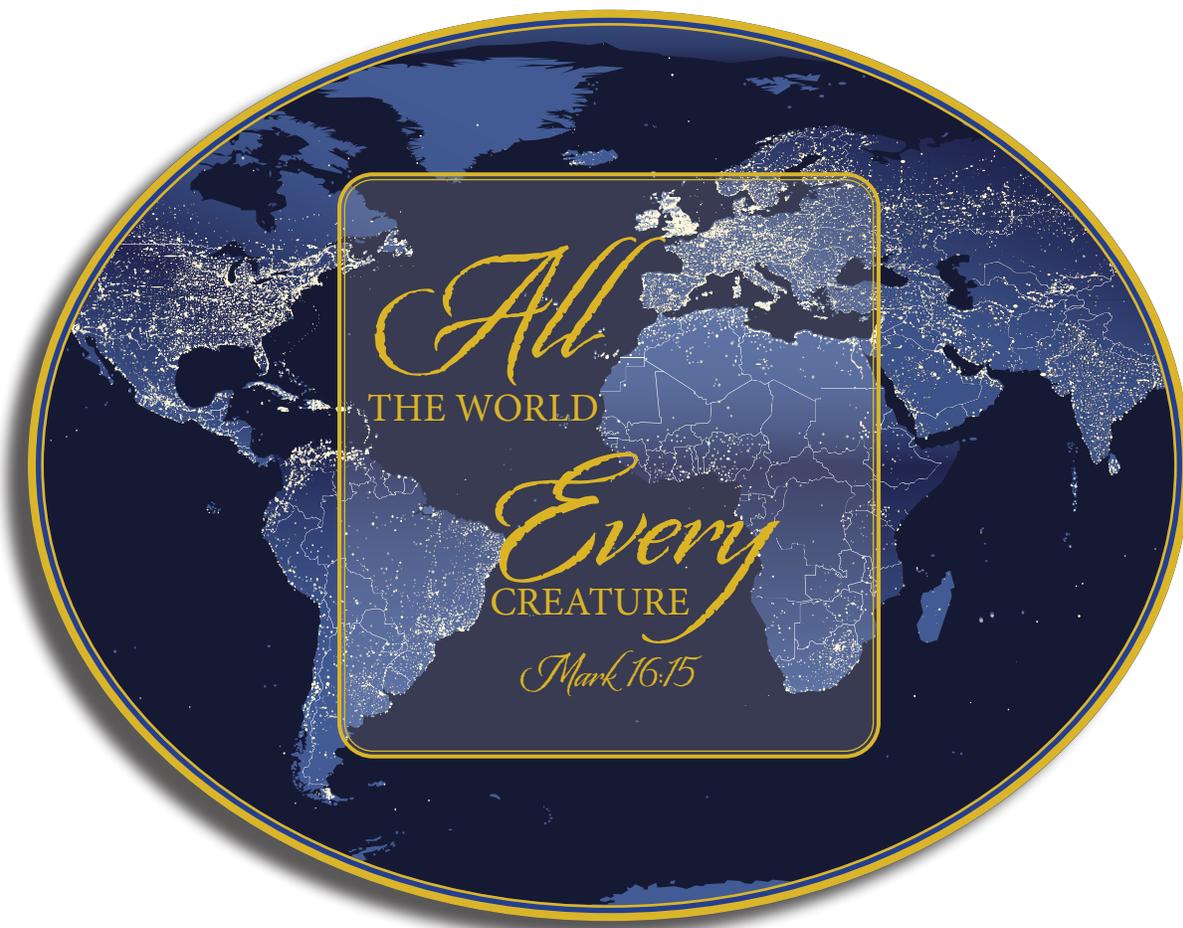


Reports Book

97th Annual Messenger Meeting
American Baptist Association

Orlando, Florida

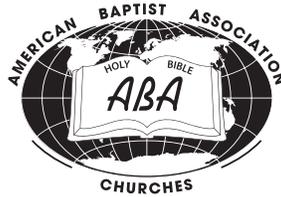
June 21-23, 2022



FOR MESSENGERS ONLY

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ABA MESSENGER ASSEMBLY INVITATIONS FOR JUNE 2025

Invitations have been received this year from the following states: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Missouri and Texas for the June 2025 American Baptist Association Messenger Assembly. The Committee on Future Meeting Places met and discussed each of the proposals concerning dates, rates, A/V, food & beverage, and parking.

The committee presents the following invitations for vote of the messengers for June 16 - 19, 2025

FLORIDA, JACKSONVILLE

Headquarter Hotel - *Hyatt Regency Jacksonville* - 225 East Coastline Drive - Jacksonville, FL 32202

- Room block of 400 Rooms on peak nights
- Rate - \$139.00 Single/Quad plus tax (currently 14.65%)
- No resort fee
- Complimentary basic Wi-Fi internet access in all guest rooms and public areas for contracted event dates
- All meetings and exhibits would be held in the Hyatt Regency. Meeting space will be paid for with a minimum of 1132 room nights
- Discounted overnight self-parking at Hyatt Regency at \$15.00 per day.
- Minimum Food & Beverage is \$11,500.00++.
- Visit Jacksonville will possibly offer a grant that can be used to help with A/V costs.

FLORIDA, ORLANDO

Headquarter Hotel - *DoubleTree by Hilton At The Entrance To Universal Orlando* - 5780 Major Blvd. - Orlando, FL 32819

- Room block of 425 Rooms on peak nights
- Rate - \$139.00 Single/Quad plus tax (currently 12.5%)
- No resort fee
- Wireless Internet Access in guest rooms for registered guests
- All meetings and exhibits would be held in the Hilton. Meeting space will be paid for with a minimum of 1396 room nights
- Discounted overnight self-parking at Hilton at \$10.00 per day.
- Minimum Food & Beverage is \$11,500.00++.

MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD

Meetings will be held in the Springfield Expo Center & University Plaza Hotel - Meeting Space rental - \$15,000 plus tax & service charge. Springfield CVB will guarantee \$10,000 to offset cost. This guarantee along with the hotel rebates should cover the meeting space.

Headquarter Hotel - *University Plaza Hotel* - 333 S. John Q. Hammons Parkway - Springfield, MO 65806

- Room block of 200 Rooms on peak nights
- Rate - \$119.00 Single/Quad plus tax (currently 16.95%)
- No resort fee
- \$10.00 rebate per paid room to cover room rental expenses at Springfield Expo Center.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi internet access
- Complimentary parking in Hotel and Convention Center lots
- Minimum Food & Beverage is \$10,000.00++.

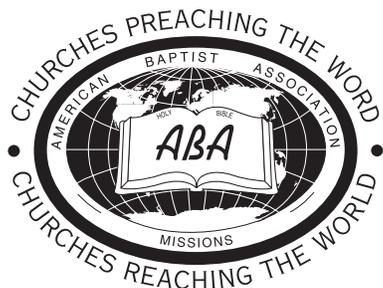
Overflow Hotel - *Oasis Hotel and Convention Center* - 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. - Springfield, MO 65803 (The hotel is located about 10 minutes from Springfield Expo Center & University Plaza Hotel)

- Room block of 150 Rooms on peak nights
- Rate - \$119.00 Single/Quad plus tax (currently 16.95%)
- \$10.00 rebate per paid room to cover room rental expenses at Springfield Expo Center.
- Complimentary high speed wireless internet property-wide
- Complimentary parking in Hotel and Convention Center lots

We continue to face challenges with room rates, meeting space rental cost, food & beverage minimums and high A/V prices, but we are thankful we have some good invitations for the 2025 ABA meeting. Please prayerfully consider these invitations and be present to vote Thursday morning, June 23, 2022.

In Christ,

Bro. Neal Sutton
Director of Meeting Arrangements



SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS

Dr. Roger Stewart

American Baptist Association

PO Box 1050

Texarkana, TX 75504-1050

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Email: missions@abamissions.org



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Dear Churches of the American Baptist Association,

Please allow me to express my immeasurable appreciation for the privilege and opportunity to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Baptist Association. I count it a great honor to serve in this capacity and I am truly humbled by your confidence and kindness.

The 2021-2022 fiscal and associational year was marked by many blessings of our Lord. Souls have been saved. Believers were baptized. Churches were organized. Missions and church-plants were opened, and the Thanksgiving Mission Offering reached its second highest total in history.

I am truly excited to see what God is going to do in the associational year just ahead of us.

Deepest Condolences:

Before moving on to the annual statistics, please allow me this time of reflection. Soon after the 2021-2022 associational year began, we learned of the premature and unexpected death of a long-time, faithful Filipino missionary, Abel Dimatulac. Brother Dimatulac, born August 13, 1965, received his ultimate and final independence from this old world when he was called home by our Lord on July 4, 2021. Of course, we continue to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife – Marites – and two sons and daughter – Joshua, Evangel, and Angela – as well as his Sending Church – First Missionary Baptist Church, Moultonborough, New Hampshire and Pastor, Johnny Marshall.



And unfortunately, just prior to the Standing Missionary Committee meeting, Interstate Missionary Tim Simons, born June 6, 1969, also went home to be with the Lord. His May 5, 2022, home-going left behind his wife, Debbie, and his daughter, Hayley. We, of course, extend our most sincere sympathies to his sweet wife and daughter as well as to his congregation, Victory Missionary Baptist Mission in Greenwood, Louisiana, and his Sending Church, Heritage Missionary Baptist Church, Bossier City, Louisiana, and her pastor, Cole Melton. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to comfort both families in their ongoing times of grief and sorrow.



Lastly, I want to mention the home-going of Dr. Victor Guzman who passed away November 10, 2021, but not before giving a lifetime of labor on the field of his beloved Mexico and serving on the Standing Missionary Committee from 1999 to 2021. He, his friendship, and his service will be missed by many.

2022-2023 Recommendation Forms:

The list of 2022-2023 ABA Recommended Missionaries saw a slight decrease from the previous year. There were 155 recommended missionaries, missionary helpers, and mission ministries whose forms arrived in the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office by the April 22nd due date. These include 13 newly recommended missionaries. The complete list of missionaries now includes 28 states within the USA and 29 foreign countries outside the USA. We look forward to another wonderful year of mission-giving and missionary support through the ABA Missions' Office.

Travels of the Secretary-Treasurer:

During the 2021-2022 associational year my wife, Gena, and I logged more than 37,000 miles as we ministered in 14 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia; and, made 2 trips to Mexico. Our trip into Mexico's interior, with Missionary Juan Gallegos and more than 40 believers from the Del Rio/Acuna area, was marked by several professions of faith and an ordination service for two pastors. In addition to the many road miles we traveled, we flew to Colombia where we visited with 2 recommended missionaries – Brothers Julio Mendoza and Gilberto Pinzon, along with missionaries Jim Gage and Edgar Rubio and many other missionaries and pastors in the South American country.

During the year we enjoyed the fellowship of the Northeast Landmark Missionary Baptist Association, the New Mexico State Association, the Southwest States Association, the Central States Association, the Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama State Associations, along with the Mid-Atlantic States Association, and the Kansas State Association. Beyond those many appointments, I was afforded the distinct pleasure and privilege of speaking at several mission revivals, mission conferences, and mission rallies as well as in numerous church services from week-to-week.

Reported by the Missionaries:

Since my report last year, the ABA recommended missionaries note 5256 professions of faith and 635 baptisms. We also rejoice in the news of 10 missions organized into New Testament churches. Thank the Lord for Roleven Bistis, Ruel Logrosa, Nicolas Nepomuceno, Renald Parcueles, Gregorio Sibug and Romeo Tobias in the Philippine Islands who organized works this year. We are also very thankful for Julio Mendoza and Gilberto Pinzon who organized

churches in Colombia. The work in Indiana where Kevin Pruitt serves organized on June 4th and in Florida Brett Bell's work will organize on July 2nd. Former ABA recommended missionaries – Kim Williams, Houston, Texas and Paul Armstrong, Calera, Alabama – also organized their works into local New Testament Churches. We are truly humbled by what God has done in the American Baptist Association.

Fiscal Year Financials:

As previously mentioned, the 2021 Thanksgiving Mission Offering was the second highest in its history... second only to the incredible offering recorded in 2010. Please allow me to express my public appreciation to the 288 churches and 11 families from Japan, Mexico, Philippines, and the United States who gave \$325,436.69, surpassing the \$300,000.00 goal by more than \$25,400.00. On a related note, the total Thanksgiving Mission Offerings received since its inception in 1996 is \$5,702,105.44. Praise the Lord! These offerings help us a great deal offsetting the deficit months we experience during the fiscal year.

The bottom line is this: our 2021-2022 fiscal year-end balance in the Mission Treasury of \$2,481,817.00 is an increase of \$95,584.00 over the 2020-2021 fiscal year-end. For this we thank God but we need more missionaries to support through the Missions' Office.

With consideration given to the 155 recommendation forms sent to the Missions' Office for the 2022-2023 associational year, I bring to your attention the 13 newly recommended missionaries; 4 of which are Interstate Missionaries on Salary and 4 are National Missionaries on Salary. Additionally, I call your attention to 2 Interstate Missionaries and 1 National Missionary currently on Designated Funds who are requesting a move to the salary column and 3 National Missionaries with salary raises requested. Even after adding the 8 new salaried missionaries, the monthly financial burden will be \$10,470.00 less than last year. However, if both Interstate Missionaries – Daniel Branscum and Jeremy Valladares – who were on Designated Funds last year are successfully moved to full salary; if the Martin brothers both receive their requested raises of \$50.00 each per month; if Myung Jung Kim receives his requested raise of \$900.00; and, if Furlong Usher successfully moves from National on Designated Funds to National on Salary, the 2022-2023 financial burden will be \$58.00 per month less than it was in 2021-2022. Should a 3% raise be granted all Full-Salaried Missionaries, the total payout for that group alone will increase by almost \$4,000.00 per month.

Please note that a 3% raise equals a \$119.00 per month raise for each Full-Salaried Missionary. If the requested and recommended raises are granted, the average monthly payout for the 2022-2023 associational year will total about \$205,000.00. This will be noticeably more than the 2021-2022 monthly payout which ended up being about \$195,000.00. With a 3% raise, all Full-Salaried Missionaries will receive \$4,075.00 per month and the Sending Church portion of 20% will be \$815.00 per month. This will be up from \$3956.00 and \$791.00 respectively.

My Sincere Appreciation:

Before I close, please allow me to extend a heart-felt “thank you” to my wife, Gena, for her part-time work in the office and a very special “thank you” to Sister Karen Murphy. Gena handles our publications and website updates. Her help is essential and appreciated. Additionally, and without a doubt, the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions would be hard-pressed to run as smoothly as it does without the incredible work and efficiency of Karen Murphy. My appreciation for her help and her commitment to the missionaries of the American Baptist Association cannot be over-stated. These two ladies make my job much simpler and for that I am truly thankful.

The auditors at ***Grier, Reeves and Lawley*** in Texarkana, Texas, found the finances for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the Secretary-Treasurer’s Office to be properly accounted for and orderly. For this, we, again, have Karen Murphy to thank.

Please allow me to say “Thank You” to the members of the Standing Missionary Committee. The men on this committee have proven invaluable to the work of the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.

Though we encroach on the Mission Treasury balance a little each month, we praise the Lord for the faithful giving of God’s people which provides us sufficient funds to ensure that the missionaries will be paid in full for the foreseeable future. For that we are eternally grateful.

Lastly, it has been my distinct pleasure to serve the churches and missionaries of the American Baptist Association for the 2021-2022 associational year. I trust that during the time I am afforded this incredible privilege the Lord will find me faithful to the honor bestowed upon me by His churches. My prayer remains that the cause of Christ has been and will be advanced; and, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to be furthered to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). *All the world...every creature* (Mark 16:15).

With a third of the earth’s population still unexposed to the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ, I am praying that God will open more doors of opportunity – like the open-door Paul was provided in Troas (2 Corinthians 2:12) – for our missionaries to step through with the truth of our Lord and Savior. Places like the *10-40 Window*, also known as *The Resistant Belt*, host a field “white already to harvest” (John 4:35). We need more missionaries. God has provided us with sufficient funding. Go! Either go or send someone! After all, that is the message of the *Great Commission* given to the Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ – *the Churches of the American Baptist Association*.

Furthering the Gospel,

Dr. Roger Stewart

Secretary-Treasurer of Missions

American Baptist Association

Philippians 1:12

**Report of the
PRE-ASSOCIATION STANDING MISSIONARY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 16 and 17, 2022
Northern Hills Missionary Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas**

Monday Afternoon May 16, 2022:

Chairman Ed Button called the meeting to order and opened for prayer requests. The meeting was opened in prayer by Bro. Bobby Ball, Jr.

Chairman Button recognized the host pastor, Dr. Roger Copeland, Northern Hills MBC, to extend a welcome to all in attendance.

Chairman Button called on Bro. Bull to lead the meeting in a hymn. He was accompanied on the piano by Sister. Gena Stewart in the hymn "Bring Them In".

Chairman Button then called on Bro. Steve Merritt, AL, to bring the morning devotion. He spoke from 2 Cor. 10:14.

Chairman Button made an announcement concerning the extra materials available to anyone who desired to have them.

Chairman Button then asked for any missionary or pastor that would not be available on Tuesday to notify him so that they could be given a time in the afternoon session.

Chairman Button called on Bro. Stewart to give information on the Missionary Breakfast on Thursday morning at ABA Messenger meeting. Tickets are available through Sister Karen Murphy. The cost for the breakfast this year will be \$30.00.

Bro. Stewart also reported that there were sufficient funds available for the pre-associational meeting.

Chairman Button called for the roll call on the Standing Missionary Committee: All members were present with the exception of Brethren:

Eddie Addison

Larry Butte

Michael Schmid

Chairman Button called the Standing Missionary Committee to order.

Chairman Button asked the Missionary Committee to stand as he led in prayer for the meeting.

Chairman Button introduced the new members of the committee. Which included: Brethren Brian Langley, Juan Gallegos and John Strader.

Chairman Button called on Bro. Roger Stewart to give the Report of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.

Chairman Button called for the review of Newly Recommended Interstate Missionaries on salary.

Each sponsoring church pastor and/or missionary was given the opportunity to speak regarding the missionary and their proposed field of labor.

Discussion followed as reports from the missionaries were shared.

Chairman Button called for the Newly Recommended Foreign Missionaries on Designated Funds; discussion followed.

Chairman Button then called for the Newly Recommended National Missionaries on Salary; discussion followed.

Chairman Button then called for the Newly Recommended National Missionaries on Designated Funds: Chairman Button called for Newly Recommended Missionary Ministry.

Chairman Button called for the afternoon dinner break.

Bro. Stewart gave instructions as to the dinner arrangements.

Chairman Button gave information regarding the prepared changes to the Mission Policy. The committeemen were encouraged to review the changes to the Mission Policy.

Chairman Button called on Bro. Micah Carter to close in prayer and give the blessings on the meal.

Monday Evening May 16, 2022

Chairman Button called the evening meeting to order following prayer for the meeting.

Chairman Button made an announcement regarding the sponsoring church pastor and/or missionaries to speak who were unable to attend any following session.

An explanation was given regarding the one-year suspension of the 5% reduction for affected missionaries because of the cancelling of the 2020 session of the ABA messenger meeting.

Chairman Button called for the roll call of the Standing Missionary Committee: All members were present with the exception of Brethren Larry Butte and Michael Schmid.

Chairman Button called for the review of the Re-recommended Interstate missionaries on Salary.

Chairman Button called on Bro. Vernon McNully to come and give a report on his ministry and to offer the closing prayer.

Chairman Button adjourned the meeting until Tuesday morning May 17, 2022, at 8:15.

Tuesday Morning May 17, 2022

Chairman Button led the meeting in a hymn "Send the Light" accompanied on piano by Sister Gena Stewart.

Chairman Button called the Standing Missionary Committee to order and Bro. Jim Crain led in prayer.

Chairman Button called for the roll call of the Standing Missionary Committee.

All committeemen were present with the exception of Brethren Larry Butte and Michael Schmid. Information was given concerning the Committeemen which were not present.

Chairman Button called on Vice-Chairman Bro. Eddie Addison to preside over the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of the Re-recommended Interstate on Designated Funds.

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of Re-recommended Foreign Missionaries on Salary.

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of the Re-recommended Foreign on Designated Funds.

Vice-Chairman called for the review of the Re-recommended National on Salary

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of the Re-recommended National on Designated Funds.

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of the Re-recommended Missionary Helper.

Vice-Chairman Addison called for the review of the Re-recommended Missionary Ministry.

Chairman Button called for any Miscellaneous Business.

Bro. Stewart gave an update on Missions Office Vehicle.

Separate Line Item #1: A move was made for a 3% raise for full salaried missionaries. Second. Following discussion, the motion carried.

Separate Line Item #2: Motion was made to recommend a 3% raise for the secretary/treasurer of missions. Second, motion carried.

Bro. Michael Thompson was called on to give a report relative the centennial project.

Chairman Button made some comments regarding the Mission Policy Revision report. A motion was made by the Standing Missionary Committee to recommend the Mission Policy Revision to the messengers attending the national meeting. Second, Motion carried.

Chairman Button reported on the progress of the Wednesday evening Mission Program. Chairman Button requested additional video clips of national missionaries preaching in their native tongue to be used in the Wednesday night program.

A motion was made to give Northern Hills Baptist Church and pastor Dr. Roger Copeland a standing vote of appreciation. Second and a rising vote was taken.

Motion was made to adjourn. Dismissal prayer was offer by Bro. Michael Thompson.

**Report of the ABA Campground Trustees
2022**

**Philip Pevehouse, Chairman
John Bryant, Clerk**

Trustees: Michael Reese; Doug Goodman; Tony Harp

Greetings to the messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association convened in Orlando, Florida. The Trustees are happy to report a great season of camping occurred last year at both Pine Springs in Texas and Bogg Springs in Arkansas. There were many great reports from camps of souls saved, lives touched, and answers to God's call.

Over the last several years there have been many challenges. Foremost among those challenges was the worldwide pandemic we all faced. COVID-19 presented many challenges to health management of the camps as well as causing some camps to cancel because of concerns over spread. God was faithful to us and last year was much more of a "normal" year than the previous year.

Bogg Springs continues to go forward. Bro. Doug Curtis has decided he will be retiring from the work as Superintendent soon. He has told the Trustees he would like for his replacement to come on board with him next camping year to learn the workings of the Camp. Bro. Doug has plans (Lord willing) to leave his position the next year. Bro. Doug is to be thanked for all his hard work, leadership, and vision for Bogg Springs we have been blessed with over the last several decades.

The Trustees accepted resumes until June 1 of this year. There have been several applicants apply. Prayerfully, we will have a decision on Bro. Doug's replacement this summer. We will keep you informed.

Bro. Ricky Lee, Superintendent at Pine Springs, continues to do great work. His leadership and vision for the Camp have truly been a blessing. Improvements to the facilities continue to be made regarding the swimming pool, lake, and dormitories to name a few. Bro. Ricky is a faithful steward of the responsibility given to him by the Churches.

The Trustees ask for your prayers as camps have already begun this year. Souls have been saved and continue to be saved at our camps. The ministry of camp is a place where we know God's Word is preached, God is honored, and the Holy Spirit works. It is an honor to be a part of this work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip Pevehouse, Chairman



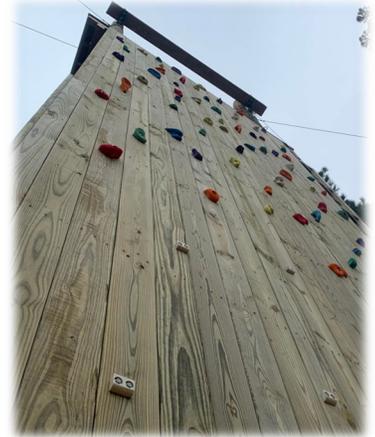
Pine Springs Baptist Camp
Manager: Ricky Lee

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Laneville, TX 75667

Phone: (903) 863-5524
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www.pinespringsbaptistcamp.com

Greetings from Pine Springs,

I hope this report finds you doing well and excited for what the new year may bring. Summer will soon be upon us and I hope you are making plans to come to camp this summer as Pine Springs will have some new offerings that you won't want to miss.



The Rock-Climbing Wall and Zip-Line have been constructed and are just about ready for use. We are still waiting on a few equipment items and training but plan to have full service of this attraction for this summer.



We are also planning on purchasing Gelly Ball equipment to add to our recreational activities. Gelly Ball is played like Paint Ball or Air Soft without as much "sting". There are many variants of games that can be played and will be a big hit with the kids this summer.

We are in the process of remodeling what was known as the staff and director's cabins. In addition to the remodel, these cabins are being updated to include small kitchenettes. Starting this summer, these cabins will be available to rent by family units that desire to attend camp and have their own private dwelling. Or, camps can rent them for whatever they want to purpose them for, whether it be for camp director, speaker, entertainers or worship leaders. The staff will reside in two of our regular dorms. The increase in activities results in more staffers being hired. The additional space of our dorm rooms will be needed to house them.

May God bless you for your continued support of the camp. We had over 200 professions of faith last summer. Let's keep Pine Springs going strong.

In Christ,

Ricky Lee,
Pine Springs Baptist Camp

Report from Bogg Springs

Doug Curtis

Hello Messengers. Greetings from Bogg Springs. As of this writing, we are 13 days away from welcoming our campers from Oklahoma. We are praying for a continued return to normalcy after the terrible summer of 2020. We were on pace last year to probably have returned to about 80% of normal, but the Omicron variant of COVID impacted the groups that were here in July, including causing a cancellation of Kids Camp. We had over 3,400 campers compared to a normal number in the low to mid 5,000s. It was great to have everyone back.

Obviously, the COVID pandemic could have wreaked havoc on the financial stability of Bogg Springs, but we received special offerings exceeding \$131,000 for COVID relief. I always knew that if we had a catastrophe, our churches would come through and it was proven.

Nothing glamorous happened this year in terms of projects, but new roofs and septic system upgrades are part of the necessary items to keep the Bogg in good condition and we purchased a lot of video equipment for the worship center.

I announced via Facebook and ABA publications my plan to retire at the end of the 2023 season. I will be 64 at that time, and strongly feel that the time will be right for new leadership to continue to move Bogg Springs ahead in the future. I cannot express how much it has meant to serve the churches of the ABA since 1994 as the superintendent of Bogg Springs. I feel blessed beyond measure to call so many of you dear friends. The partnership between the facility and the churches that use it has been and will be a very successful venture. Many people have remarked that “Bogg Springs won’t be the same without the Curtis’s there”. I hope that is true, I hope that it is better than ever in the coming years.

May God bless all the churches of our Fellowship
Doug Curtis

CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION

American Baptist Association

2022 Report

The Military chaplains endorsed through the American Baptist Association continue to provide unmatched faithful, professional, spiritual and religious care for God and Country. We now have five chaplains serving and one who will begin service in August.

During the past year God has blessed adding three number Chaplains who are ABA endorsed. Each of the chaplains serve God and Country faithfully while serving their respective local church duties. Our seminary graduates continue to demonstrate exceptional performance in military, law enforcement, prison, and medical care environments. Our current military chaplains are:

Chaplain (Commander) Terry Bewley, U.S. Naval Reserve, Religious Affairs Office of the Joint Chief of Staff, Pentagon. Chaplain Bewley serves as a Navy Reserve Chaplain with duties in the Religious Affairs Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff in the Pentagon.

Chaplain (Major) Michael Raines, U.S. Army Reserve, Texas. Chaplain Raines continues to serve in the Army Reserve in a Medical Readiness and Training Command in Texas and as Senior Pastor at Landmark Baptist Church, Waco, Texas.

Chaplain (Captain) Charles P. Finney, U.S. Army National Guard, Arkansas. Chaplain Finney continues to serve in the Arkansas National Guard. While he expected to retire last year, he extended for at least one more year.

Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Roy Schneider, U.S. Army Reserve, Maryland. We are happy to welcome Chaplain Schneider to the role of ABA endorsed chaplains. Chaplain Schneider recently completed the Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course. He serves in 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) in White Plains, MD. He expects to attend Airborne School in the coming months.

Chaplain (First Lieutenant) James Taylor, U.S. Army National Guard, Colorado. We are also excited to welcome Chaplain Taylor to our team, serving in a Field Artillery Battalion in the Colorado National Guard while planting a new church in Colorado. He is currently in the Chaplain Officer Basic Leaders Course.

We have one additional incoming Chaplain who will begin active-duty service in the Air Force in August.

All Service Branches of the military continue to need quality and highly qualified ministers to answer the call to this specialized ministry. Applicants who wish to serve in military, Federal Prison, Veterans' hospital, and other hospital chaplaincy must meet high educational professional training requirements set by the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Veterans Administration, and respective hospitals. Chaplains must receive an endorsement by a local church fellowshiping with the churches of the American Baptist Association (ABA).

Every Service Member needs to hear the gospel before entering war situations. We have confidence that ABA endorsed Chaplains will preach and teach the Gospel with boldness.

Brother Terry Romine represented the ABA at the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) in Alexandria, VA in January 2022.

The Commission received sufficient funds this year to meet the needs. For the coming year, we ask churches to consider a small monthly or a one-time contribution to facilitate the ongoing work of the commission. We have an annual budgetary need of approximately \$10,000.00.

May 31, 2021, Funds on Hand	7,516.87
Funds Received	4,150.00
Funds disbursed	5,705.86
May 31, 2022,	5,962.01

Brother Larry Flynn, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, Carlisle, Arkansas served faithfully as the Chaplaincy Commission Treasurer for the past five years. He decided to step down from this position effective May 31, 2022. We are indebted to his professionalism and attention to detail serving in this capacity.

Brother Russ Markel, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Cunningham, Tennessee will pick up the Chaplaincy Commission Treasurer duties in June 2022. Churches may send support to ABA Chaplaincy Commission, 1369 Ambleside Dr., Clarksville, Tennessee 37040.

Terry Romine, Chairman
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History and Archives Committee Minutes

December 1st , 2020

Online Meeting

The History and Archives Committee held an online meeting via the Google Meet app at Noon C.S.T. Logging on to participate in the meeting were Brethren; Michael Thompson (Chairman), Larry Butte (Vice-Chairman), Philip Wysocki (Secretary), Terry Parrish, and David Gregg. Absent from the meeting were Brethren Paul Ashcraft (Treasurer) and Robert Cullifer.

Vice Chairman Butte called the meeting to order as Chairman Thompson was logging on temporarily to observe what he could as his wife was undergoing surgery. Vice Chairman Butte called on Bro. Terry Parrish to open in prayer, lifting up the Thompsons as well as the family of Bro. Donald Britton, former chairman of the committee, who passed away this year.

Vice Chairman Butte then called upon Bro. Wysocki to read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved as read. With the absence of Bro. Ashcraft there was no treasury report, but Bro. Ashcraft did send his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting with a few notes concerning the website.

Bro. Butte then entered the Old Business part of the meeting by updating the committee on the work being done on the 100th session anniversary. He noted that the Promotional Director's Office is proposing funding for digitizing "Voices of the Past" cassettes which can then be used as part of the 100th anniversary celebration presentations. The History and Archives Committee is grateful for the partnerships with the Promotional Director's Office and the Standing Mission Committee in preparing for the 100th session anniversary.

Under New Business, discussion was turned to the Historical Merit Award. Bro. Paul Clark of Texas was brought up for consideration. Bro. Terry Parrish moved to select Bro. Clark as the recipient of the award. Bro. David Gregg voiced the second, and the motion carried.

The committee agreed to again reserve a booth at the National ABA meeting in June and to authorize Bro. Ashcraft to make the arrangements.

Bro. Butte made mention that some work was being done on compiling the database of all ABA missionaries in preparation for the 100th session, but that the work was sporadic since the labor was being done by volunteers. Bro. Paul Clark's granddaughter has diligently worked on some of the database, but it is an immense task. Bro. Butte asked the committee to consider the possibility of hiring someone to do the work. With the absence of Bro. Ashcraft, it was noted that we need to consider the balance in our treasury when making the final decision.

Bro. David Gregg moved the discussion to the Pioneer Missionaries Project by asking about the length requirements of the section he was working on. It was noted that the standard length of the Servants Among Us Project was approximately 500 words.

Vice Chairman Butte then opened the floor for items of regional historical work. Bro. Parrish spoke concerning some items he had been blessed to receive. He also spoke concerning the irony of the seemingly repetitive nature of history. There followed a wonderful discussion concerning our Baptist History.

Bro. Butte called for any other business. Bro. Parrish made a motion to adjourn. Bro. Gregg gave the second. Bro. David Gregg was called on to lead the committee in closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bro. Michael Thompson, Chairman
Bro. Philip Wysocki, Secretary

National MBSF Report ABA 2022

If there were ever a need for a church centered outreach to a college-aged audience, now is that time. Facing headwinds never before seen, the campus ministry of Missionary Baptist Student Fellowship is decidedly aimed at the young adult population (17-24) with a particular program relevant to where they are and what they are facing. Dozens of churches in our fellowship direct a program of gospel outreach Bible study, and Christian edification aimed to a group that is increasingly unattached to and unaffected by Christian witness. Statistics show that more than one-third of the college population list themselves as “unaffiliated” with any religion.

The campus ministry of MBSF serves at a valuable time in the development of the young adult population. Major life decisions are made. The forces of the enemies of the Lord are hard at work to blind them to the truth and keep those who are saved from growing into servants. The college fields are white unto harvest like everywhere else. An MBSF group may be a small light in a dark place, but a candle shines brightest in the darkest room.

By its origin in 1954 in Arkansas, MBSF programs are a unique ministry and are definitely associational in character. A sponsoring church in a college town leads the program and supplies the directors and sponsors to act as a liaison between the church and student group. An MBSF is not a para-church organization; it is a pro-church organization. The aim of an MBSF ministry is the same as the church that sponsors it: to win souls to Christ and teach them to follow the Lord in baptism and service in and through at New Testament church.

If you live near a MBSF program, get involved. Ask your church to pray for the work being done. Send names and contact information for students under their ministry umbrella. Invite the director or MBSF representatives to come and share their work with your church. Send financial support according to the needs. An MBSF ministry brings light and one that is much needed on the college campus today.

If your church is near a college or university and there is not currently an active MBSF ministry, you might prayerfully consider the opportunity of opening the door to the campus near you. Contact your nearest MBSF director or sponsoring church to get more information. Pray for the men who lead these ministries as they face head-on the problems that beset the college age population today to advance the gospel.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APRIL 26, 2022

Monday, April 25, 2022

The Baptist Sunday School Committee met in the conference room of the Bogard Bookstore. All committee members were present except for Brother Caleb Wood whose flight was delayed due to weather. Brother Todd Dornan brought the evening devotional from Nehemiah 8:5-6 and led in opening prayer. The evening was dedicated to subcommittee meetings. Following prayer by Brother R. L. Clark, Salary Review and Financial Planning and Goals subcommittees met in order to complete their assignments.

Tuesday Morning – April 26, 2022

The Policy Review and Equipment subcommittees met prior to the full committee meeting. Chairman David Butimore called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. The Roll Call was made and all committeemen were present except for Brother Jeff Krisell who left the meeting to attend to his wife and father who are having medical problems.

Chairman David Butimore called upon Brother John Tarter for devotional time. He used 1 Peter 3:15 and led in opening prayer. A motion and second passed to receive our guests and invite their consultation.

The Committee met for a time of fellowship with the employees and to recognize Brother John Oswald for his twenty years of faithful service to the Baptist Sunday School Committee. The Committee was blessed to enjoy cake, fruit and vegetables with the employees of the Baptist Sunday School Committee.

The Committee reconvened and Brother David Butimore called upon Ms. Renda Stewart from Grier, Reeves and Lawley, Certified Public Accountants to present the annual audit. A motion and second passed to accept the report of the auditor and commend Ms. Renda Stewart and the Accounting Firm expressing the Committee's continued confidence.

Chairman Butimore recognized Brother Dean Grigsby for the report of the Business Manager. The Committee dismissed at 11:20 AM for lunch which was served on the property. Brother Eric Sutton led in offering a prayer for the lunch.

Tuesday Afternoon – 12:30 PM

The Committee reconvened after lunch. The report of the Business Manager continued. The Committee discussed his report concerning the current marketing plan. The report was very extensive. A motion and second passed to adopt the report of the Business Manager.

Chairman Butimore called upon Brother Mark Clements to present the report of the Editor in Chief. There was extensive discussion about the production and marketing of literature in digital form. A motion and second carried to adopt the report.

Prayer requests were received and prayer was led by Brother Ray Meigs.

Sub-Committee Reports

The **Equipment subcommittee** gave their report. There were no recommendations. Brother Grigsby spoke concerning the Print on Demand now under contract and the delay of purchasing vehicles for the business due to high costs of vehicles. A motion and second passed to adopt the report.

The **Policy subcommittee** gave their report. After much discussion, a motion and second was made to have the subcommittee meet in person in Texarkana to go over the policy and make changes to our current policy to be presented to the whole Committee. An amendment to the motion was made to have a zoom meeting and then to meet in person if necessary. The amendment carried and the motion and second carried.

The **Project Development subcommittee** gave their report. Editor in Chief Mark Clements reviewed the new proposal title sheet and gave an update on the Kindle version of the Adult Sunday School Study Guide. Brother Clements introduced employees of Bogard Press who serve in product development in various departments. They shared with the subcommittee the role they play in the process of the production of materials published by the Baptist Sunday School Committee. Chairman Steve Butler asked Brother R. L. Clark to lead in a special prayer for the employees. Brother Clements gave updates on the progress and vision of Project #2(Proposal 101 – Discipleship Guide). The subcommittee discussed the progress of Project #3(Proposal 108 – Through The Bible TEEN Sunday School Curriculum). The SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED BY ACCLAMATION TO MAKE THE FULL CURRICULUM SAMPLE PROMOTION PROJECT #4 AND THE DIGITAL CATALOG PROJECT #5. The recommendation was approved.

The **Financial Planning and Goals subcommittee** shared their recommendations of approval to the whole committee. (1) Approve the Metric of Goals to be used in planning and management of the Baptist Sunday School Committee with projections for 3 years and 5 years and the subcommittee endorse the goal of increased sales. (2) The subcommittee recommended no price increase for literature in 2022 based on God’s grace and the performance of the employees under the current leadership. The recommendations were approved.

The **Salary Review subcommittee** made their recommendations to the whole Committee. After much prayer and discussion, (1)a motion was made and passed to allow Brother Grigsby to increase the Salary Budget by 3% to be given at his discretion for 2022 salary increases relative to amount and/or structure. (2) The subcommittee also voted to recommend to the full committee to give a \$200 bonus to each employee and a \$50 gift card to temporary workers for our appreciation for the steadfastness and great help in their performance during the difficult times of the past couple of years. The recommendation includes a rising vote of appreciation for the employees. (3)The subcommittee also approved a motion to recommend a 5% increase in salary for Brother Grigsby because he has not received a raise since 2018. (4)Another motion was approved to recommend a \$7500 performance bonus for all the hard work and difficult decisions that had to be made to keep our business going. (5) Another motion was made to give Brother Clements a 2% raise, but an amendment was made to make it a 3% raise. The motion as amended passed. A motion and second to give Brothers Grigsby and Clements a rising vote of appreciation for their work in difficult times. The Salary Review Committee report received a motion and second and carried.

The Committee gave a unanimous rising vote of appreciation for the Officers and Employees for their dedicated service.

Brother Dennis Richey stated that if re-elected to the Baptist Sunday School Committee he will be stepping down as Clerk of the Committee. Brother Richey was commended for his many years of service as Assistant Clerk and Clerk.

A motion and second to purchase a computer for the Baptist Sunday School Committee to be in the custody of the Clerk. The motion was amended to purchase a computer for the Assistant Clerk as well. The amended motion carried and the motion carried.

A motion and second carried that the current computer be given to Brother Richey.

A motion and second carried to adjourn until June at the national American Baptist Association with no on-line meeting in May.

Announcements were made and Brother Mack Peercy led in closing prayer.

Brother David Butimore, Chairman

Brother Dennis Richey, Clerk

Action Items:

- (1) To allow Brother Grigsby to increase the Salary Budget by 3% to be given at his discretion for 2022 salary increases relative to amount and/or structure.**
- (2) To give a 5% increase in salary for Brother Grigsby because he has not received a raise since 2018.**
- (3) To give Brother Clements a 3% increase in salary.**
- (4) To give the employees of the Baptist Sunday School Committee a rising vote of appreciation for their hard work during the last two years.**

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER TO THE MESSENGERS OF
THE AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MEETING IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA
June 21-23, 2022**

It is a privilege to serve the churches of the American Baptist Association (ABA) as Business Manager of the Baptist Sunday School Committee (BSSC). We thank God for the churches of the ABA who have entrusted us to produce high-quality, doctrinally sound literature to help churches fulfill the Great Commission while providing ministry opportunities to our writers and employees to serve God, His churches, our families and our communities. Your confidence in us is humbling, and we are committed to be good stewards of this ministry.

God continues to bless this ministry He established and has protected for over 100 years. With the recent events, we better understand God’s words to Israel as He prepared them for the Promised Land: ***“For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness...”*** (Deuteronomy 2:7).

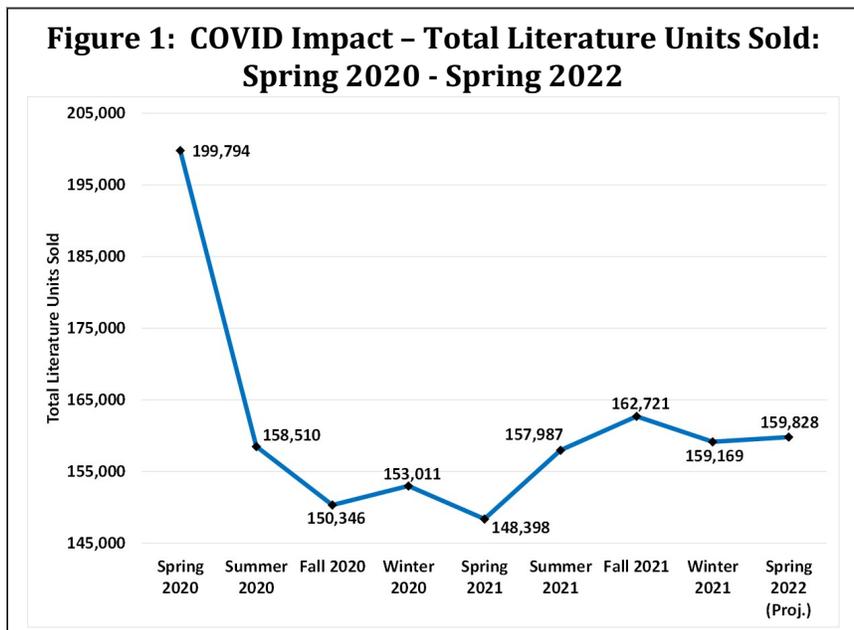
Since the onset of the COVID wilderness, our efforts have been focused in four areas:

1. Minimize the impact of the pandemic on the ministry.
2. Maintain a disciplined, value-based financial approach.
3. Develop a marketing strategy and plan.
4. Develop a product development strategy.

I am pleased to report we are in a good financial position and will be reporting on long-term goals approved by the BSSC to position us to serve churches for decades to come.

COVID IMPACT AND FINANCES

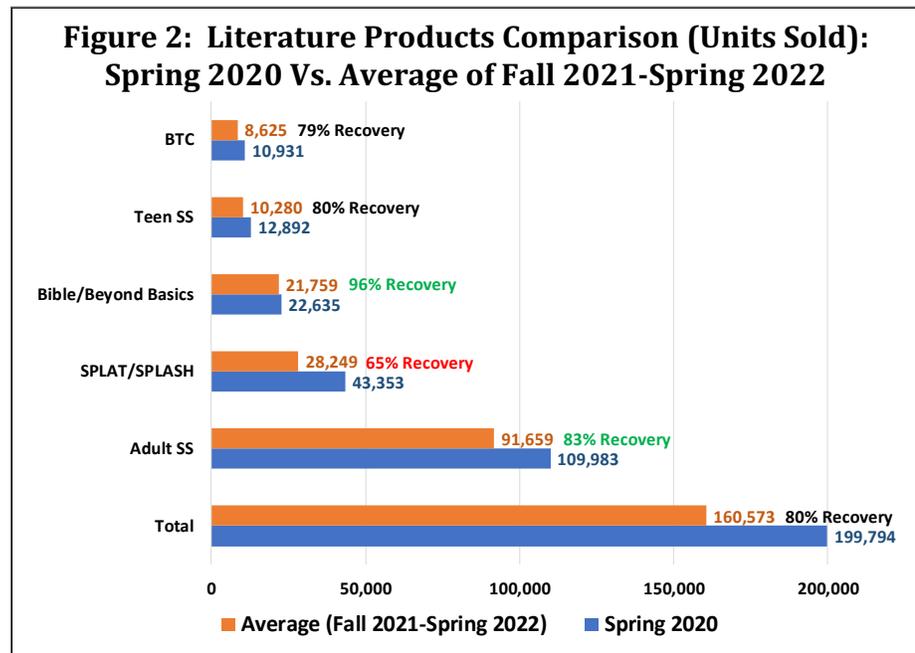
We are committed to serve churches fulfilling the Great Commission. COVID greatly impacted sales as shown in Figure 1, which shows quarterly total literature unit sales of the BSSC from Spring 2020 through Spring 2022. There was a continual drop for two quarters to around 150,000 total literature units sold. Literature unit sales then lined out for the next three quarters. This initial impact resulted in



approximately \$750,000 of lost revenue from literature, over half of the approximate \$1,300,000 in overall reduction in revenue due to COVID. Throughout these difficulties we faithfully supplied literature to the churches whom we are privileged to serve.

In Summer 2021 we began to see a recovery of approximately 10,000 units which lasted for two quarters. We have maintained that level of about 160,000 units sold for the last three quarters, and this appears to be the new baseline for total literature units sold after COVID. Final COVID impact on literature sales is estimated near \$450,000, assuming we have reached the end of the recovery.

Figure 2 shows literature unit sales for various literature product lines for Spring 2020, the last quarter prior to COVID, and the average literature unit sales for Fall 2021 through Spring 2022. The long-term impact of COVID on literature unit sales is estimated at 20%, an 80% recovery rate.



Bible Basics and Beyond Basics children’s Sunday

School and chapel lines have had the best recovery rate of 96%. The adult Sunday School lines have demonstrated the next best recovery rate of 83%. SPLAT and SPLASH children’s Sunday School and chapel lines have shown the least recovery rate at 65%. The total recovery rate for children’s Sunday School is 76%, which indicates children’s ministries may still be lagging other ministries in attendance. All other product lines were near the average of 80% recovery.

Table 1 compares 2021 sales versus 2020, as well as sales through May 2022. Total sales improved 3% in 2021 over 2020. Sales through May 2022 are 12% higher than the same time frame in 2021. This improvement demonstrates performance near the same levels as the end of 2021. For a proper perspective in the analysis of the data, it must be realized total sales for 2021 were down 26% versus 2019, the last full year of non-COVID sales.

2021 retail store sales were 22% higher than 2020, an improvement of 6% versus 2019, independent of COVID. Retail sales drove the 24% increase in books and supplies sales for

Table 1: Total Sales; 2020 and 2021

	2020 Total Sales	2021 Total Sales	% Dif. '21 vs '20	Sales Through May 2022	% Dif. '22 vs '21
Total Sales (% Total Sales)	\$ 3,320,592.28 (100%)	\$ 3,432,478.32 (100%)	↑ 3%	\$ 1,791,616.76 (100%)	↑ 12%
Sales Orders (% Total Sales)	\$ 2,794,850.46 (84.2%)	\$ 2,789,655.05 (81.3%)	↓ 0%	\$ 1,540,305.10 (86.0%)	↑ 15%
Retail Store(s) (% Total Sales)	\$ 525,741.82 (15.8%)	\$ 642,823.27 (18.7%)	↑ 22%	\$ 251,311.66 (14.0%)	↓ 4%
Literature Sales (% Total Sales)	\$ 2,514,562.16 (75.7%)	\$ 2,553,002.03 (74.4%)	↑ 2%	\$ 1,247,895.58 (69.7%)	↑ 5%
VBS Sales (% Total Sales)	\$ 259,724.62 (7.8%)	\$ 209,046.94 (6.1%)	↓ 20%	\$ 315,018.74 (17.6%)	↑ 129%
Books/Supplies (% Total Sales)	\$ 470,312.10 (14.1%)	\$ 581,556.59 (17.0%)	↑ 24%	\$ 199,025.69 (11.1%)	↓ 15%
Bogard Press (% Total Sales)	\$ 39,537.95 (1.2%)	\$ 42,851.13 (1.2%)	↑ 8%	\$ 18,309.43 (1.0%)	↓ 4%
<i>Discovery</i> (% Total Sales)	\$ 14,902.28 (0.5%)	-	-	-	-
Spanish Lit. (% Total Sales)	\$ 11,752.52 (0.4%)	\$ 12,611.59 (0.3%)	↑ 7%	\$ 5,714.21 (0.3%)	↑ 16%
<i>Bible Challenge</i> (% Total Sales)	\$ 4,971.47 (0.2%)	\$ 27,496.76 (0.7%)	↑ 85%	\$ 3,707.18 (0.2%)	↓ 15%
Tracts (% Total Sales)	\$ 4,529.18 (0.1%)	\$ 5,913.28 (0.2%)	↑ 31%	\$ 1,945.93 (0.1%)	↓ 11%

2021. We believe improvements have come from two main sources: closure of the Lifeway® store in Texarkana and a general increase in sales after the pandemic.

Even with improved sales, significant pressures still exist relative to the profitability of the retail store including inflation and the cost of support services needed to operate. These are the same pressures that have resulted in many closings of similar ministries through the last decade, independent of COVID. An analysis of store costs was performed in 2021, estimating all costs. The study determined the store had been operating at significant losses for years. Changes were made in work processes and job responsibilities, which have lowered the hours required in actual operations by over a man-year. These changes have the store operating near break-even levels for the first time in many years.

COVID's impact on VBS sales continued in 2021, with sales 20% lower than 2020. There are several possible reasons for this. Some churches ordered 2020 VBS materials prior to the pandemic and used them in 2021. Many churches were still hesitant to have summer

activities in 2021. For five years prior to COVID, average VBS sales were near \$760,000 per year. Thus, COVID impact on VBS sales has been estimated at \$525,000 per year.

Thankfully, VBS sales for 2022 are much better through May in comparison to 2021. The improvement in VBS sales accounts for 90% of the improved sales through May 2022. VBS performance is somewhat mimicking the recovery we experienced with literature the last three quarters. This indicates 2023 could begin to approach pre-COVID sales. In relation to pandemic recovery, 2022 VBS sales are running near 2007 and 2008 levels through May. Current projections estimate VBS sales to be in the \$400,000 range for 2022.

Even though total sales amounts are less than 3% for Bogard books, Spanish literature, Bible Challenge, and Tracts, the increases in 2021 versus 2020 indicate more churches may be returning to more normal schedules and utilizing outreach and discipleship tools more readily. We are hopeful these trends continue within the Lord’s churches.

Table 2 shows literature sales for 2020 and 2021, as well as sales through May 2022. Sales were up across the board for the various literature types and age groups in 2021 versus 2020. Sales through May 2022 indicate the improvements made at the end of 2021 discussed earlier seem to be holding steady at this time. Children’s Sunday School literature is showing a healthy increase so far this year, which we hope is indicative of continued improvement in these ministries among the churches.

Table 2: Literature Sales; 2020 and 2021

	2020	2021	% Dif. '21 v. '20	Sales Through May 2022	% Dif. '22 vs '21
Literature Sales (% Literature)	\$ 2,514,562.16 (100%)	\$ 2,553,002.03 (100%)	↑ 2%	\$ 1,247,895.58 (100%)	↑ 5%
Adult/Youth SS (% Literature)	\$ 1,486,289.63 (59.1%)	\$ 1,496,251.22 (58.6%)	↑ 1%	\$ 724,181.53 (58.0%)	↑ 1%
Children’s SS (% Literature)	\$ 893,667.99 (35.5%)	\$ 918,793.42 (36.0%)	↑ 3%	\$ 457,244.10 (36.7%)	↑ 11%
BTC – All Ages (% Literature)	\$ 134,604.54 (5.4%)	\$ 137,957.39 (5.4%)	↑ 3%	\$ 66,469.95 (5.3%)	↑ 5%

As pandemic effects wane, other world events in the last year have had significant impacts on the BSSC; the largest being inflation. The annual US inflation rate was 8.3% through April 2022, which is at a 40-year high. Contract paper prices increased 17% for the first half of 2022 versus 2021. Prices are so volatile that our suppliers did not quote contract prices for the second half of 2022. Some spot prices have been over 40% higher versus 2021 through the first quarter, and suppliers have announced more price increases near an additional 15% for the second quarter of 2022. Raw material suppliers are also struggling to meet demand. Throughout these pressures, we have employed and will continue to find creative purchasing and production methods to ensure literature production.

Another example of inflation has been seen in lease pricing. We recently leased a new digital press, which will result in an estimated 26% increase in these costs over five years. We expect to gain significant productivity and capability with the new contract and are hoping to have more print-on-demand capabilities than we have had in the past.

Through God’s amazing grace, improved financial discipline, improved employee productivity, the recovery in sales, and our improved cash position, I am not requesting a price increase in the literature for 2022, even with the significant inflation pressures we are experiencing. We are comfortable with the decision due to the performance our employees have demonstrated the past four years and with the vote of the messengers in 2018 “to authorize the Business Manager in consultation with the [BSSC] to raise prices in proportion to the inflation of materials if necessary to protect the business.”

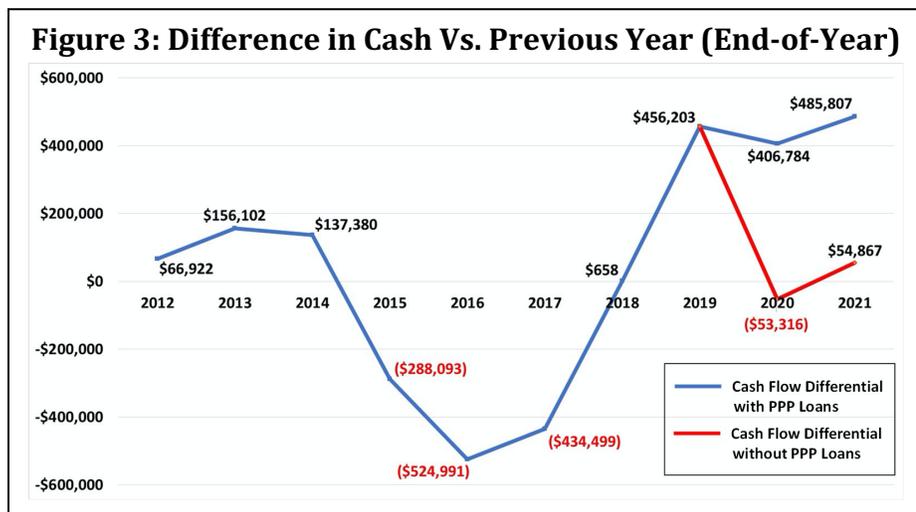
LONG-TERM GOALS AND METRICS

In 2018 the BSSC had suffered total net losses in consecutive years of over \$1,300,000 for 2016 and 2017, as calculated by the auditors. We implemented a change in management philosophy to a value-based financial approach focused on managing cash flow and improving productivity. In 2020 COVID resulted in a loss of sales of over \$1,300,000, equaling the impact of 2016 and 2017 in a much shorter time. The value-based approach has served the BSSC well. Total net losses for 2020 and 2021, as calculated by the auditors, were under \$21,000, even after the historical impact of COVID on the Lord’s churches.

It is apparent God has blessed this approach in stewardship, and we give Him the glory. This performance is also a testimony to the employees who minister in Texarkana. They have accepted significant changes in management philosophies and work processes to overcome historically difficult circumstances to achieve this performance.

Part of a value-based management approach is to set goals based on measurable metrics that impact key indicators of success. One metric on which we have focused since 2018 is annual cash flow, which measures the difference in cash available over a 12-month period. Figure 3 shows annual cash flow for the years 2012 through 2021.

The BSSC received two Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans, one each in 2020 and 2021,



totaling \$891,040. All conditions were met for both loans to be fully forgiven. The total increase in annual cash flow for those two years was \$892,590, so this demonstrates the ministry performed at a break-even level relative to cash flow independent of the PPP loans in two of the most difficult financial years in the history of the BSSC. This is shown in Figure 3 by the red line.

The total positive annual cash flow since 2018, not counting PPP loans, is \$458,411, an average of \$114,602, which is comparable to the average annual cash flow of \$120,134 for the years 2011 through 2014, before the financial problems surfaced. These results are a testament to the faithfulness of our God and the dedication of His ministering employees at the BSSC to financial discipline and perseverance through these difficult days.

This excellent cash flow performance since 2018 gives the BSSC flexibility to implement development and promotion projects as viable projects are defined. With limited projects currently in the pipeline, this performance is a key reason we are not recommending a price increase at the messenger meeting this year.

When defining metrics, more than finances must be considered. Our success will be determined by our ability to meet the needs of the churches we serve. The most significant way we assist churches is by providing tools to help in Bible studies and the discipleship process. Thus, the number of students we serve is a direct measure of our purpose and will serve as our primary target metric. Table 3 shows the metrics and the 3- and 5- year targets developed by the staff in Texarkana and approved by the BSSC in April 2022.

Table 3: Average Annual Metric Performance History and 3- and 5-Year Targets

Metric	<u>Average</u> 2011- 2014	<u>Average</u> 2015- 2018	<u>Average</u> 2019- 2021	2024 Target	2026 Target
Estimated Average Lit. Students Served / Year	730,000	675,000	510,000	525,000	535,000
Average FTE / Year	55.0	57.2	43.2	40.0	40.0
Est. Total Annual Lit. Students Served/Employee	13,200	11,800	11,800	13,800	14,000
Human Capital Return on Investment (HCROI)	0.80	0.65	0.88	1.30	1.50
Est. Annual Total Sales Units / Employee	28,500	24,800	23,100	25,100	25,400
Est. Units Produced / Non-Retail Employee	44,800	40,500	40,100	39,600	40,300
Annual Cash Flow Differential / Employee	\$2,100	-\$5,300	\$10,500	\$5,000	\$2,000

There has been a continual decline in students served by the BSSC as measured by the number of literature students for well over a decade, a decrease of 30% when comparing

the average of the years 2019-2021 versus the years 2011-2014. Much of this is due to COVID, but we have been experiencing declines independent of the pandemic, as demonstrated by an 8% decline in the average number for students served between the 2015-2018 and 2011-2014 time periods. This general decline is indicative of what many pastors are communicating within our churches.

The health of the BSSC is directly tied to the churches we serve. But we believe part of the performance is due to limited product development and marketing. So, we are targeting an increase to 535,000 literature students for 2026. We believe improvements in organization and work processes in the BSSC's product development and promotions area will provide better products and will provide means through which churches, who are looking for us and the great products we offer, can find us. These improvements will be further discussed in the Editor-in-Chief report.

Another area of metrics on which we have focused is productivity. The art of publishing is an intellectual endeavor, as demonstrated by 40% of the BSSC's budget being employee costs. Our success will be determined by our human capital. We have begun to plan based on Human Capital Return on Investment (HCROI). HCROI is a measure of the productivity of an organization's human resources and combines many primary business drivers so opportunities for improvement can be investigated and targeted.

Table 3 shows significant productivity improvements of 35% in HCROI since 2018, with average HCROI increasing to 0.88 for 2019 through 2021 from a 0.65 average for 2015-2018. Much of the increase is directly related to a 24% reduction in number of employees as measured by Full Time Employee equivalents (FTE), which defines the number of employees based on total hours worked assuming a 40-hour work week. Productivity, as measured by the other productivity metrics in Table 3, have demonstrated losses or, at best, break-even values for the same time frame.

To achieve an HCROI target of 1.50, which we believe is necessary to remain viable into the future, requires productivity improvements. To accomplish the targets defined, we must:

- Change our focus and work processes to better utilize available technologies to provide our products to churches and students.
- Improve our digital presence in both marketing and sales, better communicating our value to churches and students looking for us and the products we produce.
- Create more value in our products by embracing improved product development work processes.
- Embrace improved marketing processes to appeal to more churches and students.

As improvements are made, capital and project costs will increase as value-added products and marketing campaigns are added. Thus, we expect the Annual Cash Flow Differential/Employee to decrease as projects are implemented, as shown in Table 3.

To achieve the improvements required, we must change our overall mindset in how we produce our products. We must change our mindset from being "print or digital" to a mindset of being "digital and print." This will require our work processes to change from a

“print first, digital second” mentality to a “digital first, print second” mentality. Our digital offerings must become as good as our print offerings if we are going to meet the goal approved by the BSSC in September 2018 and the messengers of the ABA in June 2019 to “create a platform to support 80% of total sales from digital means in 5 years.” Based on improvements made during the challenges of the last few years and the data presented, these goals and targets are possible, if we will embrace the changes required.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Per votes of past messenger bodies regarding designated funds (June 1988 – R&D fund, June 2009 – equipment fund, May 2016 – building fund), Table 4 shows current balances of these funds through March 2022.

Table 4: Designated Funds Balances

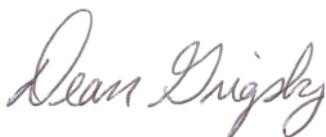
Fund	Balance: Mar. 31, 2022
R&D Fund	(\$693,564.98)
Equipment Fund	\$133,953.18
Building Fund	\$61,675.28

THANK YOU

On behalf of the employees of the BSSC, thank you for the opportunity to serve the churches of the ABA. I am thankful for the team of employees and writers who have faithfully ministered to ensure literature is available to the churches to help them fulfill the Great Commission. I am thankful for Brother Mark Clements who has been dedicated to help define and implement the changes we will need to achieve the goals presented in the next five years. I appreciate the leadership of the committeemen of the BSSC who provide godly counsel and encouragement.

As we emerge from the wilderness of a pandemic into the challenges and promises we have before us, I am reminded of a prayer of Moses at the end of the wandering in the wilderness that I think is appropriate for us as we move forward: **“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it”** (Psalm 90:17). We look forward to the grace of God and the blessings of His hands, which He is faithful to give.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dean Grigsby
Business Manager

**Report of the Editor in Chief to the Messengers of the
American Baptist Association
June 23, 2022**

The first year serving as Editor in Chief has been quite an adventure. I am honored to serve the churches of the ABA in this position and I covet your prayers as I continue to learn the scope and responsibilities of this ministry. My wife, our two youngest children and I were able to find a house in Texarkana last September and we have been transitioning to life in a new town. It has not been easy, but God has been very good to us. We look forward to what He has in store.

Since coming on board officially as Editor in Chief on July 1, 2021, I have learned much about our publishing ministry. My appreciation for past Editors-in-Chief I have known – Bill Johnson, Larry Clements and Kyle Elkins – has grown immensely. It is an honor and tremendous responsibility to carry on the duties of this office and I am committed to doing so to the best of my ability, by God’s grace. The areas of oversight on which I am privileged to report are the Editorial Department, the Promotions Department and Product Development.

Where have we been?

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

VBS 2022

“The Mighty God” is another quality Vacation Bible School produced by Bogard Press. Sales are improved from the last two years and we are hearing good things about this VBS. I pray our churches achieve powerful kingdom impact through their Vacation Bible Schools this summer. If you have not planned a VBS yet, it is not too late! Order your VBS materials today.



Adult Study Guide

The new layout of the Adult Study Guide has been received generally well with the only drawback being the difficulty in reading the printed Scripture text. Our Editorial Department has addressed this concern by emboldening the text to make it easier to read.

Searching the Text

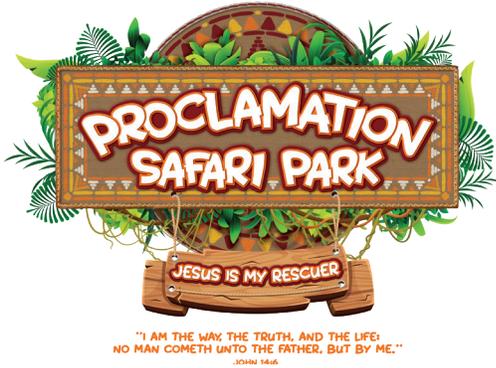
1. The Gospel Rescues from God’s Wrath

Every godly father loves his wife and children. If a man follows God’s commands to love his wife as Christ loves the church and to bring his children up in the care of the Lord, not provoking them to anger, he

Romans 1:18-22

**18. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
19. Because that which**

VBS 2023



VBS '23 – “Proclamation Safari Park: Jesus Is My Rescuer” – is on track to be available for purchase by October 1. In next year’s VBS, students will learn the concepts of salvation, reconciliation, and restoration through the gospel of Jesus Christ while they are immersed in a safari-style adventure. Themes of animal rescues will be used to help the students grasp mankind’s desperate need for God’s intervention through the work of Jesus Christ on Calvary.

Bible Challenge Series II

Our churches have asked us to update the content of Bible Challenge Series II so we undertook the challenge. We have been blessed by a partnership with Bro. Roger Copeland, Robin Rice and Northern Hills Baptist Church, who have provided feedback, content and direction for this great literature. At this time, the update is nearing completion and a new Series II should be available to churches this summer.



PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT

Restructuring

The BSSC approved restructuring our Promotions Department, which saw the replacement of a Promotions Director with a Web Manager and the replacement of a Promotions Office Manager with two E-Commerce Specialists. Currently, our own John Oswald is serving the Web Manager position on an interim basis. The two E-Commerce Specialist positions have also been filled. The purpose behind this restructuring is to enable the ministry to achieve a broader reach with God’s Word, especially focusing on digital marketing and e-commerce. This restructuring is already showing positive results in enlarging the number of people we can reach with the Word of God.

Website

Our new website – bogardpress.org – is now live. This update has been in process for several years now, but we thank God for His mercy in allowing us to launch a website capable of handling up to 80% of total Bogard Press sales.



www.bogardpress.org

VBS Seminar

The annual VBS Seminar was held on February 26th at Northern Hills Baptist Church. We enjoyed the presence of about 120 attendees in person, with hundreds more following the live stream. Feedback from the seminar was very positive and most people left the event better equipped to lead out in their own VBS planning. Since the seminar, the instructional videos have been viewed in excess of 1,300 times.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Product Updates

The High School Sunday School material has been updated to include pull quote boxes periodically throughout each lesson. These pull quote boxes will emphasize important statements from the lessons and will draw the student's attention to compelling truths. Many students skim through books, so these boxes will hopefully grab their attention and give them nuggets of wisdom for further reading.

seem to want to say that the world and all that's in it are some sort of grand accident. Things "just happened" without anything or anyone causing them. This kind of thinking can lead to the conclusion that life is meaningless.

**God made
the world
and He put
mankind
in it.**

In sharp contrast to the atheistic view of life is the Bible revelation that there is both purpose and direction to every part of creation. God made the world and He put mankind in it. He did so that His will can be accomplished here as it is accomplished in Heaven. This world is not the end; it is only a temporary place for people to live until our spirits are launched into eternity. Realizing where we came from is a big step in knowing where we are going.

Recommended books for further study will be placed within the adult Bible study books instead of on the back covers. This will enhance the look of the study books, but still provide the information to help students find additional resources for studying the next quarter's topic.

Adult Study Guide Podcast

Available on



Apple Podcast



Google Podcast



Spotify



iHeart Radio



Amazon Music

Last Fall we launched an audio version of our Adult Study Guide on the major podcasting platforms. This free audio version provides an opportunity for subscribers to listen to each week's lesson on the go. Whether you are a teacher or student, this free resource allows you to hear the lesson and begin to prepare for study individually or in a group. Each new lesson is published at noon on Sunday which allows a week

to listen to the 15- to 18-minute lesson. Subscribe to the Bogard Press Adult Study Guide podcast on your favorite platform.



Subscribe to the Podcast!

Adult Study Guide Kindle Edition



In an effort to provide wider accessibility and greater convenience to our Adult Study Guide users, we are pleased to announce the availability of our top Bible study on Kindle. You can find the Bogard Press Adult Study Guide on the Amazon marketplace, purchase the book and send it to your device. You do not need a Kindle device to read the book. You simply need to access Kindle through your computer or download the Kindle app on your phone or tablet, and the Adult Study Guide will show up in your library once you have purchased it. We have also provided the Spanish version of the Adult Study Guide for purchase on the Amazon Marketplace. The Kindle version will be available beginning with Fall '22.



English Adult Study Guide



Spanish Adult Study Guide

Where are we going?

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

VBS 2024

We have plans for an exciting new VBS in 2024! Our 2024 VBS is currently being written and content continues to come in from our writers. In this Vacation Bible School, students will approach the Bible as if they would attend a theater and watch the story of God's redemption of mankind through the gospel in different genres found throughout the Bible: Mystery, Comedy, Romance, Musical, and Action. This immersive experience will help students see the overarching narrative of Scripture, namely, the gospel of Jesus Christ, through a variety of biblical accounts.

Bible Challenge Series III

We plan to update Bible Challenge Series III much like we did Series II. We will consult with our partners at Northern Hills Baptist Church to make sure the final product benefits the churches in meeting their needs for complete Christian Education curriculum.

Daily Devotionals

We continue to look for gifted writers to contribute to our Daily Devotionals. Our intent is to provide a variety of writers who can encourage the students in the Word from different perspectives. The layout will also be reformatted so you will read a different author each day.

Digital Offerings and Increased Student Reach

The Editorial Department continues to embrace the reality that our content must ultimately be offered digitally. We have begun to shift our understanding from "print, then digital," to "digital and print." This process will take time to implement, but there has been widespread enthusiasm to embrace digital means, since it will make our resources more widely available to the churches. We will also seek to increase the number of students reached per employee to measure our impact as a department and hold ourselves accountable for kingdom impact.

Writers

Over the next 2 years, we will be blessed to read the work of the following writers:

Young Adult Quarterly Robbie Horne	Fall 2023: Mark Narrative: Francisco Barros Word Studies: Francisco Barros Mannas: Jerry Medlock
Adult Study Guide Phillip Miller Juan Gallegos (Spanish Translator)	Winter 2023-2024: 2 Samuel 5-24, 1 Chronicles 11-29, 1 Kings 1, 2 Narrative: Matt Thornton Word Studies: Mark Thornton Mannas: Todd Self
Adult Lesson Commentary Fall 2022: Joshua, Judges, Ruth Narrative: Larry Crouch Word Studies: Mark Thornton Mannas: Todd Self	Spring 2024: James, 1 & 2 Thessalonians Narrative: Larry Clements Word Studies: Francisco Barros Mannas: Jerry Medlock
Winter 2022-2023: Acts 1-14 Narrative: David Butimore Word Studies: Michael McCoy Mannas: Jerry Medlock	Summer 2024: Psalms 1-72 Narrative: Matt Thornton Word Studies: Mark Thornton Mannas: Todd Self
Spring 2023: Acts 15-28 Narrative: Larry Clements Word Studies: Francisco Barros Mannas: Jerry Medlock	Adult Daily Devotional Tim Chambers, Wally Fry, Darla Goodrum, Karry Irizzary, Glen Knight, Chris Loyd, Kelli Reynolds, Ashley Ridings, Steven Ridings, Jason Rutherford, David Thompson
Summer 2023: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel 1-4, 1 Chronicles 1-10 Narrative: Matt Thornton Word Studies: Mark Thornton Mannas: Todd Self	Bible Challenge Lessons: Roger Copeland Worksheets: Robin Rice

Please be in prayer for these men and women as they study, prepare and deliver biblically relevant content that will assist churches in carrying out the Great Commission.

PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT

Our Promotions Department has recently configured their Marketing Strategy and added their campaigns to a Promotions Strategy Schedule. This document will guide the department to maximize our marketing opportunities, getting our curriculum into the hands of new customers, as well as seeking to recover customers we lost during the pandemic.

The Promotions Department has renewed its commitment to finding the customers who are looking for the products and services we provide. We will seek to do this through historically successful means, but also through an intentional focus using digital modes, including a new website, social media and email distribution. A few new campaigns Promotions Department have scheduled:

[#WhatWeBelieveWednesday](#) – The purpose of this campaign will be weekly social media posts for 23 weeks, beginning June '22, highlighting the 23 doctrinal statements of the ABA.

[Geo-Fencing Advertisement Campaigns](#) – The purpose of these campaigns will be to advertise our literature to people at events who will most likely be looking for the products we offer.



[Submit your blog here!](#)

Blogs – In addition to our literature we provide blog posts to encourage churches, ministries and individual believers from the Word of God. We provide blogs in the form of Daily Devotionals, Christian Education ideas, and creative input for VBS and Bible Challenge. If you are interested in writing a blog post that would encourage readers, we would love to hear from you. Click the link to the left and submit your blog post. We will read, edit and follow up with you about posting it in the future.

With the restructuring of the Promotions Office came an increased focus on intentional calendar planning for in-person promotional events since there would no longer be a Promotions Director to travel among the churches. We have done our best to attend the events at which there is the expectation a Bogard Press representative should be present. If you are hosting an event, meeting or conference and would like to have Bogard Press represented, please let us know and we will do our best to attend.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

In the area of Product Development, we have several new projects in the works at varying stages of development. The BSSC has adopted a tried-and-true strategy for taking products from concept to production. Right now, the BSSC Product Development Subcommittee, along with our in-house Product Development Team, are researching several products. These include a discipleship book, a new curriculum for teenagers and a few new ways to share our resources.

In order to make sure we are providing the best resources for our churches, we desperately need to hear from you. If you have an idea for a new product or service Bogard Press can provide, please submit your ideas by emailing me (mark.clements@bogardstore.org) or by filling out the form following the link to the right.



[Submit product ideas here!](#)

How do we get there?

Our job at Bogard Press is to arm believers with as many tools as we can to help them push back the darkness with the light of the gospel. In the Editorial Department, Promotions Department and Product Development Department, we will follow the following processes to steward our God-given resources to the best of our abilities:

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Bogard Press Editorial Department is committed to listening to customer feedback, adapting with flexibility, embracing opportunities for growth and creating more partnerships with our churches for product improvements. Additionally, we are embracing the concept of creating digital content first that can then be printed. We are committed to doing these things while continuing to maintain a firm commitment to the truth of God's Word.

PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT

Bogard Press Promotions Department is committed to building relationships with existing and potential churches by informing them of who we are, the products we offer and the benefits available to them through various media by representing customer's perspectives within the BSSC. Promotions has developed a robust Marketing Strategy Schedule with hundreds of campaigns to serve existing customers and reach new customers.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Bogard Press Product Development employs a tried-and-true process for providing great products and services to the churches. New ideas are collected, rated within a criteria matrix, prioritized accordingly and addressed by the Product Development teams. Ideally, we want to see multiple projects at different stages of development at the same time. The processes are in place and they work. If you need a resource for your church to be more effective in accomplishing the Great Commission and you think Bogard Press should provide it, please let us know.



[Submit product ideas here!](#)

Thank You

It is an honor to serve the Lord's churches in the office of Editor in Chief. I have learned very much in my first year here at Bogard Press and I am excited about the future. I still covet your prayers. I desperately need God's wisdom to steward this opportunity well for His glory and kingdom. I want to also thank Bro. Dean for his patient and helpful guidance throughout my first months on the job. May God be glorified in all.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Clements".

Mark Clements

Dear Churches and Messengers,

At our 2021 Annual Meeting in Charleston, WV, the messengers voted to “have our president appoint a committee to review our articles of agreement and mission policy, and report to the messenger body in 2022, any recommended updates or changes.”

Per your request, the following committee was formed:

- Ed Button – Chairman of the Standing Missionary Committee
- Randy Cloud – Past President of ABA
- Roger Copeland – Past President of ABA
- Jim Crain – Past President of ABA
- Nathan Luellen – Recording Secretary of ABA
- Joe Morrell – Past President of ABA
- Terry Parrish – Past President of ABA
- Caleb Wood – Member of Baptist Sunday School Committee

On the following pages, you will find the minutes from the meetings held and the changes that are being recommended. Please note that the recommended changes are in red.

Per the rules set out in both documents, the Mission Policy requires a simple majority vote, and will go into effect immediately. The Articles of Agreement require a two-thirds vote of the messengers present and if approved, a 2/3 vote of the churches at our Messenger Meeting next year in Spokane, WA. Per the Articles of Agreement (Article XVI, Section 3), “The average of the number of churches which have been represented by messengers in the immediate past three sessions of the Association shall be the number from which to reckon as to how many two-thirds of the churches are.” Our clerks will provide the average from Knoxville (2019), Charleston (2021), and Orlando (2022) as there was no meeting held in 2020.

If the changes to the Article of Agreement are approved, we will inform the churches via abaptist.org. We will also publish an explanation and link to the website in each of the ABA Schools’ publications. The information on the website will include the recommended changes and a simple ballot to be used by the churches. That ballot can also be found in the following pages. Each church will be allowed ONE VOTE in Spokane (2023). That vote may be cast EITHER by mail or in person. The in-person vote will be a rising vote which will be added to the total of the mail in votes. Should a church decide to vote by mail, their ballot should be postmarked by May 1, 2023, and mailed to:

***American Baptist Association
ATTN: Recording Secretaries
PO BOX 1050
Texarkana, TX 75504-1050***

Thank you for the trust that you have placed in this committee. It has been our sincere and prayerful desire to serve the messengers and churches in the task laid upon us. We have sought to offer recommendations for our needs and structural function, not just for today, but into the future as well.

May God continue to bless and keep you!

Bro. Eric Sutton
President and Chairman

Bro. Nathan Luellen
Clerk

Policy Revision Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

President Eric Sutton called to order the appointed committee at the Baptist Bookstore to review the Articles of Agreement and Mission Policy as directed by the messengers of the 2021 Messenger Meeting in Charleston, West Virginia. Bro. Sutton read the motion that was passed in Charleston, which states, “Motion to have our president appoint a committee to review our Articles of Agreement and Mission Policy, and report to the messenger body in 2022, any recommended updates or changes.”

The following brethren were appointed to serve on the committee:

- Ed Button – Chairman of the Standing Missionary Committee
- Randy Cloud – Past President of ABA
- Roger Copeland – Past President of ABA
- Jim Crain – Past President of ABA
- Nathan Luellen – Recording Secretary of ABA
- Joe Morrell – Past President of ABA
- Terry Parrish – Past President of ABA
- Caleb Wood – Member of Baptist Sunday School Committee

After explanations concerning the scope of the committee’s work, Bro. Sutton divided those present into two sub committees, allowing guests to sit in on each committee.

The first committee to review the Articles of Agreement was chaired by Bro. Roger Copeland and served by Brethren Terry Parrish, Caleb Wood, and Nathan Luellen.

The second committee to review the Mission Policy was chaired by Bro. Ed Button and served by Brethren Randy Cloud, Joe Morrell, and Jim Crain.

Following prayer, the newly appointed committees were dismissed to discuss and recommend changes made to the Articles of Agreement and the Mission Policy. Upon completion of the day’s duties, all committeemen would reconvene on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

President Eric Sutton called to order the combined committee to review the Articles of Agreement and the Mission Policy at the Baptist Bookstore on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. All committeemen were present except for Bro. Nathan Luellen. Guests were also in attendance.

After opening prayer, Bro. Roger Copeland shared the recommended changes to the Articles of Agreement and Bro. Ed Button shared the recommended changes to the Mission Policy. All agreed to proceed with presenting the recommended changes to the upcoming messenger assembly.

Following discussion, the committee recommended that both be addressed during a special session of business on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, during the messenger meeting in Orlando. The Articles of Agreement and the Mission Policy would both be presented in printed form as currently written along with the recommended changes clearly marked. An hour for each would be permitted in the schedule to allow for discussion.

In the event the messengers choose to adopt proposed changes, with or without amendments offered by the body, the committee discussed the procedures required under the current Articles of Agreement and Mission Policy:

- Any changes to the Articles of Agreement will require a two-thirds vote of the voting messengers present. If adopted, the Articles then must be voted on and adopted by no less than two-thirds of the churches reckoned from the average number of churches represented by messengers in the past three sessions of the Association.
- Any changes to the Mission Policy may be made by a majority vote of the messengers present in the upcoming messenger meeting.

The committees were thanked for their service and dismissed in prayer.

Nathan Luellen, Clerk

*The Articles of Agreement can be found on page 138 of 2021 Yearbook

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

With faith in God, and unquestioning acceptance of the Bible as the Word of God, and earnest prayers for the blessings of God, we offer all Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ the following Articles of Agreement.

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this Association shall be the American Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this Association is to encourage cooperation and Christian activity among the churches, to promote interest in, and encourage Missions on a New Testament basis among all people, to stimulate interest in Christian literature and general benevolence, and to provide a medium through which the churches may cooperate in these enterprises. And further provided that the objects, or purposes, for which this Association is formed shall be exclusively religious, literary, and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE III—MEMBERS

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of regular Missionary Baptist churches.

Section 2. The annual or called sessions of this Association shall be held by Messengers elected by the churches composing said Association.

Section 3. Each church shall be entitled to three Messengers(.) ~~whose qualifications shall be determined by the church electing them.~~

(A. In the event circumstances require a virtual meeting, each church will be entitled to one Messenger.)

(B. The Messenger's qualifications shall be determined by the church electing them.)

ARTICLE IV—NATURE

This Association is the joint cooperation of the churches composing it.

ARTICLE V—~~DOCTRINAL STATUS (FREEDOM AND LIMITS)~~

This Association shall recognize the freedom of speech as essential to the highest achievements in its work. It shall stand or fall upon its own conformity to truth. It shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority, but it shall by every precaution recognize the ~~sovereignty~~ (autonomy) of every individual church. It shall encourage on the part of the churches and messengers the greatest possible freedom of expression in discussing matters pertaining to its work, and in the preeminence of missions and evangelism in the work of the churches.

ARTICLE VI—POWERS

The powers of this Association shall be limited to the execution according to the teachings of the New Testament of the will of the churches composing it; and the Association, in annual session, shall elect such officers as are necessary for its deliberations and work and appoint such committees as are needed and transact other business as may be directed by the churches.

ARTICLE VII—OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be President, three Vice Presidents, two Recording Secretaries, ~~Treasurer~~ (Secretary/Treasurer of Missions), and such Corresponding Secretaries as the needs of the work may demand, and such other officers as are provided for in Article 6 of the Articles of Agreement of the American Baptist Association, whose duty shall be such as usually devolves upon such offices.

Section 2. All officers shall be chosen annually, and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and the same shall be true of all members of standing committees. All officers shall be elected by acclamation.

Section 3. The Recording Secretaries, in addition to keeping the records of this Association, will superintend the printing and distribution of minutes of such meetings as the churches may direct. (The Recording Secretaries shall work in cooperation with the Secretary/Treasurer of Missions in the printing and distribution of minutes.)

Section 4. The election of the officers of this Association shall be held on the last day of the annual session. This is not to include officers who make annual reports to the Association. These officers may be elected at any time after their reports have been received by the Association.

Section 5. In all votes of this Association, a majority of the votes cast shall decide all questions, except amendments to the Articles of Agreement, and votes to refer questions to the churches, in these cases a two-thirds majority vote is necessary.

Section 6. In event it is moved and seconded to refer a question from the messenger assembly to the churches for their consideration and votes, any regular messenger shall have the right to exercise his parliamentary privilege by offering his objection to the consideration of the question. Then, the Chair may take a vote to determine if a majority of the messengers wish to consider the question. A negative vote will set the motion aside for that session; while a vote to consider the question makes it the order of the day. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to pass the motion. Each church is entitled to one vote on questions referred to it, which, by request, may be cast in writing by an instructed messenger from his church, or by a letter composed by the church, which shall certify (1) the name of the church, (2) the date of the church conference, (3) the vote of the church, and (4) be signed by the moderator and the clerk of the church conference. Church votes cast by the use of unauthorized ballot forms will not be counted, they must be by letter only. Votes by mail shall be placed in envelopes and plainly marked on the outside with the words "CHURCH VOTE," and sent to the clerks of the American Baptist Association, who will, at the next session, open, count and tabulate them, together with the votes cast by messengers. The total of all votes cast by messengers and by mail for, or against, the question shall be accepted as the will of the churches. Sufficient notice to the churches of the referral of a question to them, will be the printed minutes of the action taken by the messengers, when they voted to refer the questions, and notice given in our regularly published papers that are listed in the yearbook of the previous year.

Section 7. In the event that the Association shall fail at its annual session to elect a ~~Treasurer~~ (Secretary/Treasurer of Missions) or Corresponding Secretaries, the same shall be elected by the (Standing) Missionary Committee as soon as possible after the adjournment of the session of this Association.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the ~~Treasurer~~ (Secretary/Treasurer of Missions) or Corresponding Secretaries to conduct all correspondence of the Association and of the (Standing) Missionary Committee, to conduct the work of said committee as financial agent of it, and he shall make in writing a full annual report of all important matters of this office to the regular session of this Association, and such other reports as the (Standing) Missionary Committee may require.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the ~~Treasurer~~ (Secretary/Treasurer of Missions) to take charge of money and valuables not specifically entrusted to someone else and to dispose of same as he may be directed by this Association or instructed by the Articles of Agreement, and to report in writing in full, the receipt and expenditures of his office to the regular session of this Association.

ARTICLE VIII—FUNDS

Section 1. All funds of this Association shall be raised by voluntary donations secured purely upon the merits of the cause in the interest of which appeals are made for gifts; provided this is not to prevent the use of any income or any property that may be acquired by donations or purchase.

Section 2. Distribution of funds shall be authorized by an act of this Association, or by the act of properly authorized committees of this Association, hereinafter provided for, but in no instance shall the Association, or any committee of it, use means in violation of the expressed preference of the donor.

Section 3. All funds of this Association shall pass through the hands of the Treasurer in a manner hereinafter provided for. This is to include money, deeds, and whatever may be entrusted to any committee to be used by said committee under the instruction of this Association.

Section 4. The Treasurer of this Association shall hold all funds received between sessions of this Association subject to order of the committee entitled to use it.

ARTICLE IX—MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Section 1. The messengers of the cooperating churches of this Association shall elect annually a **(Standing)** Missionary Committee, which shall consist of twenty-five members, thirteen of whom shall constitute a quorum. Any cooperating church may elect from its membership one committeeman to serve with the regular Committee elected by the messengers.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the **(Standing)** Missionary Committee of this Association **(, along with the Association President and Vice-Presidents,)** to act as executive of the Association, to carry out the object of this Association, and to attend all the needed matters not otherwise provided for by special provisions, and to render an annual report of this work to the Association.

Section 3. The membership of all committees shall be fairly distributed among the various sections and organizations of churches which cooperate with this Association.

ARTICLE X—MISSIONARY SERVICE TRUST

(Proposed Change: Remove Article X as this is no longer a functioning part of the Association. All other Articles numbers would reflect the removal of this Article.)

~~Section 1. The messengers of the churches of this Association shall elect annually seven men, one of whom shall be the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions of the American Baptist Association, and four of whom shall be a quorum, to be known as the Missionary Service Trust of the American Baptist Association.~~

~~Section 2. The Missionary Service Trust shall not function independently from the churches composing the American Baptist Association, but shall be constituted, directed by, and subject to the churches of said association.~~

~~Section 3. The duties of the Missionary Service Trust shall be limited to liaison work between the Foreign Missionaries of the Association, sponsoring churches, and messenger assembly of the churches of the association. The office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions of the American Baptist Association shall be authorized to solicit, hold and administer both general offerings and trust funds directly involved in meeting requirements for our missionaries to enter, remain on, and return from Foreign Mission Fields.~~

~~Section 4. The Missionary Service Trust is authorized to assist the missionaries to secure permanent and resident visas to enter into a foreign country, and to serve as liaison agent between our churches, representatives of our own U.S. Government and foreign governments regarding international travel, recognition and laboring conditions of our missionaries.~~

~~Section 5. The Missionary Service Trust is privileged to request information from the churches and messenger assembly of the American Baptist Association, and requested to submit reports and recommendations to the Annual Messenger Assembly regarding requirements and conditions to be met by our churches and missionaries in order to secure the best possible conditions under which our missionaries may enter, be recognized and perform their labors in each foreign country where the missionary may be sent to work.~~

ARTICLE XI—LITERATURE COMMITTEE (BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE)

Section 1. The messengers to this Association shall elect annually a committee on literature to consist of sixteen members, nine of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The ~~Literature Committee (Baptist Sunday School Committee)~~ shall act in its field as an executive of the Association between the annual sessions, performing all duties that may be entrusted to said Committee by the Association and fill vacancies between sessions that may occur in the offices of ~~Business Manager (Chief Executive Officer / CEO)~~ and Editor (in Chief).

ARTICLE XII—HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Section 1. The messengers of this association shall elect annually seven persons, four of whom shall constitute a quorum, who will compose the History and Archives Committee of the American Baptist Association.

Section 2. The duty of this Committee is to locate, collect and preserve such historic data as pertains to our Baptist people as it is within their ability so to do; and make an annual report to the messenger assembly.

Section 3. This Committee shall hold at least two regular meetings during each Associational year, if expense funds are available.

Section 4. The Committee is vested with the authority to solicit, collect and expend such funds as are necessary to defray all expenses incurred, and to keep a record of all receipts and expenditures which will be audited and become a part of the Auditor's annual report.

ARTICLE XIII—YOUTH ENCAMPMENT TRUSTEES

Section 1. The messengers of the cooperating Churches of this Association shall elect annually five men, three of whom shall constitute a quorum, to be known as YOUTH ENCAMPMENT TRUSTEES.

Section 2. The Youth Encampment Trustees shall act in their field for the Messenger Assembly to receive, hold and disburse funds for the maintenance, development, improvement and enlargement of the Youth Encampment Facilities owned by the Association and improve the grounds and/or buildings as the messenger assembly may direct and authorize.

Section 3. The Youth Encampment Trustees are hereby empowered to hire such managerial and maintenance help as needed. They shall not meet less than twice annually with their expenses to be paid from available funds. They shall give a written report annually, have an annual audit by a licensed auditor and include this auditor's report in the Annual Auditor's Report which is now given to this Assembly.

ARTICLE XIV—MEETING

The regular meeting of the Church Messengers shall be at such time and place as the assembled Messengers may appoint, and the (Standing) Missionary Committee herein is empowered to make a called session when necessary.

ARTICLE XV—DISSOLUTION

In the event of a dissolution of the Association, the messengers elected by the churches composing the said Association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of the assets of the said Association by transferring the same to such other organization, or organizations, as will, according to the determination of the said messengers, effect and carry out the objects of this Association as set forth in Article II hereof; provided only that such organization, or organizations, shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization, or organizations, under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XVI—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Articles of Agreement shall not be changed or amended unless the change or amendment to be offered in writing on the first day of a regular session and be permitted to lay over until some subsequent day of that same session and then it can be adopted only by a vote of two-thirds **majority** of the voting messengers present and two-thirds **majority** vote of the churches themselves in their regular conference.

Section 2. In case two-thirds of the churches shall demand an amendment, the vote shall be taken by churches.

Section 3. The average of the number of churches which have been represented by messengers in the immediate past three sessions of the Association shall be the number from which to reckon as to how many two-thirds of the churches are.

MISSION POLICY of the AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

With faith in God, and unquestioning acceptance of the Bible as His Word and our rule of faith and practice, recognizing the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ as the Head of His churches, and believing that the churches are the only authorized agents to do mission work by sending and supervising missionaries, we recommend to all New Testament churches the following Mission Policy with earnest prayer that the churches of the American Baptist Association might offer prayerful and financial assistance to each other as such help is sought in fulfilling the Great Commission.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mission Policy is to offer in an associational capacity, procedural recommendations from the messengers to the churches to assist in the Great Commission of worldwide evangelism and the establishment of New Testament churches. This is not a mandate of laws to the churches; however, a church that requests financial assistance will be expected to follow these guidelines.

NATURE

The Mission Policy complies with the principles set forth in the Articles of Agreement and the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association through the following procedure.

Let it be clearly understood that this Mission Policy is in no way a part of the Articles of Agreement of the American Baptist Association; that the statements of this Mission Policy shall always be looked upon as guidelines and shall never be interpreted as binding laws upon the churches and/or missionaries; and, that it shall never be allowed to impede nor restrict in any way the work of any messenger assembly in fulfilling its functions as authorized by the churches of the American Baptist Association.

DEFINITION OF TITLES

- A. MISSIONARY: a God-called, church-ordained preacher **endorsed (sent)** by the church of his membership to do mission work.
- B. INTERSTATE MISSIONARY: a missionary who is a United States citizen and is living and doing mission work in the United States of America.
- C. FOREIGN MISSIONARY: a missionary who is living and doing mission work in a country not of his citizenship.
- D. NATIONAL MISSIONARY: a missionary who is living and doing mission work in the country of his citizenship, other than the United States of America.
- E. MISSIONARY HELPER: an individual **endorsed (sent)** by the church of his/her membership, who lives on a mission field assisting churches, missions, and/or missionaries in their mission work. A missionary helper will only be recommended to receive designated funds.
- F. MISSION MINISTRIES: an individual and/or group of individuals who are members of and **endorsed (sent)** by a church represented in the American Baptist Association, who practice a ministry assisting churches, missions and/or missionaries in their mission work. Such a ministry will only be recommended to receive designated funds.

SECTION I

POLICIES FOR THE MISSIONARIES, MISSIONARY HELPERS, AND MISSION MINISTRIES

1. Each missionary must have ~~an endorsement (a recommendation)~~ from ~~(his sending church) the church of his membership~~. The ~~endorsing (sending)~~ church of salaried missionaries cannot be the church that the missionary pastors except in the cases of a National Missionary as provided for in Section III, Article 3. In the event a ~~(sending church withdraws its endorsement) missionary moves his membership from his sponsoring church~~ between sessions, ~~his endorsement (the missionary's recommendation)~~ stops at that point and ~~(if recommended,)~~ he must be ~~endorsed (recommended)~~ as a new missionary by his new church at ~~the following (a future)~~ annual session.
2. Each missionary may be recommended to receive a salary or designated funds. Missionaries must be recommended as requested by the ~~endorsing (sending)~~ church or not recommended.
3. Each missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry, salaried or on designated funds, must submit an itemized monthly financial ~~report~~ and ~~a quarterly~~ statistical report to his ~~sponsoring (sending)~~ church, which shall in turn send a report to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions using forms supplied by the office of the Secretary-Treasurer.
4. Each missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry must subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement and the Articles of Agreement of the churches composing the American Baptist Association. ~~(No missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry shall be recommended by the Missionary Committee or the Messenger Assembly, if same believes in the universal church concept, ecumenism, or the charismatic movement; or practices alien immersion, open communion, or pulpit affiliation.)~~
5. Any messenger may call for a separate vote on any recommended missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry. It would be advisable to consult first with the ~~sponsoring (sending)~~ church.

SECTION II

POLICIES FOR THE ~~ENDORISING (RECOMMENDING)~~ CHURCH

1. A church recommending a missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry for the first time or for renewed recommendation shall submit a fully completed Missionary Recommendation Form supplied by the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions at least 60 days prior to the annual messenger meeting.
2. A ~~(sending)~~ church withdrawing ~~an endorsement (its recommendation)~~ or whose missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry moves membership to another church, shall inform the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions of such actions immediately.
3. A ~~(sending)~~ church ~~endorsing (recommending)~~ a missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry shall be responsible for promoting and reporting on said work. This shall include the raising of funds for ~~passage (travel expense)~~, housing, ~~land, building, (health insurance,)~~ etc.

SECTION III

POLICIES FOR CHURCHES AND THEIR MISSIONARIES, MISSIONARY HELPERS, AND MISSION MINISTRIES

1. The right of churches to endorse and support missionaries other than those who are citizens of the United States and to provide financial assistance to churches and missions in special projects on foreign fields shall be recognized.
2. It is understood that difficulties and problems may arise as churches in the United States seek to provide financial help to mission work outside the United States. These difficulties are made more acute by the differences in culture, economy, language, and government requirements; therefore, the churches of this Association shall respect the right of any church to make legal agreements with other governments for the development of its missionary work.
3. Churches of this Association expect all applicable parts of this Mission Policy to be followed when seeking the endorsement of the Messenger Assembly for a missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry even though

agreements may have been made between the **endorsing (sending)** church and the missionary, missionary helper, or mission ministry. Any National Missionary endorsed by the church he pastors must have an endorsement from a local church located in the United States.

SECTION IV

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS

1. The Secretary-Treasurer of Missions shall be the officer elected Treasurer by the messenger body as provided for in the Articles of Agreement of the American Baptist Association.
2. The salary of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be set annually by the messenger body. His salary, travel expenses, out-of-pocket expenses, and expenses incidental to the office shall be paid from the undesignated mission fund as funds are available. All undesignated funds collected when representing the missionaries and mission work shall be placed in the undesignated mission fund.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer of Missions should attend all Missionary Committee meetings and give a general report of the mission work.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer of Missions shall report any serious problem concerning any recommended missionary to his **sponsoring (sending)** church, and the chairman of the Missionary Committee who may call a special standing committee meeting if deemed necessary.
5. The Secretary-Treasurer of Missions shall receive and disburse mission funds to the **endorsing (sending)** church for the missionaries recommended annually by the Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association, unless otherwise authorized by this Mission Policy and **(/or)** the Articles of Agreement. All designated funds shall be distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions as designated.
6. The Secretary-Treasurer of Missions shall solicit, receive, and disburse funds as necessary to defray the expenses associated with the annual pre-associational meeting of the Standing Missionary Committee. A three-man (3) committee shall be appointed annually by the moderator of the American Baptist Association to assist with this.

SECTION V

SALARIES

1. Each full-salaried missionary **on salary** is considered a full-time missionary devoting full-time to his mission work. He shall not at any time engage in full or part-time secular employment. **(This is not to impede the raising of funds for travel expenses, housing, health insurance, etc. as provided for in Section II #3)**
2. Salaries for endorsed salaried missionaries.
 - a. Salaries shall be recommended by the Missionary Committee annually and approved by the messengers when meeting in regular annual session.
 - b. Salaries shall be paid July 1 through June 30.
 - c. Salaries and designated funds shall be dispersed between the 20th and 25th of each month. Reports from salaried missionaries must be received before salary checks are issued.
 - d. Each salaried missionary may receive up to eighty percent (80%) of his salary from the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions as funds are available. The **sponsoring (sending)** church of a salaried missionary is therefore strongly urged to send at least twenty percent (20%) of his salary to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.
 - e. Upon notification by a **sponsoring (sending)** church of a withdrawn recommendation of its missionary, the Secretary-Treasurer shall, in agreement with the **sponsoring (sending)** church, stop payment of salary up to 30 days after the withdrawal of the **missionary (recommendation)**.
 - f. Any salaried missionary whose endorsement is discontinued or, who is recommended and does not receive a re-endorsement from the assembly for the following year, shall receive one additional month's salary from the time of his endorsement's being discontinued.
 - g. In the event of the death of a missionary on salary, his salary shall be given to his widow/or dependent children for the ensuing six-month period.

- h. In the event a salaried missionary is incapacitated either by illness or accident and has to resign the mission field, his salary may be continued up to six months upon request of the **sponsoring (sending)** church. The **sponsoring (sending)** church must make the request monthly and the salary check of up to 80% of the set salary will continue to be sent to the **sponsoring (sending)** church.
 - i. The maximum percentage of salary that **an Interstate Missionary on salary (a full salaried Missionary)** may receive shall be reduced from 80% by five percent each year subsequent to the completion of his fifth year serving at the same mission location.
**Please Note: If approved, this reduction plan will start at the beginning of the 2027-2028 associational year. At that time, all full salaried missionaries who have been on their field of labor for more than five years, regardless of the number of years on their field, will experience a 5% reduction in salary support. An additional 5% reduction will occur each subsequent year. All Interstate Missionaries on salary will remain on their current reduction plan.*
3. Time on mission field for Salaried Missionaries.
 - a. Interstate Missionaries shall be given a three-week leave of absence annually with pay. Money received for services rendered during this time need not be reported towards salary.
 - b. Foreign Missionaries shall be given a two-week leave of absence annually with pay. Money received for services rendered during this time need not be reported towards salary. In addition, Foreign Missionaries shall be permitted **a six-month (six months of)** furlough, with pay, every four years. Missionaries are **expected (encouraged)** to use this time traveling among the churches informing them of their work. All money collected during this time shall be reported towards salary less an automobile mileage allowance and out-of-pocket expense for lodging and meals.
 - c. National Missionaries shall be given a three-week leave of absence annually with pay. Money received for services rendered during this time need not be reported towards salary.
 4. **(Newly recommended)** Missionaries shall not begin receiving salary until beginning their labor at their recommended field.

SECTION VI

AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Mission Policy must be offered in writing on the first day of a regular session of the American Baptist Association and laid on the table until some subsequent day of the session and then adopted by a majority vote of the messengers.
2. Any section of this Mission Policy may be suspended during any session provided the change is presented in writing on the first day of a regular session and permitted to lie on the table until some subsequent day of the session and then adopted by a majority vote of the messengers.

**American Baptist Association
Articles of Agreement
2023 Church Vote**

Dear 2023 Recording Secretaries of the American Baptist Association,

_____ Church has met in regular Church
Conference on _____ and offers the following vote concerning the
proposed changes to the Articles of Agreement of the American Baptist Association:

YES

NO

Approved:

_____ (Church Clerk)

_____ (Date)

_____ (Pastor/Moderator)

_____ (Date)

PLEASE NOTE: If you plan to attend the Messenger Meeting in Spokane, WA (June 20-22, 2023), you do not have to fill out this ballot as there will be a rising vote for those present. ***If you mail a ballot, please do not vote in person also as each church is allowed ONE church vote when amending the Articles of Agreement.*** All ballots should be postmarked by May 1, 2023, and mailed to:

***American Baptist Association
ATTN: Recording Secretaries
PO BOX 1050
Texarkana, TX 75504-1050***

