at Central Baptist College, I am grateful to announce our new Student Orientation Staff (SOS) team.

These student leaders play an important role in welcoming new students to campus and helping them begin their journey at CBC with encouragement, support, and a strong sense of community.

The transition to college life can bring many questions and challenges for students and families alike.

Whether navigating registration, housing, finances, academics, or simply adjusting to campus life, our SOS team is committed to walking alongside incoming students every step of the way.

Their investment in serving others reflects the Christ-centered mission that defines our college community.

Under the leadership of our Student Activities Coordinator, this outstanding group of students will help plan and implement activities designed to connect new students to campus life and create meaningful relationships from the very beginning.

Their work helps foster an environment where students feel welcomed, valued,

and encouraged as they become part of the CBC family.

This year's Senior Team Leaders are Shaylee Carver and Emma Vest. In these leadership roles, they will serve as club administrators while working closely with the Student Activities Coordinator to guide and support the Team Leaders throughout the year.

The 2026 Team Leaders include Layne Faulk, Faith Grantham, Braden Pickrell, and Madison Smithhart.

These students will lead their respective teams in organizing activities and events during M.U.D. Week, a special week intentionally designed to help new students acclimate to campus, build friendships, and prepare for success at CBC.

This year's SOS Staff includes Ethan Ball, Charity Barone, Reese Buckley, Nadiyah Bunton, Sophia Bush, Ryan Carroll, Isaiah Claiborne, Daisy Cline, Gracie Diggs, Lauren Duncan, Ava Eakin, Maggie Franklin, Madalie Gardner, Clair Goza, Logan Hanson, Emma Hartsfield,

("SOS Team," cont on pg 6)

Just The Crumbs / BMA Disaster Relief is responding to the needs left behind by two devastating tornadoes that caused substantial loss in our area.

We are currently set up and preparing hot meals at two locations:



**Bogue Chitto, Mississippi
Across from Bogue Chitto High School**

&

**Pine Grove Baptist Church
Purvis, Mississippi**

Both communities have suffered significant damage, and we are working to serve those affected with meals, support, and prayer.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact:

**Lavon Haden
601-522-6055**

Donations may be sent to:

**Just The Crumbs
10 Wagon Trail
Sumrall, MS 39482**

**BMA Disaster Relief
P.O. Box 878
Conway, AR 72033**

**BMA MS Disaster Relief
4226 Hwy 15 N
Laurel, MS 39440**

**Consider volunteering with Just The Crumbs
or BMA Disaster Relief
601 522-6055**

**Donate to Just The Crumbs
or BMA Disaster Relief via Pay-Pal**

justthecrumbs21@gmail.com

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Published by the
Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Direct all correspondence, publication material
and news items to the office of the editor

Direct all subscription payments to:
Carl Barnes
P.O. Box 5171
Ardmore, OK 73403

E-mail: Michael.mobly@yahoo.com

Subscription rates are, any church may pay
ten dollars a month, or one hundred twenty
dollars a year, to receive a digital copy of the
paper emailed to one email address
in your church.

"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"Who's Pulling Your String?"

A tale is told of an outstanding young man who had but one shortcoming; he was very impatient. No matter what his current situation, he was never pleased.

Opportunity came knocking one day to skip all the dull and dreary times in his life. He received a ball with a slender gold thread hanging out. This thread represented his life.

The one bestowing this unusual gift explained that if the thread remained untouched, his life would pass by normally. On the other hand, when he became anxious and wanted time to pass swiftly all he had to do was slightly pull the thread, and the hours would fly by as seconds.

A grave warning accompanied the lustrous ball: Once the thread had been pulled out, it could not be pushed back in again. Ecstatically the lad hurried home with the incredible ball.

The following day provided the perfect occasion to make use of the golden thread. School was creeping by at an alarmingly boring rate, and the boy fell victim to daydreaming. His trance like state was abruptly ended by the teacher's sharp reprimand.

Reaching for the golden thread, he pulled it slightly. All of a sudden the teacher was dismissing class: school was over!

He was thrilled! After that moment, the child pulled on the thread a little each day.

Discontentment is a living thing and grows rapidly once it is planted in one's heart. And so it was with the boy. Before long he began to use the golden thread to hurry through bigger parts of his life.

He reasoned, Why bother with little bits everyday when I can give it a hard yank and be done with my education. Not only did he find himself graduating, but also training for a vocation.

This flawed thinking hastened him through his courtship with his wife to be, straight to their wedding day.

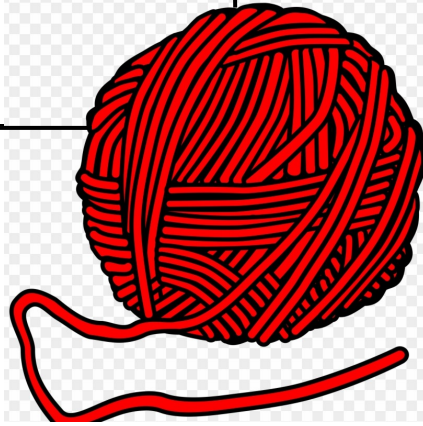
Once frustration overtakes a person's spirit, the road to impatience becomes progressively shorter.

And so it was with the young man; the golden thread became his escape from life's difficulties or his deliverance from waiting.

As the glistening string whizzed by his fingers, so did financial struggles, family problems, babies, childhoods, new homes, ... life.

All too quickly, more so than he had imagined, the thread came to an end. The old man felt empty. By permitting impatience and discontentment to govern his life, they stole a lifetime of beautiful memories. Death was all his future held.

For the first time he regretted ever



taking the ball with the golden thread, but alas, it was too late.

Although there is no such miraculous ball, many of God's children live like they are tugging on a golden thread to rush their lives along. They exist day in and day out, regretting the past, coveting the future, yet seldom living in the present.

It is a futile life, considering that neither the past nor the future exists. They cannot make us happy or content, anymore than eating an imaginary meal will satisfy our hunger and fill us.

Yes, God gave us a past to grow and learn from, as well as the added blessing of good memories that bring us joy and comfort.

In the same token God gave us the future to plan, look forward to, and be a good steward of the resources He blesses us with. Even though these are His gifts, God certainly never intended for us to take up permanent residence in either place!

Our fickle, spirits seem to bounce back and forth between the two, never establishing ourselves in the here and now! Such unsettledness springs from a rebellious spirit that always wants to control that which it cannot.

Quite simply, discontentment is a satanic device that renders man unhappy with the choices God has made for his life.

Satan frequently makes use of this handy tool as it works quite well. You see, dissatisfaction loves the past and future. It can take root in one's heart, flourish and blossom, because what does not exist cannot be obtained.

Why would Satan want us to focus on the before and beyond? He desires to keep us far from God and he knows God

("Pulling Your String," cont on pg 7)

***"Do not desire to skip one minute;
you never know what great blessing
or delight it may hold."***

CBC Giving Day Scheduled, June 16

Central Baptist College will host its first-ever CBC Giving Day on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. This special day of giving will unite alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, churches, and friends of the college in support of the mission of Central Baptist College.

The theme for the inaugural Giving Day is "Faithfully Forward: Where Faith Meets Calling."

For 24 hours, the CBC community will unite for a day of impact, generosity, and purpose as supporters from across Arkansas and beyond come together to invest in the next generation of Christian leaders.

The purpose behind CBC Giving Day is to help fuel the next generation of students as they pursue God's calling on their lives through Christ-centered higher education. Gifts made during the day will support student scholarships, academic programs, campus initiatives, and the ongoing mission of CBC.

"This Giving Day is an opportunity for the entire CBC family to come together and invest in the future of our students," said CBC President Dr. Jeremy Langley.

"This year, we saw more than a dozen students profess Christ as Savior and others grow closer in their walk with Him. God is on the move at CBC."

"On CBC Giving Day every gift, regardless of size, allows our alumni and friends to be a part of what God is doing on campus, helps strengthen our mission, and encourages students as they prepare to lead and serve faithfully in their communities and professions."

Throughout the day, CBC will share stories of student impact, alumni experiences, and opportunities for supporters to participate online through social media and digital giving platforms.

Organizers hope the event will become an annual tradition celebrating generosity and the continued advancement of Central Baptist College's mission of integrating faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Supporters are encouraged to mark their calendars and join CBC in moving Faithfully Forward.

For more information about CBC Giving Day or to make a gift on June 16, visit [cbc.edu/givingday](https://www.cbc.edu/givingday).

Founded in 1952, Central Baptist College is a four-year, private Christian

liberal arts college committed to transforming lives through Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

To share via social media, please use the following link: <https://www.cbc.edu/cbcnews/central-baptist-college-announces-first-ever-cbc-giving-day-scheduled-for-june-16>

CBC Honor and Memorial Gifts

The following are honor and memorial contributions received since the last report by Central Baptist College. Some of the contributions are recurring gifts but are only listed once.

In Memory Of

Bobby Bowman by Ms. Gale Garrison
Mrs. Bonnie L. Newton, and First Baptist Church of Caldwell
Leta Ruth Bowman by Ms. Gale Garrison and Mrs. Bonnie L. Newton
Lori Cline by Dr. and Mrs. Joel Slayton
Marvin Delk, Sr. by Mrs. Bonnie L. Newton
Horace Dunn by Mrs. Kim Tomlin
Ernest Evans by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson
Billy Jean Farley by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Walters
Donna Guyton by Bro. and Mrs. Duffy Guyton
Paul Haney by Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Townsend
Freda Marvelle Hardy by Ms. Gale Garrison
Bill Hoggard by Ms. Shirley Q. McCone
Rena Hoggard by Ms. Shirley Q. McCone
Sharon J. Keeling by Ms. Gale Garrison
Reba Luck by Mr. and Mrs. Luther W. Eye and Mr. and Mrs. Collin Brown
Shannah R. Rae by Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Brickey Fife and Garrett Memorial Baptist Church of Hope
Walton D. Smith by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper
Charles G. Taylor by Ms. Ellon J. Taylor
Jim L. Tollison by Dr. and Mrs. Joel Slayton
Dr. Glen E. Tropp by Ms. Penny L. Ehrhardt
Connie Westbrook by Mrs. Joann Henderson
Brenda Wilkerson by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper.

In Honor Of

Joyce N. Garrison by Ms. Gale Garrison
Duffy Guyton by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff W. Herring
Dr. Jeremy A. Langley by Bro. and Mrs. Michael E. Gray and Mr. Mark D. Johnson
LaDonna McLain by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper
Ruby Misenheimer by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper
Lisa Park by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper
Paula Schildroth by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper
Ellon J. Taylor by Dr. and Mrs. Garrett Taylor
Freddie Mark Wilcox by Springfield Missionary Baptist Church
Shellie Williams by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Harper.

CBC Day

A Celebration of Faith, Community, and Calling

Each year, Central Baptist College sets aside a special day to celebrate who we are, what we believe, and the mission that continues to guide us forward.

CBC Day is more than a date on the calendar. It is a meaningful opportunity for our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters to come together in gratitude for God's faithfulness and in renewed commitment to the work He has called us to do.

On September 27, we will once again celebrate CBC Day, and I invite you to join us in this important tradition.

Since our founding in 1952, Central Baptist College has remained steadfast in its mission to provide a Christ-centered

education that integrates faith and academic excellence. CBC Day gives us a moment to reflect on that mission and to celebrate the lives that have been transformed through it.

It is a day to honor our heritage, while also looking ahead with anticipation to the future God is preparing for our institution.

For our students, CBC Day serves as a reminder that they are part of something greater than themselves. They are part of a community rooted in truth, shaped by purpose, and committed to servant leadership.

For our alumni and friends, it is an opportunity to reconnect with the college and invest in the next

generation of Mustangs who are preparing to impact their communities, churches, and professions.

Support for CBC Day plays a vital role in advancing our mission. Whether through prayer, participation, or financial giving, each act of support helps ensure that we can continue to provide scholarships, enhance academic programs, and create an environment where students grow intellectually, spiritually, and personally.

The generosity of our churches, alumni, and community partners is essential to sustaining and strengthening the ministry of Central Baptist College.

We especially encourage our partner churches to take part in CBC Day by sharing the mission of the college with their congregations, praying for our students and faculty, and considering a special offering or designated gift.

Churches may also invite a CBC representative to speak or provide materials to help highlight the impact of a Christ-centered education.

For more information on how your church can participate in CBC Day, please contact Duffy Guyton, Vice President for Advancement, at 501.269.6784.

I am continually inspired by the faithfulness of those who believe in the work of CBC. Your support makes a difference in the lives of our students every single day.

Because of you, we are able to equip men and women to live out their calling with conviction, character, and a Christ-centered worldview.

As we approach September 27, I encourage you to mark your calendar, share the message of CBC Day, and prayerfully consider how you can be part of this special day.

Together, we can continue building a legacy of faith and excellence that will impact generations to come.



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Identifiers"

In most larger cities, businesses come and go. In the 1970's there was a bowling alley in Midwest City named Bowling Green.

About 1979 it went out of business. A medical group purchased the facilities. After some major remodeling it didn't look like a bowling alley, nor was there anything to hint it was ever anything else. It became Midwest Medical Group.

Once, I was in the doctor's waiting room there. The receptionist received a call. She scheduled an appointment and then gave directions to the caller to find the address.

She then said, "We're in the building where the old Bowling Green bowling alley was."

It struck me as strange because that day was in 2005, at least 25 years since the bowling alley had closed. Yet, that name was the identifier for finding this address.

Since I couldn't hear the other end of the conversation, I don't know the response, but the caller didn't ask for further directions. So, apparently they understood how to find it by the "Bowling Green," reference.

I was reminded of the old farm place we bought when we returned from California in 1945. It was called "The Old Glover Place."

I don't know how long Mr. Glover had owned the place, but Mother and Dad sold the place eleven years later in 1956, after my dad became disabled. People were still calling it "The Old Glover Place." To my knowledge it's still known as that.

If you asked about "The Old Spurlock Place" and gave someone directions, they would probably respond, "Oh, you mean 'The Old Glover Place.'"

I've often wondered what Mr. Glover did

that permanently named the place. It was only 80 acres so it couldn't have been the size.

That way of identifying our farm reminds me of what one of my college professors did. He was a Church of Christ preacher. He wasn't supposed to get into their doctrine, but continually did.

I wanted to pass his course, so I didn't respond to any of his comments, until one day when he drew a line on the chalk board which he said represented salvation.

He said when someone was saved, they went above the line, stating the person believed and was baptized. He said, "When he sins, he goes back down here." He then drew a line back down.

He kept illustrating being saved and lost with that chalk line, going up and down across the "saved line," until it



looked like a cork on a fishing line with a feisty perch on it.

I finally had enough and raised my hand and told him, "It seems to me if Christ saved the person in the first place, they would stay above the line, and not bob up and down the way you've got him doing."

He slammed his chalk down and said, "I knew it! I knew it! You're a Baptist aren't you?" I smiled and said, "Of course! Why would I be anything else?"

I thought it was amazing my simple statement about a saved person staying above the line was all it took for him to recognize me as a Baptist.

That comment identified me as a Baptist in the same way "The Old Glover Place," identified our old farm. It's amazing only Baptist believe "once saved, always saved."

But that's probably the most well established truth in the Bible. (See Ephesians 2:8-9, among others.)

"Central Baptist SOS Team," cont from pg 2

Dalton Herring, Allison Lorenz, Danny Maxwell, Anna Moreland, Avery Mulloy, Joy Murdock, Luke Oden, Eric Parker, Ruthie Qualls, Caroline Reams, Landon Risner, Lindsey Risner, Ricki Rose, Olivia Solano, Caleb Spaul, Mary Faith Stevenson, Cora Tharnish, Dayton Wall, and Reed Wanamaker.

I am incredibly thankful for these students and their willingness to serve.

Their leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication will have a lasting impact on the lives of our incoming students and will help shape the campus experience for the coming year.

M.U.D. Week officially begins with move-in day on August 15.

As we prepare to welcome a new class of Mustangs to campus, I encourage our CBC family and supporting churches to join us in praying for our incoming students.

It is our desire that every student who comes to Central Baptist College would grow academically, spiritually, and personally while coming to know Jesus more deeply and living lives that reflect His character.

***“Pulling Your String,”* cont from pg 3**

is only in the present.

Exodus 3:14 reveals this truth to us. And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

God exists in the present. He does not exist in the past because He is not; I was. He does not exist in the future because

He is not; I will be. He lives in the present because, as the scripture says, He is I am.

If you insist on dwelling in the past or the future, you are not with God. You'll find yourself in the midst of misery, defeat, discouragement, hopelessness and depression.

You're on your own, and that's the best you can have without God! To be with Him, we must live in the present. Abiding with the Lord affords us joy, comfort, and peace beyond all measure.

Do not dwell on your past it teaches you through your mistakes, and God is quick to forgive our failures. Don't desire to skip the present.

Be it because of trials, for they will make you wiser and stronger. Nor because you are not happy with God's allotment for you, thinking you can do better for yourself. Do not yearn for the future it is God's alone.

The expectations of perfection it holds are merely a product of your imagination. Live in today. Do not desire to skip one minute; you never know what great blessing or delight it may hold.

Trust God with your golden thread; life is too precious to waste.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southeast District Summer Camp

June 1-5

Camp Evangelist

Josh Bullock

Worship Leader

Tony Strickland

SOAR Youth Conference

July 1-3

Embassy Suites

Norman, OK

Kids Camp

July 6-10, 2026

Binger, OK



“National Meeting,” cont from pg 1

Harold Morris' legacy was celebrated for its lasting impact, particularly among Portuguese-speaking peoples in Brazil, and for his role in founding Harvest Gleaner Hour, now known as Lifeword, which proclaims the gospel daily in 175 languages around the world.

Buddy and Taffy Johnson were recognized as 2026 Legacy Missionaries for their decades of faithful missionary service and their commitment to training national leaders and planting churches in Mexico.

Dr. Philip Attebery also shared that BMA Theological Seminary is establishing the Buddy Johnson Chair of Great Commission Studies in honor of Johnson's faithful service.

Videos honoring Buddy and Taffy Johnson and Harold and Lois Morris as Legacy missionaries can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185914833 and vimeo.com/1088169895, respectively, and the full Legacy service can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185357960.

The Chaplaincy ministry was also highlighted during the commissioning service. BMA Global Chaplaincy Coordinator Dr. Scott Carson reported that the BMA currently has 17 endorsed chaplains serving in civic, corporate, institutional, and military roles.

Chaplain Jeremy Miller, senior command chaplain for the Arkansas National Guard, emphasized that ministry often takes place outside the walls of churches, describing chaplaincy as an extension of the church into everyday life.

He noted that the BMA may soon have no active chaplain serving in an active military component for the first time in its history and encouraged churches to consider sending men into this important area of service.

Chaplaincy continues to provide opportunities for gospel ministry in hospitals, prisons, corporate settings, and among first responders.

Department reports reflected a unified emphasis on strengthening churches and expanding gospel reach.

BMA Global highlighted ongoing efforts to develop leaders, plant churches, and expand ministry worldwide, reporting 1,952 churches, 560 church plants, and ministry presence in 76 countries, along with more than 800 leaders currently being trained and more than 1,500 baptisms in the past year. Messengers were also encouraged to remain connected

through the Association in order to strengthen and multiply these efforts, with additional details available in the full Global Impact Report at bmaglobal.org.

Messengers also approved BMA Global recommendations involving new missionaries and church planters.

Lifeword reported continued growth in digital outreach, now sharing the gospel in 175 languages while expanding efforts to meet people where they are.

With individuals spending an average of 2.5 hours per day on social media — and many turning to online platforms for answers to spiritual questions, including a significant number through TikTok — Lifeword emphasized its commitment to providing biblically grounded truth in those spaces.

New initiatives include “Lifeword's Little Learners,” a children's program, and “Awake My Soul” with Yalanda Merrell, a 3-5 minute morning devotional launching May 12 and airing Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Viewers will also be able to sign up to go deeper through text-message study questions, a feature also being provided through the ongoing “Day by Day” devotional with Dr. Clif Johnson.

Daniel Springs Camp reported on the extensive preparations required ahead of the summer camp season. Following last year's deadly flooding at a Texas camp, new state requirements were put in place for camps to be open to campers this summer.

Jason Prewitt shared that many camps may not be able to meet those requirements, but Daniel Springs has been working to comply, including approximately \$40,000 in needed preparations. His report reflected deep gratitude for the workers, volunteers, and staff who have helped make the camp ready, along with thankfulness for the opportunity God continues to provide to invest in students for a week and then see them return home to put what they learned into practice.

Additional reports included BMA Theological Seminary's continued focus on equipping disciple-makers for service in local churches and mission fields, along with growth in enrollment and increasing

opportunities for students both on campus and online.

Baptist Publishing House reported ongoing development of biblically grounded curriculum and resources designed to strengthen local churches, with a continued emphasis on helping believers grow in their understanding and application of God's Word within the life of the church.

BMA Financial highlighted continued growth in retirement and financial services, along with partnerships to assist churches with payroll, bookkeeping, and financial management, helping ministry leaders serve with stability and finish well.

During the business session, a recommendation brought by the Coordinating Council regarding financial oversight language was challenged when a point of order was raised that the recommendation was beyond the scope of the council's duty under the Principles of Cooperation.

The question was put to the body, and messengers voted that the point of order was correct, meaning the recommendation could not be offered by the Coordinating Council.

A joint motion was immediately offered from First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, TX, and Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope, AR, with the wording revised to include the Missions Advisory Committee alongside the other ministry boards.

With the exception of the Coordinating Council recommendation, all previously reported recommendations were approved, and all department leaders were reelected to serve.

In closing business, messengers elected Dr. Gary O'Neal as president, along with Dustin Wisely as first vice president and Tony Crocker as second vice president.

Dr. Charlie Holmes was selected to deliver the 2027 annual message, with Ben Kingston elected to serve as alternate. Additional committee appointments and recommendations were approved.

As messengers departed, the emphasis remained clear — the mission continues “until then,” as churches work together to proclaim the gospel and develop leaders who will carry it forward.

The 2027 National Meeting will be held April 20-22 in Branson, MO, at Chateau on the Lake