

The Challenge

News of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
Fall 2004



Record Number Graduates in May 2004

A record number of twenty-four students received degrees from BMA Seminary during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 15, 2004.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Dennis E. Baker of Imperial, Missouri; Malcolm Bernstine of Flint, Texas; Kofi A. Boahene of Kumasi, Ghana; Michael A. Cormier of Frankston, Texas; Edward Davies of Sierra Leone, West Africa; Harold G. Fox of Palestine, Texas; Derry Hinton of Tyler, Texas; Lloyd D. Licht of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Geoffrey Mwape of Zambia, South Africa, and John C. Smith of Magnolia, Arkansas.

The Master of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Yan-Ru Brown of Beijing, China; Bertram G. Cooper of Lone Oak, Texas; David Hayes of Huntington, Texas; Isaiah E. Kapologwe of Tanzania, East Africa; Jon McKinnon of Tyler, Texas; Jason R. Pointer of Lindale, Texas; Ann M. Snyder of Tyler, Texas; Jodi M. Tisdale of Bagwell, Texas; and Lester W. Vogler of Moore, Oklahoma.

The Master of Divinity degree was awarded to Keith Becker of Piscataway, New Jersey; Robert K. Brown of Conway, Arkansas; Donald W. Burke of Texarkana, Arkansas; Danny W. Linville of Tyler, Texas; and Jeffrey W. Polk of Matthews, Missouri.

H. Edward Ricks, Pastor of Anthony Drive Baptist Church, Ennis, Texas, delivered the commencement address.

Record Number of First-Time Students Arrive for Fall 2004

Though the record is not certain, it is believed that Fall 2004 has seen the largest incoming class of students ever enrolled at BMA Seminary with a total of forty-one.

Dr. Philip Attebery, Seminary Dean, says the number of students is especially encouraging following the record graduation earlier in the year.

He says, *"Many of our new students are from East Texas and Arkansas. These areas have been targeted for marketing during the summer. It seems that the word has gotten out about BMA Seminary. Our hope is to be faithful in rightfully dividing the Bible and to teach accurately what God would have these students to know about His Word and His Work."*



New Students After Chapel Services

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Precois Norcilus, Bertram Cooper, Kofi Boahene,
Shaun Groves, Philip Attebery

Seminary Hires Development Officer

Bertram Cooper has been hired to assist BMA Seminary with development and recruitment. He is a graduate of BMATS (MAR '04) and pastors Believer's Fellowship Baptist Church in Lone Oak, Texas.

Cooper's marketing experience includes positions as Director of Marketing for the entertainment division of Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada and Director of Communication for Sports Marketing at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Cooper calls BMA Seminary a "diamond in the rough in East Texas." He is leading efforts to create maximum exposure of the seminary to specific prospective students and in the community. The seminary has cosponsored several concerts this fall (Newsong, Avalon, Rachel Lampa, Shaun Groves).

The seminary will also host a fall festival in late October in an effort to inform the Jacksonville area of opportunities available through the seminary. The festival will feature music, games, food, health care booths and safety instructions. There will also be antique automobile and model airplane shows.

Amusement Park of Relationships

Dr. Ronnie Johnson, Professor of Christian Education, conducted a relationship seminar at Zion Baptist Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, August 12-15, 2004.

The weekend seminar was an "Amusement Park of Relationships" focusing on how to relate to others better. Attendees learned to master the "Carnival Games" of conflict, communication, commitment and closeness.

The amusement park theme took attendees on the following "rides": the Family Ferris Wheel, the Dating Merry-Go-Round and the Marriage Roller Coaster.

According to Johnson, marriage is the "thrill ride" where relationship skills are most important. That is Johnson's main focus when conducting seminars for churches or associational meetings.

Johnson believes that any marriage can grow stronger by applying Biblical principles which help couples focus on commitment to each other, willingness to work through conflict, and positive communication skills.

Pastor Dennis Baker (BAR '04) believes the seminar was good. He says, "Many of the participants have indicated that the seminar was valuable in identifying problem areas in their own relationships."

Johnson also conducts "Tools for Teaching" workshops to help encourage Christian teachers. He is currently designing a "Power-Tools for Teaching" workshop for those churches and associations who have already held a "Tools for Teaching" workshop.



Johnson at New Zion Baptist Church



Administration

Dr. Charley Holmes, *President*
Dr. Philip W. Attebery, *Dean*
James Blaylock, *Library Director*
Dr. Thom South, *Extension Site*
Bertram G. Cooper, *Development*

Faculty

Dr. Philip R. Bryan, *Theological-Historical*
Dr. Ronnie Johnson, *Christian Education*
Dr. Elton B. McCann, *Church Ministries*
Dr. Harold McNeill, *Theological-Historical*
Dr. Greg W. Parsons, *Biblical Studies*
James D. Shine, *Biblical Studies*

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**"Earnestly Contending
for the Faith"**



Major Projects Underway

Dr. Charley Holmes, Seminary President

The early leaders of the BMA recognized the need for a theologically sound educational institution to train future ministers of the association.

Having such a school has also helped unify our work by helping future leaders to get acquainted.

Relationships begun in a student's seminary years can provide the basis for friendship and communication that foster the advancement of the Kingdom through the BMA.

The BMA Seminary was established almost fifty years ago. In the spirit of Old Testament "Jubilee," the seminary is eager to celebrate this blessing with a Year of Jubilee in 2007-2008!

Because the seminary facilities are fifty years old, several major projects are underway to make needed improvements to the campus.

Faculty Offices

Termites have been a persistent problem at the seminary for at least the past fifteen years. Various attempts at extermination have failed.

This summer demanded a major effort to stop the infestation. This included the total remodeling of four offices used by our professors. Both the termite treatment and remodeling costs have been expensive.

Parking Lot

During the spring, our main sewer line collapsed and required 150 feet of line to be replaced immediately. The line was directly under our main parking lot and resulted in the need to repave the lot which had not been repaved since its installation in 1956.

Boiler Heating System

The main seminary building and library have continued to use the original heating systems (gas fired boilers) since 1956. This system was condemned by a state inspector this spring and will be replaced this fall.

Real Estate

As student enrollment has increased, so has the need for more housing on campus. We recently purchased a house which is adjacent to the campus and are refurbishing it for student housing.

The residence was purchased from the W.E. Nunn family. Other adjacent properties have become available and may need to be purchased for the sake of "controlling the neighborhood."

Remaining Funds Needed

Most of these projects have already been funded. The heating system project still needs \$10,000 to finish. Pray for Kingdom growth for churches and associations who will help meet our needs.

National Day of Prayer

BMA Seminary worked with the City of Jacksonville to initiate a special observance of the 53rd Annual National Day of Prayer on May 6, 2004.

The theme for this year's event was "Let Freedom Ring" based upon Leviticus 25:10.

The event included participation from the United States Army, Cherokee Christian Academy, Jacksonville College and Lon Morris College music departments, local churches and civic leaders.

BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes emceed the program. A proclamation was also read by Jacksonville Mayor Kenneth Durrett and a Color Guard was provided by the United States Army.

Local ministers and residents led in special prayer for unity, governments, media, church, education, family, emergency personnel, children, repentance, praise and thanksgiving, and the United States Armed Forces.

Plans are already being made for the 2005 National Day of Prayer on May 5.



2004 National Day of Prayer

Graduate Spotlight: Dr. Harold McNeill, Jr.



Dr. Harold and Judy McNeill

Dr. Harold McNeill, Jr. was born in Magnolia, Arkansas in 1938 to Harold McNeill, Sr. and Dessarine Paschal McNeill. He graduated from Waldo (AR) High School and attended Southern State College for two years. While attending Southern State (now Southern Arkansas University) he felt God's call to preach.

He enrolled in Jacksonville College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University in 1961. He also graduated with both a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Religious Education degrees from BMA Seminary in 1964.

After his first year of seminary studies, McNeill married Judy Hassell of Neches, Texas. They have two children and one grandchild. Their daughter Joy lives at home. Harold III is married to Stephanie Smith.

McNeill has also earned a Master of Arts from Wheaton College and a Master of Theology from Northern Baptist Seminary. He received a Doctor of Ministry from Texas Christian University in 1973.

McNeill served as a full-time instructor at BMA Seminary from 1967-1972. He has continued as a part-time instructor for the past 27 years. He has taught classes in counseling, theology and church history.

He ministered for twenty-six years as chaplain for the Rusk State Hospital in Rusk, Texas and has several counseling certifications.



Drs. R. Alan Street, Charley Holmes, Hal McNeill

He is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with the State of Texas. He is an associate with the Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, a diplomat with the American Psychotherapy Association, a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and the Association of Mental Clergy.

His pastorates include the Redland Baptist Church in Centerville, Texas, Glenfawn Baptist Church in Cushing, Texas, Enterprise Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas, and two churches in Illinois.

Speaking about BMA Seminary, McNeill says, *"Courses taught by Dr. W.J. Dorman and Dr. Philip Bryan were very meaningful to me. I learned a lot from them. I learned how to counsel at BMA Seminary. Dr. John Gregson taught me the rudimentary process of counseling that helped in my ministry as chaplain for Rusk State Hospital."*

He says, *"Dr. Dorman taught me how to be a Christian gentleman. I was also pretty close to Bro. Louis Asher. We talked for three hours the first time we met. When he died, I realized there was no one else to talk church history with."*

McNeill considers the highlight of his ministry to be the opportunity he had to teach classes at Rusk Hospital for nearly fifteen years which trained seminary students to be better ministers in counseling by putting them into the "real thing." He trained over ninety students in that program.

In 1984, he presented the W.N. Paschal Memorial Bible Lectures on "God in the Wisdom Literature." Bro. Paschal was McNeill's grandfather.

He encourages prospective seminary students to consider BMA Seminary because of the good Bible education and the certainty that theology will be taught from a genuine evangelical and Baptist perspective.

He adds, *"I tell my theology classes, BMA Seminary is founded on Biblical principles and has always stood on them."*

Arkansas Extension Site Grows

BMA Seminary began an extension site on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas during the Fall 2003 semester. Enrollment has doubled for the Fall 2004.

Several new students first learned of the extension site on American Family Radio stations in Arkansas. Advertisements and interviews on FM Stations KWLR 96.9, KANX 91.1 and KBDO 91.7 have generated numerous contacts from prospective students.

Dr. Thom South, Extension Site Administrator, says the program is progressing well. *“Strong fellowship is developing between students and positive feedback is being made about the courses,”* according to South.

Jeremy Miller, a Master of Divinity student from Little Rock, Arkansas, says the extension site *“has opened up a field of ministry to Arkansans that was not available a year ago.”*

Miller recognizes that many students are already pastors and teachers who are taking classes to grow in their personal knowledge of Christ and what it means to be a Christian. *“I have heard other students talk about how much the classes are helping them,”* he said.

Miller also appreciates the range of ages and ministry experience amongst his classmates. *“I can learn a lot from others who have been in ministry for years. I have also been forced to think about what I believe and why. It has made me want to go deeper in my sermon preparation,”* he adds.

Jason Aultman, a Master of Arts in Religion student and minister at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, says the classes provide a great opportunity to people wanting to be in the ministry to gain an educational background.

“The courses have been conveniently scheduled, practical and relevant,” he says, *“They have been helpful for my ministry setting and for personal and spiritual growth.”*

“I would encourage those not in a vocational ministry such as Sunday School teachers and others to take courses for the personal spiritual benefits,” says Aultman.

South agrees, *“We welcome both men and women from the area to enroll and learn with us.”*

The Arkansas Extension Site offers courses leading toward a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion degrees.

35TH PASCHAL LECTURES



Dr. R. Alan Streett

The annual William Newton Paschal Memorial Lectures were held October 5-7, 2004 in the Seminary's Dorman Chapel.

Dr. R. Alan Streett was invited to present the lectures on the topic: *“A Response to Open Theism.”*

Streett serves as Chair/Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry at The Criswell College in Dallas, Texas. He is an experienced author, radio host, cult researcher, church planter and conference speaker.

He has worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and was commissioned to produce a series of tapes on sharing the gospel with cultists.

He and his wife Lynn have three children. He earned degrees from the University of Baltimore, Wesley Theological Seminary and the California Graduate School of Theology.

Updates and Thanks

Thanks to Dr. Virgil Porter and Keith Brown (M.Div. '04) for teaching and assisting with recent motion courses for the seminary.

Congratulations to Donald Hammock (BAR '01) who has taken the Executive Director's position with the East Texas Crisis Center in Jacksonville. He had served the seminary business office since 1999.

Mrs. Janice Bryan has been promoted to a full-time bookkeeper's position for the seminary.



Students in Arkansas

IN MEMORY OF:

HARRY ATTEBERY

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
RONNIE & ALICIA JOHNSON

JOHN ATTEBERY

MRS. PEGGY ATTEBERY

JAMES AUSTIN

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
HAROLD & ANITA SMALL
WORKER'S CLASS, FIRST
JACKSONVILLE, TX

W. E. & MARGIE

BARNETTE
NEATHA CAGLE

JIM BASS

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

HALLEY & ZELMA BOX

HAROLD & ANITA SMALL

RALPH BRAND

ROY GRIMSLEY

HERBERT BRANHAM

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

CALVIN BURTIS

MRS. KATHY BURTIS

GLADYS CHANCELLOR

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

PAUL CONGOUR

PEGGY ATTEBERY

BERTA LOU CROCKETT

JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

MARGARET DAVIS

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

WILEY & INEZ DEBERRY

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

HERBERT DUKE

JIM & CAROL SHINE

BUCK FLING

LADIES SS CLASS,
CORINTH,
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS

GLADYS GARRETT

WMA, WEDDINGTON
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

JOE GUIN

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, TX

DONALD N. HAMPTON

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

OPIE HEFNER

THOMAS & JUDY SOUTH

CALVIN RICHARD HOBBS

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

CECIL JONES

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

FILOMENO KAKILALA, SR.

JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

DR. GERALD KELLAR

BARBARA H. RARICK

DARRELL KINCHEN

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

J. L. MCEACHERN

HAROLD & ANITA SMALL

BERNICE MURPHY

BILLIE G. & NELL HAYS
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
HAROLD & ANITA SMALL
TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

FARIS MUSICK

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

HANSEL PEARCE

PAT PEARCE

CAROLYN PENDLETON

JOE PENDLETON

REV. O. R. PERKINS

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

DR. WILLIAM C. PRUITT, JR.

ELLEN RUTH PRUITT

CHRIS ROBERTS

TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

BRO. M. G. ROBINSON

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

R. E. & DORTIE SARTOR

JANICE SARTOR TURNER
MARCUS & LINDA STEEN

BRO. BILL SKINNER

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

HAROLD & LUCILLE

SMALL
HAROLD & ANITA SMALL

TUCKER G. SMITH

LADIES SS CLASS, CORINTH
JACKSONVILLE, TX

J. C. SOUTH

HAZEL I. HOYLE

LUCILLE STEPHENS

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK
TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

LYNN STEPHENS

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

ERICK JEROME

SWEARENGIN
JIM & CAROL SHINE

PRESTON & CASSIE

TANKERSLEY
EUGENE TANKERSLEY

JOSEPH WARREN (BUD)

TANNER
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

JEFF THORNTON

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

MAMIE TURNER

WMA WEDDINGTON
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

MARGARET ANN TURNER

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

EVELYN WESTBROOK

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
MR. & MRS. DON CRAWFORD
RONNIE & ALICIA JOHNSON

IN HONOR OF:

PHILIP ATTEBERY

JIM & JUNE TAYLOR

JAMES BLAYLOCK

ALICIA JOHNSON

MRS. TRACY (BEATRICE)

BULIN
D. ESTELLE CAGLE

TRACY BULIN

MRS. TRACY (BEATRICE)
BULIN

PASTOR CARROL

BROOKS
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

KEITH & YAN-RU BROWN

HELEN J. RAY

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

TEAGUE, TX
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

LIBERTY BAPTIST

CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

REV. RAYMOND GOODWIN

WADE & MARGARET LEE

REV. & MRS. J. D.

HUDSON
TONY & JERRIE S. CLEAVER

DR. RONNIE JOHNSON

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH
MAGNOLIA, AR

FILOMENO KAKILALA

EASTGATE, WALLA WALLA,
WA

MARY LOU KELLAR

BARBARA RARICK

MARVIN LOYD

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

PASTOR JACK MCDANIEL

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

ELDER MELVIN MEADE

CLARENCE CRAWFORD

MRS. EUNICE SANBORN

DORCAS SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS,
FIRST, JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS

GARY & ELAINE SMITH

CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

Evangelism Report: Farley Street Baptist, Waxahachie, Texas

The *Baptist Progress* recently included an article entitled, "Wes Coleson a Man on a Mission with a Message."

Coleson, a member of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, attended the BMA Seminary's Evangelism Explosion clinic in Summer 2004 at New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

After being diagnosed with cancer and having received radiation and chemotherapy treatments, Coleson began to cry one morning as he stared out the window. His wife, Patricia, asked if he was afraid to die? He said, "No, Patricia, I'm not afraid to die. I'm ashamed to die. I am 59 years old and I have never won one soul to Jesus."



Dr. Philip Attebery

Dean Recognized for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Philip Attebery, Seminary Dean and Professor, has been honored for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for 2004.

Teachers recognized by *Who's Who* are nominated by former honor students or because of outstanding achievements as recognized by their community and peers.

Attebery taught as a Bible Chair for Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas for ten years. He has also served as a part-time professor for BMA Seminary since 1995. He became dean in 2000 and continues to teach part-time for the school.

Knowing that God wanted them to be involved in a local church, the Colesons joined Farley Street in January 2003. He became involved in the church outreach ministry and Evangelism Explosion (EE).

Pastor Richard Smith (MAR '95) had recognized some time before that Farley Street was weak in the ministry of evangelism. He asked the church staff to pray about how the church might change. The answer was EE.

Smith realized that unless the pastor is supportive of the EE ministry then it would most likely struggle to work. He decided to enroll in the seminary's 2003 Evangelism Explosion clinic offered at New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler. David Gradberg served the church as youth minister at the time and also came to the EE clinic.

Smith says the EE ministry has been very successful at Farley Street. "Our folks have become very excited and EE has added a new dimension of excitement to our church," he said, "For example, Bro. Coleson was able to lead two people to the Lord this week."

Smith encourages other pastors to consider EE for their ministries. He says, "EE works for large or small congregations and communities. It just works. Because of EE, we have seen people witnessing who once said they were too scared or not able to do so."

Dr. Charley Holmes, Seminary President, says, "It is exciting to see pastors doing what it takes to equip their people for the work of the ministry. I am glad to know the seminary's emphasis upon evangelism training is helping our graduates and churches. I hope others will consider EE."

Gift Annuities

BMA Seminary Single-Life Gift Annuity Rates Effective Through June 30, 2005.

Gift annuities are a means of giving to BMA Seminary and receiving a lifetime income. This form of giving offers several advantages. You receive a charitable deduction for a portion of the funds contributed to obtain the Gift Annuity, and a portion of the fixed-rate income you receive is nontaxable.

Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
70	6.5	77	7.4	84	9.2
71	6.6	78	7.6	85	9.5
72	6.7	79	7.8	86	9.9
73	6.8	80	8.0	87	10.2
74	6.9	81	8.3	88	10.6
75	7.1	82	8.5	89	11.0
76	7.2	83	8.8	90+	11.3

For ages under 70 and for two-life rates, please contact the BMA Seminary President, Dr. Charley Holmes, to request a proposal at BMA Seminary, 1530 E. Pine St., Jacksonville, TX 75766 or 903-586-2501.

Master's-In-Motion January 2005

New Testament Introduction & Survey II (NT 512)

January 3-7

Dr. Wilbur K. Benningfield

Worship Leadership Theology of Worship (PM 321/521)

January 10-14

Dr. Charley Holmes

Registration deadline is November 19, 2004. Courses may also be taken for non-credit and personal growth.

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We would really like to know how to keep in touch with you! Please help us by letting us know if your address has changed or if you think we do not have a correct address for you! Thanks for thinking about BMA Seminary!

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Dean's Honor Roll for Spring 2004

Students must have at least a 3.5 grade point average, have no letter grades below "B," and must be enrolled in at least four courses.

- Thomas Ayres (MATS-TX)
- Kofi Boahene (BAR-Ghana)
- Michael Cormier (BAR-TX)
- David Erickson (MDiv-MO)
- Wesley Hulvey (BAR-MO)
- Shirish Kasab (MAR-India)
- John C. Smith (BAR-AR)

BMA Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; Phone 404-679-4501) to award the Associate of Divinity, Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and Master of Divinity degrees.