Seminary Extension Campus Begins in Central Arkansas

The BMA Seminary has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education* to offer courses leading to the Master of Arts in Religion and Master of Divinity degrees on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas.

Students joined professors and administrators on September 4, 2003 for the first classes being offered at the new extension site.

The fall semester includes a course in expository preaching with Dr. Jesse Thomas and an Old Testament course with Dr. Thom South. A special study course in effective teaching is also being offered with Drs. Philip Attebery and Ronnie Johnson on November 12-15.

Students at the extension campus are glad to have the opportunity to advance their education. One local pastor/student said, “I work over 40-hours a week and pastor a small church in the area. Without these classes, I would not be able to get courses leading to a M.Div.”

Another student said, “I am very thankful. I am able to pursue my education while remaining involved and committed to my current ministry. I am also thankful that the seminary is the most affordable that I have found while being a quality education.”

President, Dr. Charley Holmes, says, “This is a great opportunity for the BMA to offer graduate classes with the approval of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education where it has not been done in a number of years. This puts BMA Seminary in the unique position of being the only institution in the State of Arkansas with approval to offer such classes.”

Dr. Thom South will serve as the extension campus administrator. Classes are already being planned for the spring semester and intensive classes for the seminary’s main campus in January.

Having the seminary in Conway allows me to pursue further Christian education while pastoring the church to which God has led me.

Interested students should contact the BMA Seminary Dean’s Office in Jacksonville, Texas for application and registration information. Normally, applicants for admission must have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited college or university or those accredited by organizations recognized by the Council for Higher Education Association.

* The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain minimum standards have been met under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in Arkansas Code 6-61-301.

JANUARY MOTION CLASSES

Old Testament Survey and Introduction II
January 5-9, 2004

Church History II
January 12-16, 2004

Registration Deadline is November 21, 2003
Record Number Graduates in May 2003

Twenty students received degrees Saturday, May 17, from Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville. Students completed from two to four years of intensive studies in preparation for various leadership roles in Christian ministry.

Dr. James L. Silvey, Executive Director of Baptist Publishing House for the Baptist Missionary Association of America, gave the commencement address.

Receiving an Honorary Associate of Divinity degree was John Thomas Trotter of Nacogdoches, Texas. The Associate of Divinity degree was awarded to Terry W. Bolton of Sulphur Springs, Texas and Ula A. Emmons of St. Clair, Missouri. The Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Darlene E. Carey of Flint, Michigan; Dustin D. Cross of Carthage, Texas; Keith J. Fielder of Palestine, Texas; Lisulo C. Lisulo of Zambia, Africa; and Jeffrey L. Thompson of Emory, Texas.

The Master of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Curtis J. Cooper of Texarkana, Arkansas; John W. Glenn of Flint, Texas; James H. Guo of Changsha, Hunan, China; Kevin L. Guthrie of Palestine, Texas; David B. Moari of Wulugu, Walewale, Ghana; and Magdalena Studzinska of Warsaw, Poland.

The Master of Divinity degree was awarded to Michael R. Fink of Vilonia, Arkansas; Billy L. Higginbotham of Magnolia, Arkansas; Michael S. Jeffress of Nacogdoches, Texas; Michael K. Mast of Tyler, Texas; Willis J. Romero, III of Hemphill, Texas; and Howard T. Thompson of Athens, Texas.

Attebery and Johnson Contribute to Marriage Book

Drs. Philip Attebery and Ronnie Johnson contributed to a recently published book on marriage entitled 101 Ways to Romance Your Marriage by author Debra White Smith.

The book is published by Harvest House Publishers and is a follow-up to Smith’s best-selling book entitled Romancing Your Husband.

Johnson, BMA Seminary Professor of Christian Education, is married to Alicia Johnson, Public Services Supervisor for BMA Seminary’s Kellar Library.

He says, “When a couple is together at work and home, they need to think of ways to be romantic.” His contribution to the book dealt with romancing marriage in the work place.

The Johnsons also celebrated twenty years of marriage this past summer.

Attebery, BMA Seminary Dean, says, “The Bible has much to say about marital relations and it has been a great opportunity to contribute to something that will encourage couples to enjoy God’s richest blessings for their lives.”

Attebery, who has been married to his wife Stephanie for twelve years, used the Song of Solomon as a basis for much of his writing. He also contributed sections on notes, letters, and shopping for romance.

When asked why he and Attebery were invited to contribute to the writing project, Johnson simply replies, “Because we are both experts in the field.”

Administration
Dr. Charley Holmes, President
Dr. Philip W. Attebery, Dean
Donald Hammock, Business Manager
James C. Blaylock, Library Director

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

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“Earnestly Contending For The Faith”
The most unusual observance that God commanded Israel to keep was the year of Jubilee. This special year was a Sabbath of Sabbaths (the Fiftieth year).

For most people this event occurred only once in a lifetime. Premature death prevented many others from seeing one. What happened on this momentous, once-in-a-lifetime occasion? Trumpets sounded throughout the land and two amazing things took place. First, all Hebrew slaves were set free. Second, debts were forgiven. Needless to say, the few years preceding the Jubilee were a time of anticipation for the upcoming blessings of freedom, grace, mercy, and refreshing.

The BMA will soon observe the JUBILEE of BMA Seminary. The early leaders of the BMA recognized the need for a sound theological school to train future missionaries, pastors and associational leaders. Having such a school would also help unify the BMA work by encouraging future leaders from different local associations to become better acquainted.

Relationships originating from a student’s seminary years provide the basis of friendship and communication that foster the advancement of the Kingdom through the BMA.

BMA Seminary will celebrate its JUBILEE year in the 2007-2008 school year; however, recent blessings from the Lord cause us to anticipate and plan for even greater blessings.

RECENT BLESSINGS
1. Record enrollments! More than 100 students in Fall 2003 and five semesters with more than 90!

2. An Evangelism Explosion training conference with New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

3. Dr. Elton McCann and President Emeritus, Dr. Philip Bryan, each celebrated fifty years in the ministry.

4. New roofs on the classrooms, Kellar Library and offices.

5. A balanced budget and no debt for the school year 2002-2003!

6. Upgrades to the Library and computer labs for the best available academic research anywhere.

ANTICIPATED BLESSINGS
1. Finance
50 new monthly-supporting churches each year.
50 thousand dollars added to the permanent endowment each year.
50 new individual supporters each year.

2. Enrollment
50 new students in Jacksonville.
50 at our Arkansas extension.

3. Maintenance
$50,000 for new roofing on our chapel and student center.
50% increase in available housing.

Rejoice and pray with us as we anticipate and plan for JUBILEE SEASON blessings!

The N.L. Eddy Memorial Parlor in Kellar Library received a well-deserved update of furnishings over the summer.

James Blaylock, Kellar Library Director, said, “The parlor looks so much better. We have had many positive comments. It is more comfortable and up-to-date.”

The parlor provides an appealing place for people to stay in the library and study, according to Alicia Johnson, Public Services Director.

Bro. Eddy served as a pastor of Baptist churches in Arkansas and Louisiana for more than sixty years. His ministerial legacy continues through his family and includes his grandsons: Dr. Edwin Crank, President of Jacksonville College; Bob Crank (MRE ’66), ABS Director at Southern Arkansas University; and Danny Eddy (M.Div. ’81), ABS Director at Louisiana Tech University.

The Kellar Library also improved computer technology this summer. Athena’s automation software program was purchased and installed to improve library services.

“Our previous program was outdated with no technical support available. Athena makes it possible to check out books, access our catalog from anywhere, will save time and provides better searching tools,” according to Blaylock.
Elton McCann and Philip Bryan have been in business a long time.

Fifty years after each man - both teachers at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville - surrendered to the ministry, they're still actively spreading the word of God. Both men were honored during a chapel service on Sept. 11 at the seminary, which was followed by a reception.

At 14, McCann was just in the seventh grade when he realized he wanted to be a preacher. "Everything back then seems just as real as if it had happened a few days ago," McCann said.

In 1953, the seventh-grader was focused on school. However, after he converted at a tent revival, he knew he'd found his line of work. "Some Gideon gave me a New Testament," McCann said. "The more I read, the more I was clear of an understanding at 14 years old that, he preached regularly at Mississippi County Penal Farm.

"It was about 12 or 15 miles from our home," McCann said. "I did that throughout the ninth, tenth and 11th grade."

Other than the penal colony, McCann didn't have much of an opportunity to preach. That's why he jumped at the chance to be the pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church and Fairview Baptist Church.

"My entire senior year, I was at Fairview," McCann said. After graduating from high school in Fairview, he attended Central Baptist College at Conway, Ark., eventually earning masters' degrees from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas State University, the BMA Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth.

Now, he's a teacher at the BMA Seminary, in addition to his duties as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Streetman, Texas.

He's also developed a growing family over the years. He and his wife Linda, have a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Teresa of California, Pa.; daughters and son-in-law, Beverly and Michael Potter of San Antonio and Dana of Austin; and five grandchildren.

"I've always pastored a church," McCann said. And he doesn't have plans on stopping anytime soon.

"I don't know of anything I could have done that would have been more fulfilling in life than what I do," he said. Retirement is simply not an option for McCann. "People talk about retirement," he said. "Why stop doing what you love?"

For Bryan, the calling came when he was 17. "It was the summer between my junior and senior years of high school," he said.

Though his home church was in Oklahoma, he told his family he wanted to be a preacher while they were living in Dallas. "It's one of those things you just know. It was just a sudden realization," Bryan said.

Remaining true to his calling, he stayed active in Trinity Heights First Baptist Church in Dallas his senior year of school. "Every opportunity I got to preach, I preached," Bryan said.

After his graduation from high school, he enrolled in Jacksonville Baptist College, becoming a member of the mission band.

He recalls one trip with the band to area towns. "I preached on the street in Frankston once. And we used to hold services in the county jail at Rusk," Bryan said.

Though he knew he'd found his passion, Bryan didn't realize the reaches of his job until he was working at Safeway one day his sophomore year at Jacksonville College.

"One day, I was carrying out groceries, and this man asked me 'You don't remember me, do you?'" Bryan said. Though the man looked familiar, Bryan couldn't remember where from, until the shopper said he'd heard one of Bryan's sermons at the jail.

"You never know what good you're doing," Bryan said.

He went on to get his bachelor's degree from The University of Oklahoma. He also studied at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y., received his bachelor's of divinity degree from the BMA Theological Seminary and master's and a doctorate from Baylor University.

(See DEDICATION, Page 7)
Hudsons Recognized For Joy of Giving

The first chapel service for the fall 2003 semester at BMA Seminary honored two people who have confirmed the joy of giving.

Bro. and Mrs. J.D. Hudson were presented certificates of recognition for their “exceptional service” to the BMA Seminary and for their generosity and concern for the seminary and students.

The Hudsons started a Library Memorial Fund in memory of their son, Jimmy, who died in an automobile accident in 1959. The microfilm room of the library is dedicated in his memory and the memorial fund has since been changed to the Jimmy Hudson Living Endowment Fund.

In the last 40 years, this family, friends, and churches have given almost $50,000 to this fund. The Hudsons simply wanted to remember their son in a way that honors God and encourages others.

Dr. Charley Holmes says, “Bro. Hudson exemplifies the qualifications of a bishop as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. Although Bro. Hudson has pastored several large churches, served as an evangelist, and is well known and respected in the BMA of America, none of those things are required according to scripture. Bro. Hudson has done what is required - to be ‘found faithful’” (1 Cor. 4:2).

Bro. Hudson preached an inspiring message from Colossians 1:7-12 detailing five ways to please the Lord. He closed his message with personal testimony of what God has done for him.

Bro. and Mrs. Hudson are examples of the joy that comes from giving. “God taught us the blessing of, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ Just give all the praise and glory to God.”

Mother’s Day Special Memorials and Gifts for Student Textbooks

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IN MEMORY OF:

LOUIS F. ASHER
MR. & MRS. NOLAN GREEN

DR. JOHN ATTEBERY
MRS. PEGGY ATTEBERY
PHILIP & STEPHANIE ATTEBERY

JACK BARNETTE
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
DR. & MRS. RONNIE JOHNSON
JAMES & JOANN BLAYLOCK

MRS. MURLE SLATER BOWERMAN
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
DR. & MRS. RONNIE JOHNSON
HAROLD & ANITA SMALL

BRO. JOE DENNIS
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
HAROLD & ANITA SMALL

LOTTIE M. GASTON
FLOYD & JEANNETTE GASTON

BUFORD HARPER
MARJORIE HARPER

CLYDE & ALMA HOLLINGSWORTH
J. SELWYN HOLLINGSWORTH

COLE HOLLINGSWORTH
J. SELWYN HOLLINGSWORTH

JIMMY HUDSON
WEST KIEST BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS, TEXAS

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BOBBY & MARTHA NELSON

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PAT PEARCE

DR. WILLIAM C. PRUITT
MRS. ELLEN RUTH PRUITT

ELD. HARLAN R. THURMAN
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

MRS. K. E. (OPAL) TRANT
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES
PHILIP & JANICE BRYAN

IN HONOR OF:

CHARLES R. BAKER
WEDDINGTON BAPTIST WMA
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

JAMES HUSKEY
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

BRO. EUGENE BOWERMAN
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

DR. PHILIP BRYAN
DORCAS SS CLASS
FIRST BAPTIST-JACKSONVILLE, TX
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PHILIP & STEPHANIE ATTEBERY

BELINDA CAUDLE
MR. & MRS. HAROLD WILLIAMS

DR. SYLVESTER (S. L.) CURRY
PHILIP & STEPHANIE ATTEBERY

ROY & VIRGINIA DERFELT
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

GRADY & NORITA HIGGS
MRS. DESSARINE MCNEILL

MATT & JANET HOLLINGSWORTH
J. SELWYN HOLLINGSWORTH

CHARLES N. HOLMES
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

JOHNNIE RUTH HOLMES
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

BRO. L. B. HARRIS
CHARLEY & DIANNE HOLMES

HANSER PEARCE
PAT PEARCE

DR. WILLIAM C. PRUITT
MRS. ELLEN RUTH PRUITT

IN MEMORY OF N.L.
EDDY LIBRARY PARLOR
RENOVATION

MR. & MRS. DANNY EDDY
DR. & MRS. EDWIN CRANK
GERRY & REGINA EDDY
JOEL REEVES
MRS. KENNETH (DOROTHY) EDDY
MR. & MRS. LANGSTON
HUDDLESTON
DR. RONNIE & ALICIA JOHNSON
SUE ROWE
MRS. N. L. (IVA LEE) EDDY, JR.
Highlights of BMA Seminary 2003

The Lord has richly blessed the BMA Seminary and her graduates during the 2003 year. Please take time with us to thank the Lord for His goodness!

Major Scott Carson (M.Div. '77), BMA chaplain serving in the U.S. Army, was awarded the Bronze Star for his outstanding performance and service during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Seminary trustee Grady Higgs (M.Div. '68) was elected in April to serve the BMAA as Executive Director of Missions.

BMA Seminary professor Ronnie Johnson was invited to attend the national convention of the Christian Booksellers Association in Orlando, Florida to promote his book Cows, Pigs and Chickens Made Me a Better Teacher.

He was interviewed for television broadcasts in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas and Texas. He was also interviewed on the Christian Shop radio broadcast in Dallas, Texas. This program is a ministry of the BMA of Texas’ Baptist Book Center.

Johnson was present to sign books during the Pathway Christian Store’s Fifth-Anniversary celebration in Texarkana, Arkansas.

His book has also been reviewed by Homeschooling Today magazine and the Midwest Book Review.

The W.N. Paschal Memorial Bible Lectures, held October 7 and 9, featured Dr. Darrell Farney, U.S. National Director, Central Region for Evangelism Explosion, International. The theme was “Evangelism and Discipleship in the Local Church.”

Kevin Guthrie (MAR '03) was assigned as U.S. Army Chaplain to the 305th Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Huachucua, Arizona.

Thanks to New Harmony Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas for co-sponsoring this summer’s training clinic with Evangelism Explosion. Thirty-nine students from eight states and two foreign countries shared the gospel with one-hundred and thirty-four people. Twenty-four people made a profession of faith as a result!

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools informed the seminary in July that all follow-up requirements for reaffirmation of accreditation have been satisfied. The next review is scheduled for the year 2011.

Enrollment during the Fall 2003 Semester reached an all-time high number for BMA Seminary. One-hundred and five students enrolled in Biblical Studies, Theological-Historical, Church Ministry and Christian Education courses.

The Brannon Classroom was refurbished thanks to gifts from Gary and James Brannon, Jr. in memory of their mother and wife Dorothy.

James Brannon originally funded the room in 1956. He was a successful businessman, a deacon, a Sunday School superintendent and a faithful layman at First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He died in September 1965.

The room now has new padded chairs, tables, computers and video projection equipment. The updated technology allows students to learn how to use their computers for the ministry and are available to students for internet research.

The seminary trustees and others also provided financial gifts to improve computer technology on the campus. Wireless internet service is now available to students and faculty. Laptop computers are also available for students to use in the Kellar Library.

BMA Seminary
Gift Annuity

No matter what happens to the stock market or interest rates, you can have peace of mind knowing that your guaranteed and timely payment will remain the same with a BMA Seminary Gift Annuity. Receive not only an income tax deduction, but also a fixed payment for the rest of your life. Annuity rates remain competitive.

GIFT ANNUITY RATES FOR SINGLE LIFE

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To learn more about these benefits, contact Dr. Holmes at 903-586-2501.

DEDICATION, contd.

Rather than put all that information to use in a bigger setting, Bryan chose to come to the BMA Seminary to teach, where his wife, Janice, was a student in the first class he taught. In addition, he has also taught or preached in Russia, Mexico, Eastern Europe, Belarus, Myanmar, and other foreign countries.

Bryan has also served as the dean and president of the BMA Seminary, stepping aside in 1999 to teach again. He now instructs students in theology, Greek, church history and New Testament.

Though he doesn’t pastor a church anymore, Bryan and his wife have been members of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville for 31 years. The couple’s children include sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffrey Alan and Jacquelyn Ann of Germany, Joel Arthur and Shannon Carol of Bryan and Jon Foster and Deborah Kimberly of Jacksonville; and eight grandchildren.

Looking back on the last 50 years, Bryan is glad he answered the call from God. "I’ve been able to do things and go places I never dreamed I would," he said. But will he slow down anytime soon? According to Bryan, there’s a simple answer. "Ministers don’t really retire."
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 the BMA Seminary!

| Name: ___________________________ |
| Address: _________________________ |
| __________________________________ |
| __________________________________ |
| Phone: ___________________________ |

### Dean’s Honor Roll for Spring 2003

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.

- Malcolm Bernstine (BAR-TX)
- Bertram Cooper (MAR-TX)
- Michael Cormier (BAR-TX)
- Dustin Cross (BAR-TX)
- Daniel Cummings (M.Div.-AR)
- Jason Fielder (BAR-TX)
- Harold Fox (BAR-TX)
- Billy Higginbotham (M.Div.-AR)
- Douglas Jackson (MAR-TX)
- Lloyd Licht (BAR-OK)
- Danny Linville (M.Div.-TX)
- Patrick Lloyd (M.Div.-TX)
- Justin O’Quinn (M.Div.-CO)
- John C. Smith (BAR-AR)
- Mark Staples (BAR-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, and Master of Divinity degrees.