

THE CHALLENGE

News of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary | May 31, 2006

This Generation . . . for Christ, for discipleship, for missions

Since the inception of BMA Seminary, two verses of scripture have been our touchstones: Earnestly contend for the faith from Jude 3 and teaching others to teach others from II Timothy 2:2. The 2006 theme for the annual association meeting of the BMAA is This Generation . . . for Christ, for discipleship, for missions. Jude 3 and II Timothy 2:2 go hand-in-hand with the seminary's efforts to make the theme a reality.

This generation . . . for Christ. Teaching young ministerial leaders to proclaim that there is no other name under heaven whereby men may be saved but that of Jesus Christ; this is earnestly contending for the faith.

This generation . . . for discipleship. Paul told Timothy to take the things that he had learned from him and teach them to faithful men; this is real disciple making (II Timothy 2:2). Faithful seminary professors that subscribe to the BMAA Doctrinal Statement and who learned from faithful men are teaching and making disciples of young preachers.

This generation . . . for missions. Paul's reason for telling Timothy to teach the doctrines to faithful men was to disciple them so they could take those scriptural doctrines around the world to others; this is missions.

These actions are illustrated by the seminary's ministry in January 2006. First, I was privileged to teach a seminary course at the BMA Bible Institute near Aquismon, Mexico on the Theology of Worship. Missionary Ricky Williams, a BMA Seminary graduate, has hosted several BMA Seminary professors through the years to provide training for our national missionaries from all across Mexico. Faithful men taught Brother Williams, myself and other professors

these same things years ago, enabling us to pass them along to other faithful men.

Second, Fiodor Baraniuk attended the seminary in the 1990s. He came to the United States from Russia along with two other students from the former Soviet Union. These students sought training that opposed many of the false teachings that plagued much of Eastern Europe including a denial of eternal security of believers. They hoped for solid training that would help them to earnestly contend for the faith.

Each student graduated and is currently teaching others. One is nearing completion of a doctoral degree and Dr. Baraniuk earned a Ph.D. in Missiology. He spent part of January 2006 teaching a Church Planting course to BMA Seminary students. He has taught for the seminary's extension site at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas

and continues to serve BMAA missions as coordinator for Russian ministries. He is a product of faithful men preparing other faithful men and an example of how the BMA Seminary helps to strengthen our work worldwide.

Men such as Drs. Gerald Kellar, D.N. Jackson and W.J. Dorman taught men like Dr. Philip Bryan, a BMA Seminary graduate, president-emeritus, and professor. Dr. Bryan taught men like Ricky Williams and myself. Both of us taught Fiodor Baraniuk who is now teaching others. Similar to a chain, links of earnestly contending for the faith by teaching others to teach stretch around the world from the BMA Seminary

This ministry is not an inexpensive endeavor. Our utilities, insurance, and maintenance costs continue to increase just as they do for others. As we approach



Dr. Charley Holmes, Dr. John Gregson and Dr. Philip Bryan

the Golden Anniversary of the seminary's ministry (2007), certain steps are necessary to insure that our students (future pastors and missionaries) will have the resources needed to learn most effectively. For example, we must expand and refurbish our campus by re-roofing Dorman Chapel and Gregson Student Center, expanding Kellar Library, and re-flooring all of the main buildings.

The seminary has not requested a special offering from our churches in four years. By God's grace, and good stewardship by our Trustees and Administration, we have not made emergency appeals for funds. I am asking our churches to recognize these blessings by helping us Celebrate our Jubilee by receiving a special offering on Seminary Sunday, June 11, 2006, during the annual May and June Seminary Emphasis period. The past four years of not burdening the churches with endless appeals proves that the Seminary handles your offerings wisely. A strong offering on Seminary Sunday will enable us to begin the tasks of re-roofing and re-flooring immediately and give our campaign an optimistic start.

Thanks for your support and encouragement. Pray for us as we seek to make This Generation . . . for Christ, for discipleship, for missions a reality.



Dr. Holmes



Chesser Receives Kellar Award



Ron Chesser, executive director of Ministers Resource Services for the Baptist Missionary Association of America, received the seminary's Kellar Award for 2006 during the Seminary Friends Dinner held April 25, 2006 in Mobile, Alabama.

Chesser surrendered to ministry in 1959 and married Gloria Hudson in 1962. They have two daughters. He graduated with honors from Jacksonville College and earned the Th.B. degree with honors from BMA Seminary in 1965.

He has served six BMA churches as pastor, the BMA of Texas as vice president and chairman of the Nominating Committee, and also as a trustee for Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College and BMA Credit Union. He has also served on the BMA of America Nominating Committee and as trustee for the BMA Seminary including years as chairman (1996-1999).

The Gerald D. Kellar Award was created in 2004 to honor seminary graduates whose ministries have typified that of Dr. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary (1956-1967)



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. Greg W. Parsons, Biblical Studies
 Dr. James D. Shine, Biblical Studies

1530 East Pine St.
 Jacksonville, TX 75766
 903-586-2501/800-259-5673
 AR Site: 501-328-5776
 E-mail: bmatsem@bmatsem.edu
 Web: www.bmatsem.edu

"Earnestly Contending for the Faith"

Dr. John Gregson Prepares History of BMA Seminary

Dr. John W. Gregson has prepared an extensive historical record of the seminary entitled *Earnestly Contending for the Faith: A Fifty-Year History of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary*. Pleasant Word released the book in 2006.

Gregson, who has served the seminary as professor, registrar, and president, is uniquely qualified to write the book. Dr. Philip Bryan, BMATS Professor and President-emeritus, said, "He was with the school at the very beginning and on the original faculty and staff. For most of the past fifty years he has been connected in one way or another with this school. He has been personally a planner, participant and

observer of the whole history!"

The book details the seminary's origins, Dean's Lists, Bible Conferences, fund-raising efforts, expansion of campus facilities, annual reports, teachers, graduates and more. Pictures of the first graduating class, faculty, and administration are also present while chapters detail significant events of each decade.

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMATS Dean, says, "This historical record will be an pleasurable read for those who love both the BMA Seminary and the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Many people are mentioned by name, which will bring back fond memories for many. It is also a pleasure

to see how God's Word has remained a focus of the seminary through the years just as it continues to be."

Copies of the book are available through the seminary bookstore for a cost of \$20.

Seminary Enhances Accreditation

The BMA Seminary Graduate Studies Division has been granted candidate status with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The association serves as the premier accrediting agency for graduate level theological institutions in the United States and Canada. The status was granted in January 2006.

While the seminary has maintained associate membership with ATS since 1972 it has anticipated the opportunity to enhance its accreditation with ATS. The move to candidate membership is intended to advance the seminary toward full membership.

The seminary's dual affiliation with ATS and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), since 1986, has provided a high level of quality accreditation for each seminary degree program. SACS accredits each of the seminary's associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. ATS accreditation provides additional recognition to the master's degrees.

The mission of ATS "is to promote the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of communities of faith and the broader public." This is done by accreditation, providing leadership education, consultation, communication and data for theological schools.

Revisions to Seminary Master's Degrees

Several adjustments to the seminary's graduate studies programs will be introduced for the fall semester of 2006.

The Master of Divinity degree will remain a 90 semester hour program that includes Biblical, Theological-Historical, Church Ministry and Religious Education studies. The Biblical studies include Greek and Hebrew.

The Master of Arts in Specialized Ministry will allow students to specialize in one of three areas: Church Ministry, Christian Education or Pastoral Counseling. The degree is 60 semester hours and also includes Biblical, Theological-Historical, Church Ministry and Religious Education studies.

The Master of Arts (Religion) and Master

of Arts (Theological Studies) degrees are 36 semester hour degrees. They require advanced theological study or prior extensive undergraduate studies in religion and/or other appropriate foundational areas as a prerequisite for admission.

The Seminary Board of Trustees approved the faculty recommendations regarding revision of the school's graduate degrees during its meeting February 24, 2006.

BMA Seminary maintains Divisions of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies. Undergraduate degrees include the Associate of Divinity and the Bachelor of Arts in Religion. Graduate studies are also available through the seminary's Arkansas Extension Site at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas.

FAITHFUL 100

BMA Seminary is looking for 100 Companies, Churches and/or Individuals who can support the seminary for one year at \$100 per month. These Faithful 100 will assist students with their financial needs and allow them to work diligently (without added stress of finances) at being trained to become servants to their calling and servants to their communities.

Would you consider joining the dozens who have already been gracious to pledge their support?

Contact President Charley Holmes or Development Officer Bertram Cooper at the seminary for more information (903-586-2501 or 800-259-5673).



McDonald Receives Asher Scholarship

Grady McDonald is the recipient of the annual Louis F. and Jean Asher Scholarship for 2006.

McDonald serves the Calvary Baptist Church, Gilmer, Texas as pastor. He is married to Robin McDonald. They have three children.

He attended Jacksonville College and is a graduate of Panola College where he earned an Associate of Science degree in 2003. He also made the seminary Dean's List in Fall 2005.

The award was announced during a seminary chapel service on February 14, 2006. Members of the Asher family and Glenfawn Baptist Church, Cushing, Texas were present for the award. Bro. Gerald Pepper, Pastor of Glenfawn Baptist Church and a 1971 B.D. graduate of BMATS, delivered a sermon during the chapel service.

The Louis F. Asher Scholarship was established by the Glenfawn Church as a memorial to her former pastor and to



promote and to reward good scholarship. The church decided to add the name of Mrs. Jean Asher to the scholarship in 2006.

Seminary Enjoys Chapel Services

BMA Seminary has been privileged through the years to enjoy designated chapel services during regular fall and spring semesters.



BMA Seminary Chapel Service

The seminary's block scheduling of courses allows a break for chapel on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Pressures to perform academically may cause neglect of a student's personal devotional and spiritual growth. Chapel services are intended to provide opportunity for and encourage spiritual growth of the entire seminary family (students, faculty, administrative personnel).

In addition to seminary faculty and administrators, several guests presented

messages during chapel services in Spring 2006. They included: Jim Lea, Wade Allen, Dr. John Gregson, Gerald Pepper, Don Collins, Dallas Holm, Dr. Bruce Webb, Malcolm Bernstine, David Erickson, Tim Gresham, Stan Scroggins, Dock Lazarine, Merritt Youngdeer, Arthur Bridges, Jerry Fulton, Terry Bolton, Donnie Hammock, James Richey, Bill Stewart, Keith Brown, Mark Hood and Dr. Harry Blake.

2006 Summer and Fall Classes

Several courses are being held during the Summer 2006. Intensive week long "Motion" courses in Evangelism, New Testament Introduction and Survey, Systematic Theology, Intermediate Greek and Creative Teaching help students to earn a seminary degree in a nontraditional format. Students may also take courses for personal enrichment and without academic credit.

The Fall 2006 schedule of courses has been released and is available on the seminary's website (www.bmats.edu). Fall registration is scheduled for August 14-18 and classes begin August 28. Most courses meet just one day a week for the convenience of students. Interested students for both the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas and the extension site in Conway, Arkansas should contact the dean's office in Jacksonville for more information regarding application and registration.

Gift Annuities

BMA Seminary Single-Life Gift Annuity Rates Effective as of June 2006

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 75766-5407 or 903-586-2501.

2006 BMA Seminary Graduates

Fifteen individuals received degrees from BMA Seminary during commencement exercises held on Saturday, May 20, 2006.

The Associate of Divinity degree was awarded to Bernice Heath of Linden, Texas. The Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Philip S. Blamo of Monrovia, Liberia; Richard Jason Trotter Curry of Jacksonville, Texas; David D. Darst of Alto, Texas; Barbara S. Gust of Jacksonville, Texas; and Christopher D. Price of Crockett, Texas.

The Master of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Jason M. Aultman of Conway, Arkansas; Dennis E. Baker of Imperial, Missouri; Curtis H. Collins, II of Longview, Texas; Douglas L. Jackson of Tyler, Texas; William Issac Plotts of Normangee, Texas; and Terrance R. Wright of Yantis, Texas.



The Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree was awarded to Malcolm Bernstine of Shreveport, Louisiana. The Master of Divinity degree was awarded to Dr. Daniel Baber of Tyler, Texas. The Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree was awarded to James D. Shine of Jacksonville, Texas.

Dr. John Adams, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi, delivered the commencement address.

Dean's List Fall 2005

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.

Master of Divinity
Jason M. Adams
Christopher L. George
Joshua K. Njenga
Lamont Risner
Jake D. Vandenberg

Master of Arts in Religion
Charles Timothy Brewer
Dustin H. Cameron
Timothy Gresham

Bachelor of Arts in Religion
Patrice Anaab
Richard Jason T. Curry
David D. Darst
Matthew N. Korzeniewski
Grady McDonald
Justin Owens
Philip C. Parks
Timothy L. Richardson
Joel Warren

Associate of Divinity
Gary Bowman
Denise Doughtie
Lucy W. Kamau
Edgar Roberson

The BMA Seminary would really like to know how to keep in touch with you! Please do not have a correct address for you! Thanks for thinking about BMA Seminary!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please check below if you would like more information regarding gift annuities _____

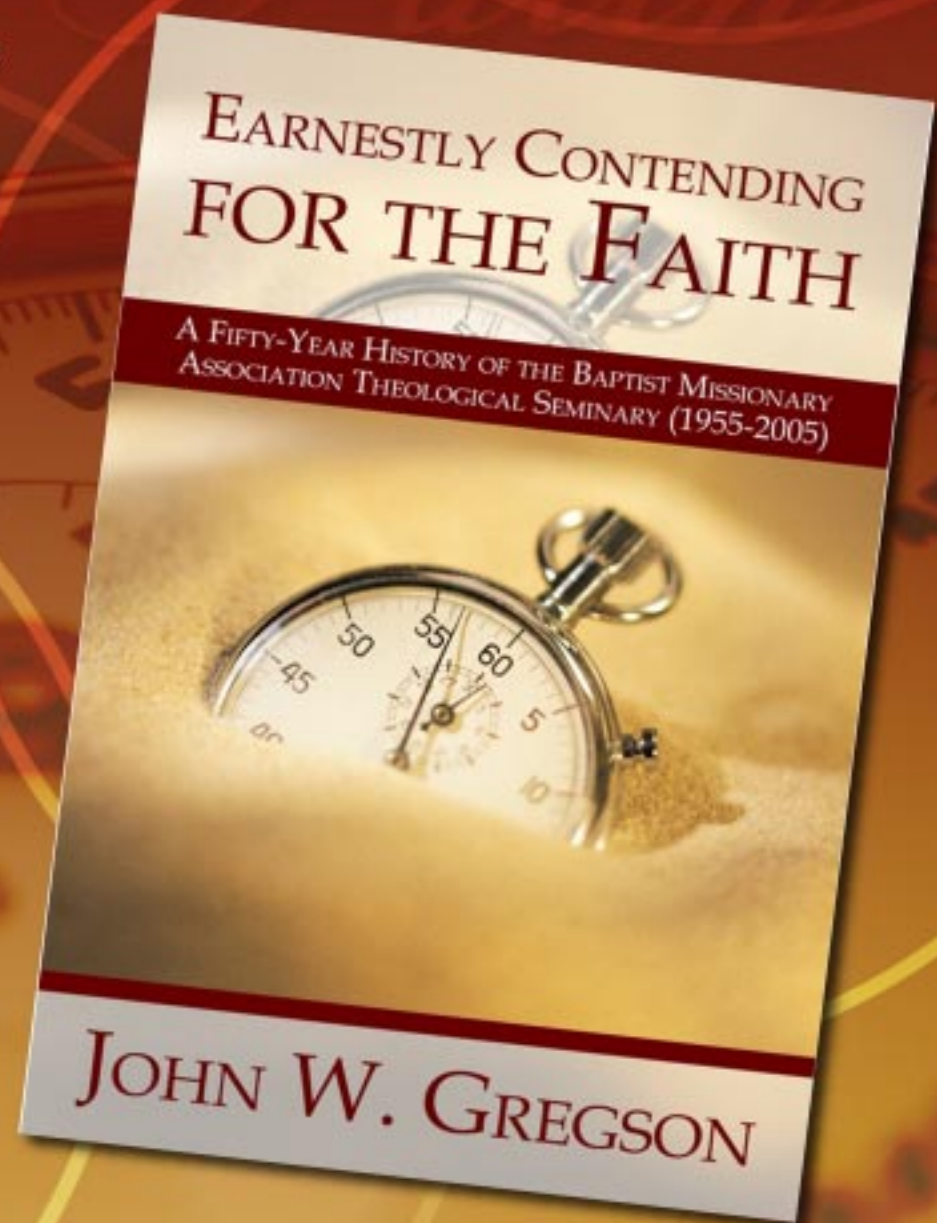


EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

A FIFTY-YEAR HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST
MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

by Dr. John W. Gregson

A MUST READ FOR
ANYONE WHO LOVES
THE BMA SEMINARY
AND THE BMA
OF AMERICA



Available through the BMA Seminary Bookstore or through the BMA Seminary's online bookstore at www.bmats.edu.