

# The Challenge

News of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

Spring 2005



Students Prepare for Evangelism Visitation

## Evangelism & Discipleship Changing Lives

BMA Seminary continues to emphasize evangelism and discipleship by training students in Evangelism Explosion. Several students have commented about the positive changes this emphasis has made in their lives.

*"The teaching gives me the boldness to witness as we go to places that I never thought of going to share the gospel. EE is also teaching me how to train others who are interested in sharing the Gospel. It gives me more opportunity to fulfill God's Great Commission,"* says Philip Blamo, B.A.R. student.

Chris Price, B.A.R. student, says, *"I now have the confidence and ability to share Christ with anyone in any situation. I am most excited about being able to 'equip the saints' as a pastor."*

C.H. Collins, M.A.R. student, says, *"EE has brought back my enthusiasm about witnessing to others in a powerful way. It has given me the encouragement that was well needed when I was seemingly at a plateau of life."*

*"I have become more confident in sharing the Gospel outside of the class,"* says Jason Curry, B.A.R. student, *"It has shown me that expressing the Gospel is not to be a hard thing to do but an expression of the greatest news I've ever heard and would like to share with others."*

See **EVANGELISM**, Page 8

## Seminary, Salvador, Golf, National Day of Prayer

BMA Seminary development and recruitment efforts for 2005 have taken a new approach to fund-raising and promotion.

The Texas leg of the "So Natural" Concert Tour with Salvador, By-the-Tree, and Ricardo is being sponsored by BMA Seminary as a scholarship fundraiser. Concerts in Waco, Tyler, Houston, Corpus Christi, and Carrollton (Dallas) will be held April 21-29, 2005.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Tomato Fest in Jacksonville will include a golf tournament June 10, 2005 to provide funds for higher education in Jacksonville. BMA Seminary, Jacksonville College, and Lon Morris College will benefit from funds raised.

The seminary will also take the lead in organizing National Day of Prayer events on Thursday, May 5, 2005. The day will include a special Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and services in the Dorman Memorial Chapel on the seminary's campus.

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Dr. Harold "Hal" McNeill, Jr.

## McNeill to Retire After 33 Years

Dr. Harold M. McNeill, Jr., Professor of Theological-Historical Studies and Christian Education, is set to retire from teaching after thirty-three years with BMA Seminary.

McNeill has served the seminary in both full and part-time capacities as a professor in counseling, theology, and church history. He ministered for twenty-six years as chaplain for the Rusk State Hospital in Rusk, Texas and has earned several counseling certifications.

President Charley Holmes said, "Dr. McNeill's broad range of knowledge and expertise has given students a unique perspective of the ministry. His contributions to BMATS are greatly appreciated."

McNeill and his wife Judy have two grown children— Joy and Harold III. He is also a graduate of BMA Seminary with a B.D and M.R.E. degrees.

## Chitty Receives Asher Scholarship

Monte Chitty is the recipient of the annual Louis F. Asher Scholarship for 2005.

Chitty is originally from Alice, Texas and is currently working toward a Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree.

He is also a graduate of Hannibal-Lagrange College where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology in 1992.

He and his wife Sylvia have five children: Jessica, Roger, Rachel, Joseph and Larissa.

Chitty made the Dean's List in Fall 2004 and has spent much of his ministry planting churches in the State of Nevada.

The award was announced during a seminary chapel service on February 22, 2005. Mrs. Jean Asher and her children Michael, Patrick, and Martha were present for the award along with members of Glenfawn Baptist Church of Cushing, Texas.

Bro. Asher was an avid historian and authored the book *John Clarke (1609-1676): Pioneer in American Medicine, Democratic Ideals, and Champion of Religious Liberty*.

Bro. Asher served BMA Seminary as a professor for twenty-five years. He also spent twenty years as pastor of the Glenfawn Church.

He served in the U.S. Maritime Service during World War II and was a decorated veteran of the Korean War.

The scholarship was established by the Glenfawn Church as a memorial to their pastor and to promote good scholarship.



Monte Chitty, Pastor Gerald Pepper, and Asher Family



### 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"**



## What Does "Seminary" Mean?

President, Dr. Charley Holmes

"Lifting Up His Name—Living Up to Ours" is the theme for the 2005 BMA of America National Meeting.

The word "seminary" in our name says more than some may realize. Originally, the word was used to describe an area under cultivation, such as a vegetable or herb garden— a seed bed.

BMA Seminary cultivates a unique planting— the growth of Bible preaching and missions minded soul winners.

How do we grow that kind of plant? We start with the right soil, The Living Word of God and by adding professors who believe and teach the absolute inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures.

The Bible is perfect and complete and is the ultimate authority for all of our doctrine and practice. That perfect soil is cultivated with soul winning.

All the proper doctrine in the world is of no avail if it is not put into practice. The seminary's marching orders are in the Great Commission— to make disciples. The disciple making process has soul winning at its core. To our knowledge, few seminaries emphasize a stronger evangelism program than BMA Seminary.

The soil is further nurtured with intense exposure to missions in the context of our associational work. State and national workers are allowed to promote or recruit at BMA Seminary.

Our trustees, administrators, and teachers believe that to be the kind of planting the association expects from its seminary.

We are grateful to have experienced nearly 50 years of helping grow the right kind of pastors and missionaries and are looking forward to our Jubilee of living up to our name and purpose. Recent blessings give us great expectations for the future.

The Lord has given us a record number of new students (i.e., plants) in our "seed bed." We began the fall semester with a record enrollment of 112.

Through the generosity of associations and several individuals and churches, our outdated boiler system has been replaced with more efficient heating and cooling units.

Our trustees have lead in the funding of our parking lot resurfacing needs by contributing monies to cover nearly half of the \$15,800 project.

The purchase of properties adjacent to the seminary campus has provided a potential 20-40% increase in student housing.

At this time, all our financial obligations are current with only indebtedness related to our real estate purchases and a small balance for the parking lot.

Pastor, please lead your church in a special prayer for our ministry on "Seminary Sunday" May 15, 2005.

## SUMMER 2005 MOTION SCHEDULE

**Biblical Evangelism**  
(Evangelism Explosion)

June 13-17

Drs. Philip Attebery and  
Charley Holmes  
Central Baptist College\*  
Conway, Arkansas

**General Church History I**  
(CH 511)

June 27-July 1

Dr. Ron Mitchell

**Christian Counseling**  
(RE 326/536)

July 11-15

Dr. Ronnie Johnson

**Pastoral Ministry**  
(PM 511)

July 18-22

Dr. Allen Tilley

**Intermediate Greek**  
(Grk 415)

August 1-5

Professor James Shine

**Registration and Application**  
Deadline is May 6, 2005.

\*All courses will be held at  
BMA Seminary in  
Jacksonville, TX except for  
EE!

Limited housing is available  
and all courses may be  
taken for non credit.



Chaplain Bankston at Fort Stewart

## Graduate Spotlight: Chaplain Forrest Bankston, Jr.

Forrest "Bo" Bankston, Jr., was born November 22, 1951 in Laurel, Mississippi and graduated from Magee High School in 1969. He married Debbie J. (Magee) in 1970 and they have two sons: Joseph and John. Bankston is one of several BMATS graduates who have served as military chaplains in Iraq. His early military career began in 1969 with the Mississippi Army National Guard and continued in 1972 with Active Duty Army.

His call to the ministry came while serving at Fort Bragg, NC. He was licensed to preach by College Lakes Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, in January of 1983. While serving as a pastor and continuing his education, from 1983 to 1986, he was in the Inactive Ready Reserve (Army Reserve) and in 1986 he rejoined the Mississippi Army National Guard. He has pastored four Baptist churches; Providence, Mize, MS; Pleasant View, Dallas, TX; Central, Long Beach, MS, and his current pastorate, Woodland, Columbus, MS.

He received his A.A. degree from Jones County Community College in 1985 and his B.A. in English from William Carey College in 1987. Like many students who move to Texas from another state, the Bankstons experienced a warm welcome. *"We arrived in Jacksonville in July 1987. Bro. Doug Wilson, then the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, really helped us to get settled and to find a place to live. Our family moved our church letters and served at Friendship until we left Jacksonville, in the spring of 1988. I accepted the pastorate of Pleasant View Baptist Church in May of 1988 and we moved to Mesquite, TX shortly thereafter. For the next two years I commuted to the seminary."*

Memories of his time spent as a student at the BMA Seminary include good quality relationships. *"My first year at the Seminary was difficult but very rewarding. I remember that there was a sweet fellowship among the students and faculty. It was especially good for me because the classes were small and the professors were friendly and always helpful. I don't remember exactly how many began the M.Div program in the fall of 1987 but as I remember there were only two that finished in 1990, myself and Dr. Philip Attebery."*

Bankston began his chaplaincy ministry after seminary graduation in May 1990. In 1991, he was commissioned 1LT MSARNG as a chaplain. In December 2003, he was mobilized for Active Duty and in February 2004 was deployed to Iraq – FOB Al Taqaddum, Al Fullujah, Iraq. After serving for a year, he demobilized from Active Duty in February of 2005.

***"My studies at the seminary gave me a basic Biblical foundation for both the pastorate and for the military chaplaincy. I have personally recommended our seminary to many prospective students. One can still get a quality Biblical education at the BMA Seminary and the cost is very reasonable."***

Chaplain Bo Bankston



Easter Sunrise service Al Taqaddum, Iraq



Bro. Ronald Morgan

## Morgan to Receive Kellar Award

Bro. Ronald Morgan has been chosen as the recipient of the BMA Seminary's 2005 Gerald D. Kellar Award for recognition of outstanding contribution, service, or participation in Christian ministry.

The award was created in 2004 to honor seminary graduates whose ministries typified that of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary.

Morgan, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Springhill, Louisiana since 1999, received his A.Div. from BMA Seminary in 1990. He served several years as a seminary trustee.

He also served Webb Chapel Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas from 1971-1999 and has served in numerous BMA positions of local, state and national leadership. National leadership has included three terms as vice-president and four terms as President of the BMA of America.

Dr. Kellar served as the seminary's first president from 1956-1967. He was instrumental in the organization of the BMA of America and served as president of each BMA institution of higher learning.

In 1964, the BMA Seminary library was named Kellar Library in his honor. He passed away in May of 2001.



## Students Handle Seminary Maintenance

BMA Seminary has been blessed through the years with students who are both capable and eager to work in areas of campus physical plant maintenance.

In addition to regular indoor cleaning and yard work, several major projects have required extra maintenance attention by the seminary maintenance personnel over the past year.

Dr. Philip Attebery, Seminary Dean, says, "The quality work done each year by student workers helps provide for a more positive learning environment on campus in both classrooms and student housing. Their work is greatly appreciated."

## Atteberys and Johnsons Contribute to Romance Book

Dr. Philip and Stephanie Attebery and Dr. Ronnie and Alicia Johnson contributed to a recently published book on marriage entitled *Romancing Your Wife* by authors Debra White Smith and Daniel W. Smith. The book is published by Harvest House Publishers.

Drs. Attebery and Johnson contributed to *101 Ways to Romance Your Marriage* in 2003. Their wives were invited to join in with the latest project and write on the theme, "What My Husband Does Right."

Dr. Attebery's contributions dealt with areas of communication within marriage. Dr. Johnson's writing dealt with romantic notions, keeping romance alive, and romance in crisis.

Each of the contributors stresses that the book is for married couples with maturity. Dr. Attebery says, "The Bible has much to say about human relations. A wise husband will be eager to learn and apply what the Bible says about romance, fidelity and provision for his wife."



Dr. George Cooper

## Brand Lectures Spiritual Emphasis Week

The 2005 "Brand "Lectures" were held March 1 and 3 in the BMA Seminary's Dorman Chapel.

Dr. George Cooper, Pastor of Grace Temple Baptist Church, San Angelo, Texas, was invited to present the lectures.

Dr. Cooper is a graduate of BMA Seminary (M.R.E., '76) and lectured on the theme: "Breakout Pastors!"

He has been a BMA of Texas church-health specialist for several years and is a regular contributor to the *Baptist Progress*.

The lectures are named in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Brand of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

## Arkansas Professors Take Similar Roads for Education

The BMA Seminary Extension Site in Conway, Arkansas has an outstanding faculty teaching courses on the campus of Central Baptist College.

Three professors teaching in Spring 2005 have an M.Div. degree from BMA Seminary and an earned doctorate from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Joel Slayton (M.Div. '78) teaches Biblical Hebrew and has served CBC for 28 years as professor and/or administrator. He is pleased to see many CBC graduates in his Hebrew class. *"The very fact that they are continuing their education is exciting. We've always encouraged students to continue their education beyond the college level. This program affords a marvelous opportunity to help them. It also gives us an opportunity to see them evolve and mature in their Christian walk, and that is a tremendous blessing."*

Dr. Fiodor Baraniuk (M.Div. '99) is the son of a Baptist pastor from Russia who maintained ministry during the communist era under a constant governmental threat. Those experiences and his expertise as the Russian coordinator for BMAA Missions offer distinctive insights into his world missions classes.

He says, *"I am glad for the opportunity to teach at the BMA Seminary extension campus. The seminary has meant so much to me and I am happy to share what I have learned and experienced with the students."*

Dr. Thom South (M.Div. '86) serves as the seminary's extension site administrator and teaches courses in theology and church history.

Dr. South is the son of a BMA pastor/missionary and was reared in New Mexico before attending CBC. He has served as pastor or on staff of churches in six states and has taught as an adjunct instructor at CBC for 12 years.

While the three professors followed similar educational paths to teach at the extension campus, their instruction is not as narrow as that fact might indicate. Because they earned their degrees in different decades and pursued different emphases in their studies, they offer a "broad-scope" view into theological education for their students.

South adds, *"I am pleased to have these men working with me to train the students of the extension campus. They are eminently qualified for the task. My goal for the extension program is to provide a quality education with wide appeal that addresses the broad spectrum of theological study. The diverse backgrounds of our professors insure that the students will receive wide exposure and be adequately trained for the work to which God has called them."*



Drs. Baraniuk, South, Slayton



Dr. Johnson with Students in Aquismon

## Professors Visit Mexico

Dr. Ronnie Johnson, BMA Seminary Professor of Christian Education, recently spent a week in Mexico with missionary Ricky Williams (M.Div '78) and the Bible Institute in Aquismon.

Johnson taught crisis and marital counseling to thirty-four students from several Mexican states. *"The turn out was better than expected,"* according to Williams.

The purpose was to provide seminary level instruction for institute students and supporters. Johnson says the time in Mexico helped him to realize, *"that issues of crisis and marriage are concerns for people all over the world."*

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary Dean and Professor of Christian Education, spent several days in Veracruz, Mexico with Missionary Grady Johnson.

Attebery presented several lectures on Christian Ethics. Subjects ranged from determining truth to politics. The lectures were part of a national meeting for men associated with the Baptist Missionary Association in Mexico.

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**JOHN ATTEBERY**  
MRS. PEGGY ATTEBERY

**DOSS & BEATNICE BARKER**  
DARRELL BARKER

**SAMMIE BELL BROOKS**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES  
MRS. JEAN ASHER

**MRS. FRANCES BURCH**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES  
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

**CLINTON CALDWELL**  
LAMB BOULEVARD BAPTIST  
LAS VEGAS, NV

**BILLY CHAPPELL**  
MRS. PATRICIA (BILLY)  
CHAPPELL

**PAUL CONGOUR**  
MRS. PEGGY ATTEBERY

**SALLIE DAVIS**  
CORINTH BAPTIST  
JACKSONVILLE, TX

**BRO. BOB EVANS**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

**BRO. MERLE & MARIE EVANS**  
PAUL & ANNE MARTIN

**LOU FORT**  
LAMB BOULEVARD BAPTIST  
LAS VEGAS, NV

**EULAINÉ HAWS**  
CORINTH BAPTIST,  
JACKSONVILLE, TX

**DOROTHY HENDRICK**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES  
DORCAS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS,  
FIRST, JACKSONVILLE, TX

**CLYDE & ALMA  
HOLLINGSWORTH**  
J. SELWYN HOLLINGSWORTH

**MRS. VELMA HONEA**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

**JIMMY HUDSON**  
BRO. & MRS. J. D. HUDSON  
CHARLENE PHILLIPS  
PHIL & ANN SIMONS  
RON & GLORIA CHESSER

**BETTYE JORDON**  
MRS. PEGGY ATTEBERY

**HUGHE KEEL**  
MR. & MRS. HAROLD WILLIAMS

**HUDSON & MAGGIE KYLE**  
RONNIE & ALICIA JOHNSON

**PAULINE LEE**  
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

**HANSEL PEARCE**  
MRS. PAT PEARCE

**DANNY POPE**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES  
JAMES & BILLIE SCHAFFER  
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

**LYNN STEPHENS**  
JAMES & BILLIE SCHAFFER

**RAY & JESSIE TURNER**  
DUANE & CHARLOTTE TURNER

**BRO. IRA WADDELL**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES  
JAMES & BILLIE SCHAFFER  
JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK

**ALTA FAYE WILLIS**  
REV. JACK MCDANIEL

**S. D. 'JACK' WREYFORD**  
RONNIE & ALICIA JOHNSON

**IN HONOR OF:**

**BRO. JAMES C. BLAYLOCK**  
LADIES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
CORINTH, JACKSONVILLE, TX

**JAMES & JO ANN BLAYLOCK**  
EVERETT & EVELYN KENT

**REV. & MRS. EDDIE MARSH**  
ED & EVELYNE KIELY

**DON & JOYCE HAMMOCK**  
DONALD HAMMOCK

**VERN HOLIFIELD**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

**BRO. JACK MCDANIEL**  
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

**BRO. & MRS. W. P.  
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JAMES & BILLIE SCHAFFER

**BRO. HAROLD SMALL**  
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**BRO. RAY THOMPSON**  
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GILMER, TX

**JACK & JUDY WATKINS**  
MRS. JEAN ASHER

**FRANKIE ROBERTS PIPPIN**  
LADIES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
CORINTH, JACKSONVILLE, TX



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### **EVANGELISM**

Jake Vandenburg, M.Div. student, adds, "*EE is a very practical and effective approach to presenting the Gospel of Christ to any and all walks of life. It provides the pastor with a vital tool for not only an evangelistic ministry, but also for developing one-on-one relationships within his church.*"

Kofi Boahene, M.A.T.S. student, says EE has helped him present the Gospel firmly to people of different religions.

Monte Chitty, M.A.T.S. student, adds that EE has affirmed his confidence and enhanced both his marriage and ministry. Mrs. Chitty is enrolled in evangelism this semester!

Continue to pray for the seminary and consider taking EE this summer!

### **Dean's Honor Roll for Fall 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.

**Kofi Boahene (MATS-Ghana)**

**Monte Chitty (MATS-TX)**

**C.H. Collins (MAR-TX)**

**David Darst (BAR-TX)**

**David Erickson (M.Div-MO)**

**Wesley Hulvey (BAR-MO)**

**Keith Kirbow (M.Div-TX)**

**Precois Norcilus (BAR-Haiti)**

**Geoffrey Mwape (MAR-Zambia)**

**Timothy Richardson (BAR-TX)**

**Jake Vandenburg (M.Div-AR)**

**Terrance Wright (MAR-TX)**

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.