

FALL 2020

# Missions News ♦ Views



# A Year Like No Other!



Among the first projects which fell to me after I was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Missions for the American Baptist Association in June of last year was the 2019 Fall edition of the **Missions News & Views**. We employed the subject of **Change** as our theme for that periodical and printed several articles on the matter of change and how recent changes affect ministry and missionaries. It was graciously received.

Then, with the Spring of 2020, came change like we could never have imagined. As COVID-19 swept across the globe pastors, missionaries and churches were forced to make changes only previously imagined in Sci-Fi movies. Indeed, at the printing of this edition of the **Missions News & Views** we are still trying to recover from the myriad of changes all the while getting accustomed to the new normal.

Churches made massive changes – even after they were released from their respective quarantines. Pastors tweaked their schedules, travel plans and appointments. Missionaries altered their methods for reaching their communities. The ABA Missions' Office monitored and adjusted according to the receipts coming into the office and the traffic flowing through it. And, for only the second time in our century-long history, the Messenger Meeting of the Churches of the American Baptist Association was cancelled. It took a war – WWII – last time [1945] to cancel the ABA; this time it was a transmissible virus with neither a cure nor a suitable therapy.

In this small magazine you hold in your hand you will read about the changes COVID-19 caused as well as the chaos it created for pastors, missionaries and even the officers of the American Baptist Association. We hope that the information you gather will provide you direction for how you can pray for our missionaries and the work of the ABA in general.

Many have asked about the mission treasury, so please allow me this opportunity to share with you that when COVID-19 hit the United States our monthly receipts in the Missions' Office dropped \$20,000.00 below normal for the first few months. As things progressed and normalized, we, however, saw those numbers improve. Receipts today are much more in line with the offerings which came in prior to the pandemic; and, for that we are very thankful. The 2020 **Thanksgiving Mission Offering** to be received on or before November 29th will be a huge help and we pray that your church will participate.

Please feel free to contact the Missions' Office at 903.792.2312 if you would like to schedule a time for me to share ABA Missions with your congregation or to come by to receive your **Thanksgiving Mission Offering**. Mission offerings can, otherwise, be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, P.O. Box 1050, Texarkana, TX, 75504-1050; and, thank you for helping us help them.

Enjoy your reading and remember to pray for the missionaries!

Furthering the Gospel,  
Dr. Roger Stewart  
Philippians 1:12

And another makes four.....  
Clark Stone Stewart was born April 6, 2020



Pictured are Clark, Pops and Hayden Stewart

# American Baptist Association News



“Our Mission, Soul Fishin” remains the theme for the 2021 meeting of the messengers of the Churches of the American Baptist Association. This theme reminds us to reach out to others with the Gospel. Based on the fact we are

to be fishers of men, the theme implores us to do more in the way of missions. Our missions’ outreach among our churches has always been more than just the ABA recommended men. Each of our churches and local and state associations have mission work around the world. We only have church-sent missionaries but, unfortunately, we were not able to add new missionaries to this year’s ABA list because of no Messenger Meeting. We will need to do more in 2021.

Let us start to pray even now that God opens the door so we can have our messenger assembly, that we can put on our new missionaries, that we have the funds to increase the number and the salary of our missionaries. We also need to pray for more preachers to answer the call to preach and pastor. We are facing a shortage of pastors. Please ask your church to pray to this end.

Our next meeting will be in Charleston, WV. Make your plans now to be a part of this meeting. Since we did not meet in 2020 it will be important for as many as possible to participate. Start now preparing for your messengers to be present.

Terry B. Parrish  
President  
American Baptist Association



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Annual Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association was cancelled for the first time since 1945. The disappointment of not being able to meet for the 95th Annual Session was really difficult for me, as I am sure it was for many more. By the middle of March, everything was planned for a great meeting in Springfield. The ABA block of 253 rooms at the University Plaza Hotel was sold out January 20. The ABA block of 81 rooms at the Q Hotel was sold out on February 20. More than 80 rooms were booked at the Oasis Hotel. I would like to offer a special thanks to all for reserving your rooms early. At the end of April, I was informed by the General Manager of the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri that it would not be possible to hold a meeting of our size due to city rules.

The University Plaza Hotel applied a one-night deposit of \$103.00 for each reserved room. The deposit has been refunded to the credit card used to make the reservation. If you have not received credit back to your credit card, please contact the University Plaza Hotel. There were no charges made by the Q Hotel or the Oasis Hotel.

Please continue to send in your church letter and offering for Expense Fund to Bro. Roger Stewart, PO Box 1050, Texarkana, TX. 75504-1050. Plans have been made to print a booklet that will include reports and a Church Directory. Funds will be needed for these publications as well as salaries.

Now, we must pray and plan for the 96th Annual Messenger Assembly. The dates are June 22-24, 2021 in downtown Charleston, West Virginia. All officers, speakers, and committees will remain as elected for the 2020 meeting. Charleston’s theme is “It’s Almost Heaven”. Information concerning the Charleston meeting will be on the ABA website - [www.abaptist.org](http://www.abaptist.org). Reservations will open for the ABA block of rooms in Charleston on Monday, January 11, 2021. I pray we will all make plans to meet together in Charleston for the best meeting ever. If I can assist you in any way, please contact me.

Love in Christ,  
Bro. Eddie

**ABA Missionaries were asked,** “How did COVID-19 specifically affect your ministry and what exactly did you do to minister and reach people during the pandemic?” The testimonies that follow provide us prayer requests and reasons to appreciate the work of ABA missionaries all the more.

**Jon Lowe (Indiana):**

When our state instituted a mandatory stay-at-home order, we decided to begin producing weekly at-home study content for families. Each week consisted of a short 3-10 minute video coupled with teaching intended for dads or moms to lead their families at home. It was also written with the hope that as people became comfortable again, they would invite neighbors over for brunch and go through the content together with other families. The content was sent both through an e-mail campaign AND as a push notification in our church app. In addition to our at-home studies, we planned “neighborhood church” gatherings for Sundays until we could get back into our facility. Each week we met in the driveway of one of our members’ homes and gave them the opportunity to invite their neighborhood over for a church gathering outdoors, socially distanced, and under a tent. Two weeks into our efforts we were introduced to three new families who may have otherwise never stepped foot inside our church facility!



**Javier Moreno (Mexico):**

The Scriptures teaches us that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). On March 11, the W.H.O. (World Health Organization) declared that the whole world was under pandemic; they named it COVID-19. Since then, our whole life changed. Almighty God got the attention of the whole world. Christians around the globe started to pray fervently; and, here, in Mexico, we were not the exception. Unfortunately, church services were cancelled, but our faith was not. Coronavirus changed how we live our daily lives; for many, Coronavirus stirred up fear; however, we saw this as an opportunity. Fear of the unknown will open doors for faith. We can shine like stars in the night sky as we live out the power, love and sound mind that God has given to His children. We were determined to seek global gospel opportunities in the midst of COVID-19 because we knew that we have a Sovereign God who is in control of all things. Sunday services were carried live on Facebook; on Thursday we used ZOOM to have a more intimate time with our congregation to pray and share God’s Word. MEETING PLACES WERE CLOSED, BUT THE CHURCH WAS WORKING. Thank you deeply for your generosity and faithful support during those difficult times. We do love the wonderful people of God. Please take care and stay safe. Thank you for your love and your prayers.



**Marvin Wiggs (North Carolina):**

Our ministry’s worship services prior to COVID-19 were conducted in our home, as we were able to seat as many as 20 people. With restrictions in place it completely changed as we were no longer able to have worship service at home. With that said, our Sunday services and Wednesday Bible studies increased greatly and God touched the heart of our residence management who now allow us to utilize the outdoor recreation area to conduct outreach and worship services and there is enough room to have as many as 200 people. God is truly amazing. We pray and are confident that when things get back to some sort of normalcy – in God’s time – we will find a building in which to worship. God’s method, plan and purpose for those that love Him is beyond my comprehension. We realize that He is able regardless of how things may look. May God continue to bless all of our ministries.

### Everett Ledbetter (Colorado):

The virus basically shut down almost all forms of ministry for us in Colorado. Before the virus, I was involved in several different community opportunities to build ongoing relationships. This effort of relationship-building basically became non-existent. However, where one door closed others began to open. Some of those individuals began reaching out through text and phone calls. Also, our neighbors began reaching out more. One of the areas that I learned was of greater importance was to get phone numbers and social network connections. Without these connections, I had no way to reach out to these individuals. We are doing a better job with that. Yes, things are slowly returning, but we are a long way from normal. This slow opening is killing any chance of a spiritual revival. Those that were showing renewed interest early on have almost completely gone the opposite way now. The longer this slowly crawls toward normal, the further away the opportunities to capitalize get. I am still confident in our Lord's timing and His will. Prayers are greatly appreciated.



### Kevin Pruitt (Indiana):

It allowed us to have a much larger digital footprint. We have now moved to permanently positing our sermons online and have seen a tremendous response to online recurring giving. Additionally, it strengthened our core group of believers and allowed others to step into ministry/encouraging roles in one another's lives. We still have a few families with autoimmune diseases who have not returned but we have also seen several other families continue to check us out since their churches did not open up as soon as Journey Baptist Church. We transitioned to having family nights on Sunday nights instead of our traditional children's ministry. A tremendous response to the fellowship allowing others to step up and share devotionals resulted. This created a desire for our teens to meet on Friday nights for their lesson. Overall Journey has learned a lot and has come out stronger on the other side.



### Alan Schoeff (Virginia):



COVID-19 come with a mixed set of blessings and curses. For the most part, I believe that we will actually see an uptick in attendance once everyone has returned. The forced separation has caused some who had been "marginal" to be more faithful. Of course, the curse has been that because of the separation; we have lost one couple who chose to return to their former church. This would not likely have happened if we could have continued to have the true koinonia of church.

The 'sterile' nature of digital worship simply did not replace the true spirit of worship that is found in personal fellowship of the believers. On the other hand, we have seen several first-time guests from churches in the area were slower to reopen. Ministry at the mission level looked vastly different from one member to the next. Pastoral care became more individualized and compartmentalized. For some, this meant an email weekly, for some it meant a phone call on a more frequent basis, for others it meant helping them out to buy groceries or go visit medical providers. Still others had to be led gently into the use of various digital formats. COVID-19 quarantine also afforded opportunities for personal growth. I read more books in three months than I did in three years combined. I could go on but will leave space for others to share their experiences.

### Allen Barton (Alabama):

Like many others, the pandemic forced us to get out of our comfort zone regarding live streaming our services. We, too, committed to a continuance of this form of worship and Bible study format. Once we started meeting in-person we saw very low attendance levels. It forced us to look at other ministry and soul-winning methods (within biblical boundaries, of course) because door-to-door visitation was frowned upon. I have, however, come to love prayer requests during our live services even more because it allows us to receive prayer requests from people all over the world. Our outreach has expanded tremendously through our ability to live stream. I am excited to see our first convert from this new virtual ministry!



### Mike Jones (North Carolina):

I've been visiting and encouraging membership by doing Bible studies at families' houses each month where they can invite a family or friend each week of that month to attend. I was also able to lead a couple to the Lord that attended a few times before COVID. I offered to do a Bible study once a week in their home. (They will both be baptized next month.) Our door-to-door has stopped and all city-wide activities have stopped; there is a current city-wide mandate that prohibits door knocking of any kind. We are still searching for avenues to continue to evangelize and minister to the needs of our community.



### TOP 10 REASONS TO SEND IN A MONTHLY REPORT:

10. Inquiring minds want to know.
9. It's the ethical thing to do.
8. You are on the ABA Missions' Poster.
7. You are approved/endorsed by the ABA Churches.
6. Provides networking for the ABA Missions' Office.
5. Helps the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.
4. Why would you not report monthly?
3. ABA Churches deserve to know.
2. It's the biblical thing to do - Acts 14:27.

...and the #1 reason to send in a monthly report...

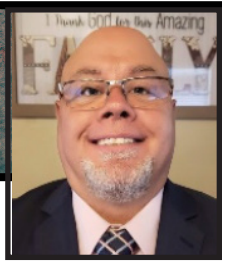
1. It's in the ABA Mission Policy!



### George Dever (Maine):

I think a positive that came out of this upheaval was we upgraded and updated our audio/video equipment to reach out to more families. Facebook live and ZOOM was used to continue presenting the Word with some sort of meaningful service. We are still using Facebook live to stream our Sunday morning messages and ZOOM on Monday nights so those that cannot make it out to study can still be a part of the fellowship. We used Awana to stay in contact with the kids with an Easter goodie bag with candy, a card, a Bible verse and book marker inside. Also, we have an Awana Facebook page for the kids, parents and Awana staff to stay connected. This is very difficult when the kids' parents are unchurched. God is still providing, and we are meeting back with only our church family at this time. When the governor lifts more restrictions, then, maybe, we can get back to our van ministry on Wednesday nights.

# Greetings from the Friendly City of Clovis, New Mexico!



My name is Danny Kennedy and I am the mission pastor to Clovis Landmark MBC. My calling to Clovis, New Mexico, is one of great certainty. I have never been surer about a calling to a certain people or place in my entire 18 years of ministry. I believe everything that I have experienced in the ministry prepared me for this particular work. It is such an awesome blessing to know, without a shadow of a doubt, that you are exactly where the Lord wants you to be in the grand scheme of His eternal plan.

The Lord truly made the way for our coming to Clovis. I can look back and see the hand of God working all things out for our good and His purposes. Since arriving August 10th two years ago, the Lord has blessed with 16 additions in membership. He has blessed His Word as He promised and given us much fruit for our labor.

When we surveyed the city of Clovis and met with the members of the mission I knew, without a shadow of a doubt, this was where God was leading. We absolutely fell in love with the five precious people who were so faithfully holding the doors open.

We also love the climate out West. I remember traveling from South Houston and getting out of the car at the hotel in Clovis. The temp on the dash said 95 degrees but felt like 80 degrees back home. It was so weird but so cool at the same time. Yeah, no humidity! We just love the sunsets and cool evenings here. The one thing we did not expect, however, were the brutal winds; they blow constantly. We were told it did not rain much in Clovis which is true except for the monsoon month of August – the month we moved. It is certainly different out West but, in many ways, the same for us. I was born and raised in South Texas growing up in the South Houston/Pasadena area.

I grew up in a diverse city with many cultures and many friends from different backgrounds. Like back home, the culture is diverse with many traditions and customs which we have learned to love since moving to New Mexico.

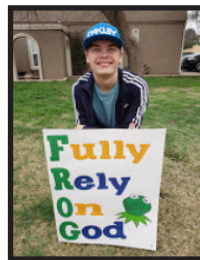
I have knocked doors in every church I have ever pastored but never experienced the friendliness like that

of the people of Clovis. We average 25 on Sunday mornings with many first time and returning visitors attending

regularly. We praise the Lord for both the calling and increase which He has given in our short time here. To God alone be the Glory! Paul said, *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase”* (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Like many churches who experienced the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we closed in-person services twice during those trying times. We had to get creative in how we ministered to our church and community. We went to online-only-services like many other churches. Preaching to a camera every week took some getting used to, but we saw God use it in a very powerful way. Ministering to many people, including our loved ones, who normally do not attend church or even hear a message from God’s Word otherwise. We also started a sign ministry in our front yard to encourage our community during the government-enforced shelter in place order. During the sign ministry, we received a knock at the door from a precious Christian woman who Mandy now walks with every Tuesday morning. Mrs. Debbie saw our signs and asked if we would consider providing signs for the City of Clovis National Day of Prayer. Her request was another answer to my personal prayer: *“Lord, please show me how we can minister to our community during this time.”* We could not visit, we could not knock on doors, yet we wanted to get a spiritual word of encouragement out and love on our city.

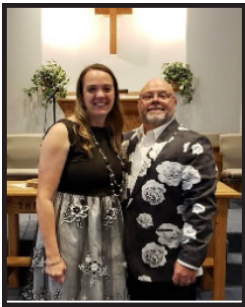
I can’t help but praise God for the wonderful family He gave me. My family has always been a great part of the ministry wherever I have pastored. They are a tremendous help to me week-in-and-week-out. I also praise God that since coming to Clovis my baby girl, Grace, has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior and has followed the Lord in baptism. Also, while in Clovis, my oldest son, Danny Jr., has surrendered to the Gospel Ministry and has already preached several messages. Recently I gave Danny Jr. the responsibility of preaching before every



monthly Business Meeting. I am so very proud of all my kids for each of their personal accomplishments. I also praise the Lord for my beloved wife as she is my partner in ministry. Behind every good pastor is a great wife. I do not know what I would do without her. She is such a blessing to me and my family; everyone at the mission thinks the world of her.



We have, however, had a few health scares during the past six months. Mandy was bedridden for 3 weeks in January with what one doctor described as a rare disorder called Meniere's disease. Since then, in the month of July, she developed a blood clot behind her eye that caused her to go blind in one eye. The treatment for this was a shot in the left eye every month for six months. After receiving the first treatment she noticed an improvement in her vision. In one month, she went from 2200/20 vision to 30/20 vision.



The Ophthalmologist said, "this is incredible. We have never seen anyone respond to this treatment and have their vision restored in one month." All I can say is that we serve an incredible God. Praise the Lord she is feeling and seeing much better. I ask that you keep Mandy in your prayers as we continue this medical journey to find out the cause of the blood clot.

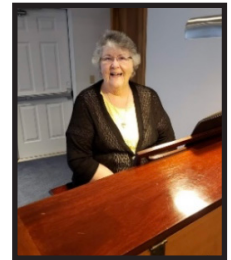
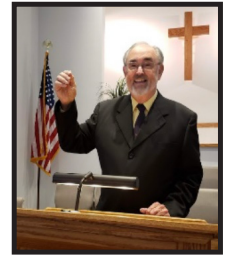
The Lord blessed with some new foundational families to the mission through our door-knocking efforts. These families have proven to be faithful, hardworking and have a beautiful heart for people. We, as a mission, have completed the study of our ABA Doctrinal Statement in which we awarded those that were faithful to attend, take notes and fill out a fif-



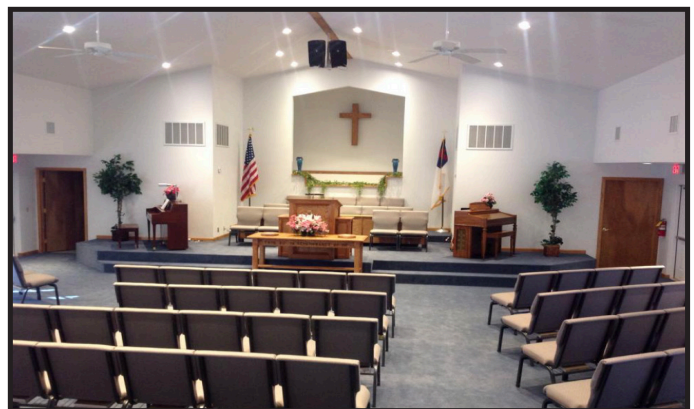
ty-question review, a certificate of completion which the mission made mandatory for someone to teach a class going forward. I love these folks and I am so grateful to God for their love and faithfulness over the last two years.

After returning to in-person services in the month of July this faithful group of loving people proved their desire and are determined to see a strong work her in Clovis. We are reminded of Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

We are so grateful for Bro. Dan and Shaurean Holt. They have been instrumental in the ministry of the mission. Bro. Dan teaches our Adult Sunday school class and leads singing. Mrs. Shaurean plays the piano and is such a blessing to everyone. What a blessing this precious couple is to both my family and the mission. We love and appreciate them more than they know. We are so grateful for their faithfulness, wisdom and ministerial experience. We consider them our partners in ministry.



We have been blessed to inherit a beautiful building from the previous missionary, Bro. Jack Spencer. He and our sponsoring church, Flippo Chapel Landmark MBC of Pleasant Plains, Arkansas, did a wonderful job building a beautiful building. Flippo Chapel stood behind this mission work long before I came to Clovis and I



know they are determined to see it through to organization. We are very grateful for the continued support and prayers of our Sending Church. The building is debt free and sits on 2 acres of land with room to grow and build.



The vision the Lord gave me for this work is after becoming self-supporting and organized, we will become a Sending Church for other missionaries to the great State of New Mexico and the Southwest area. We believe God has a plan to use this church in a mighty way to reach the people of the Southwest.

I want to publicly thank everyone who has so faithfully come beside us and prayed, promoted, supported, befriended, and given so generously to this mission work in the past and in present. It is when God's people come together for the cause of Christ and for the sake of missions that we fulfill the Lord's great and global commission.



Clovis Landmark Missionary Baptist Church  
Clovis, New Mexico



Bro. Buel Lewallen served on the Standing Missionary Committee from 2000-2019. This plaque was presented to him at McAlester Missionary Baptist Church in McAlester, OK, where he is currently pastoring. Thank you, Bro. Lewallen, for many years of faithful service to the Churches of the American Baptist Association.



*Left:* Visiting with Missionary Paul Armstrong and touring Journey Baptist Church in Calera, Alabama.



Missionary Scott Bourland at a new church plant, Grace Baptist Church in Hope, Indiana



*Right:* Visiting with Missionary Randell Perkey and touring Harvest Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Missouri.

# Mexico City, January 2020

Bro. Ruben Moreno,  
former ABA Recommended  
Missionary,  
and congregation of  
Iglesia Bautista Misionera  
del Sur



Bro. Rogelio Pacheco  
and congregation of  
Iglesia Biblica Bautista Misionera  
de Cuautitlan



Bible Conference on the book of Jude held at  
Seminario Teologico Bautista Misionero

Congress of the Shepherds attended by several  
pastors and missionaries held at  
Iglesia Biblica Bautista Misionera de Cuautitlan



Far left: Bro. Sergio Estrada and family, former  
ABA Recommended Missionary.

Near left: Our "Guide and Interpreter" for our stay  
in Mexico, Jhonathan Villegas

# Costa Rica, February 2020



Bro. Errol Solis family and congregation at Templo Bautista Misionera Jericó, San José.  
 Interpreter is Jimmy Cabrera, former ABA Recommended Missionary.



Bro. Roger Stewart,  
 Bro. Efraín Alemán and  
 Bro. Gene Ray Ward



Converts added to  
 Iglesia Bautista Misionera Canaán,  
 Bro. Efraín Alemán, pastor.

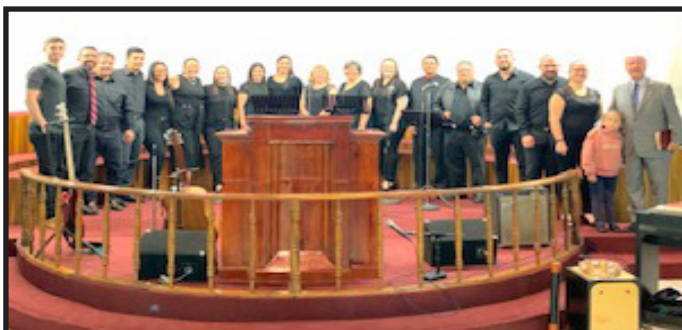


ABA Recommended Missionaries:  
 Bro. Walter Goulding,  
 Bro. Erley Sobalbarro,  
 Bro. Errol Solis and  
 Bro. Efraín Alemán

*Right:* Bro. Roger Stewart  
 with Bro. Walter Goulding  
 interpreting for his congregation  
 at Iglesia Bautista Misionera  
 El Camino



*Left:* Receiving offering Costa Rica style.

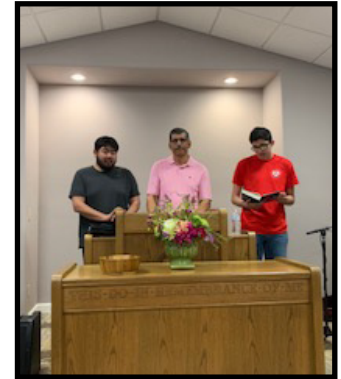


Church Choir from  
 Iglesia Bautista Misionera Peniel  
 with pastor Jaimie Pardo,  
 former ABA Recommended Missionary.

# Del Rio/Acuña, March 2020



*Above:* Bro. Juan Gallegos interpreting for Bro. Roger Stewart at a Bible Conference held at Seminario Bautista Del Centro. *Above right:* Attendees for the Bible Conference. *Below right:* Praying for the seminary students.



“How Great thou Art” sang in three different languages; Japanese by Kunihiko Oba, Spanish by Bro. Juan and English by Sydney Gallegos. The song was such a blessing!



Pastors from Iglesia Bautista Misionera Corinth, Acuña, Iglesia Bautista Misionera Betel, Acuña, Iglesia Bautista Misionera del Centro, Acuña, and Iglesia Bautista Misionera Berea, Del Rio, all gave an offering for missions from their churches.



Bro. Juan Gallegos and his talented family; wife, Stacey, children Rhyne and Sydney.



*Left:* Bro. Roger signing a seminary student’s workbook.

*Right:* Bro. Roger & Gena Stewart with Bro. Juan & Stacey Gallegos.



# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS

## EXECUTIVE SESSION, May 19, 2020

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 2:00 PM, in the facilities of Northern Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Association was called to order by Missionary Committee Chairman, Edwin Button [NOTE: *Articles of Agreement, Article IX, Section 2 and Article XIV*]. In addition to the Standing Missionary Committee of the American Baptist Association most of the associational officers, including President Terry Parrish and Parliamentarian David Butimore, along with many pastors from churches fellowshipping in the American Baptist Association, were present.

Brother Button shared with the brethren that this meeting was called due to the fact that the Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association scheduled for June 23-25, 2020, in Springfield, Missouri, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. With no Messenger Meeting for 2020, there remained a few items which required the attention of the brethren in order to continue the work of the association and to be prepared for the 2021 Messenger Meeting scheduled to convene in Charleston, West Virginia, on June 22-24, 2021. What follows is a summary of those proceedings and decisions.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that the Executive Committee accept the 2019-2020 list of recommended missionaries as the list for 2020-2021 and that no new recommendations be included. [Cited with this motion was the 1945 precedent, noted in the 1946 Yearbook on page 39, which states *“that the same missionaries, both inter-state and foreign, as elected by the messengers at Seminole in 1944, be recognized by this committee in the continuation of their services in their respective fields of labor.”*] This motion was followed by a motion to amend to include all sixteen newly recommended missionaries on the 2020-2021 list. The amendment failed. This was followed by a substitute amendment to consider the 2020-2021 newly recommended missionaries according to the three categories identified by the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions: (1) Change in Sponsorship, (2) Formerly Recommended, and (3) Truly New Missionaries. The substitute amendment failed. The original motion was then passed.

Those missionaries left off the 2020-2021 list of recommended missionaries by this decision are as follows: **Change in Sponsorship** – Fred Ando (Hubbard MBC, Mt. Calm, TX), Lucrecio Booc (Mt. Pisgah MBC, Searcy, AR) and Yolito de Gracia (Abiko BC, Abiko, Japan and Unity MBC, Richwood, TX); **Formerly Recommended** – Carlos Angulo (Sweet Home MBC, Prattville, AR), Percy Hernandez (Landmark MBC, Bedford, IN), David Manary (Cedar Creek MBC, Palestine, TX) and Jesse Mercardo (White Oaks MBC, Greenville, SC); **Truly New Missionaries** – John Boone (Friendship MBC, Flint, MI), Daniel Branscum (Mohawk MBC, Rome, NY), Alfonso Cristobol (Landmark MBC, Pine Mountain, GA), Jose Leos (El Olam MBC, Tenaha, TX), Ruben Marquez (Getsamani MBC, Center, TX), David Rohr (St. Helens MBC, St. Helens, OR), Wesley Webber (Bethel MBC, Iuka, MS) and Devin Wood (Sunbreak MBC, Olympia, WA).

Please note that George Dever (Nevills Chapel MBC, Mt. Pleasant, TX) is considered a newly recommended missionary for 2020-2021 due to the fact that he is changing designations from Interstate on Salary to Interstate on Designated Funds, which, otherwise, could be done at the request of his sending church via a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office.

In addition to the above lists, please be aware that the following previously-recommended missionaries were intentionally not re-recommended by their Sponsoring Churches for the 2020-2021 associational year: Gheorge Cormos (Romania), William Davenport (USA), Gene Gabrielson (Mexico), Brandon Jones (USA), Alwin Malaza (Philippians), Sergio Rodriguez (Mexico), John Strader (Kenya), Dan Watkins (USA), Jeremy Valladares (Mexico) and Michael Weiler (Indiana).

Further business introduced by the Standing Missionary Committee was that no raises be granted the full-salaried missionaries for 2020-2021 and that no salary raises be granted to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office. The Standing Missionary Committee clerk's report was given by Jim Nixon. It included the agreed-upon acknowledgment that it was time for the Missions' Office vehicle to be replaced and that the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions begin that process. The clerk's report was approved.

The Moderator then recognized the Baptist Sunday School Committee for their report. Chairman David Butimore called on Clerk Dennis Richey to present an abbreviated report of the BSSC. He noted that there were two line items to be considered from the BSSC report: (1) to request a 5% increase in literature prices beginning with the Winter Quarter (2020-2021) and (2) that no raises be granted for the Business Manager's Office or the Editor in Chief's Office. Dean Grigsby, Business Manager, was recognized to speak to the matter of price increases in literature. He explained that this request had largely to do with the effects of COVID-19 on the sales of literature. Separate motions were made, received, seconded and passed to accept both line items from the Baptist Sunday School Committee.

At the advice of the Parliamentarian, the Moderator ruled that all elected officers and speakers for the 2019-2020 associational year and the 2020 Messenger Meeting maintain their respective roles until for the 2020-2021 associational year and the 2021 Messenger Meeting. The Moderator also ruled that all salaries accommodated by the American Baptist Association be paid until the messengers can meet in 2021.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that a printed copy of the minutes, church directory, memorials and other reports required by the Articles of Agreement be provided to the churches in booklet form. All reports to be included in this booklet should be provided to the clerks no later than August 1, 2020.

The vote of the Executive Committee insures that the missionaries currently receiving salary funds from the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions can continue to receive those funds; however, there remains a list of newly recommended missionaries who will not be eligible to receive funding from the Missions' Office until after the 2021 Messenger Meeting. If your church can help those missionaries between now and the 2021 Messenger Meeting please send offerings to their Sponsoring Churches.

Finally, can your church help with the Standing Missionary Committee travel expenses? This year the committeemen were asked to perform additional duties which required many of them to stay extra nights in Texarkana and change their travel plans more than once. If so, please send offerings to the Missions' Office.

Respectfully,  
Roger Stewart  
Secretary-Treasurer of Missions  
American Baptist Association

### **TEN WAYS TO GIVE TO ABA MISSIONS**

1. *Church Offerings* – ask your church family to set aside/receive regular offerings.
2. *Individual Offerings* – ask to be placed on the mailing list and respond with personal gifts.
3. *Associational Offerings* – ask your association of churches to send in offerings.
4. *Donate Online at [www.abaptist.org](http://www.abaptist.org)* – the ONLINE GIVING button is at the top, right of the webpage.
5. *Estate Planning* – talk to your family and your attorney; set us up as a beneficiary.
6. *Church Charter Reverter Clauses* – this was common in the 50s, 60s and 70s.
7. *Thanksgiving Mission Offering* – this is a critical offering for the Missions' Office each year.
8. *Memorial Giving* – becoming more common and is very simple.
9. *Designated and Undesignated Giving* – both are needed.
10. *Schedule an ABA Missionary at your Church* – and provide him an offering.

## Seven Facts (you probably did not know) about the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office [aka: ABA Missions]

1. The first year for a **Wednesday Night Missions Program** in conjunction with the Mission Message at the ABA was **1980**.
2. The first year to receive a **Thanksgiving Mission Offering** was **1981**...that offering totaled nearly \$30,000.
3. The first year for **Missionary Share Time** at the ABA was **1983**...there were 115 missionaries present.
4. The first year the ABA Missions' Office **paid out over one-million-dollars** was **1984**.
5. The first year the ABA Missions' Office **received over one-million-dollars** was **1988**.
6. The first year the ABA Missions' Office **received over two-million-dollars** was **2005**.
7. The first year the ABA Missions' Office **paid out over two-million-dollars** was **2020**.



ABA Recommended Missionary, Bro. Candelario & Paulina Espinosa (Mexico) and Bro. Roger & Gena Stewart at an outside service at First BC of Northern Heights in Kansas City, Missouri



Bro. Ron Ballard (Standing Missionary Committee), Bro. Paul Armstrong (Alabama) and Bro. Roger Stewart at New Home MBC in Wetumpka, Alabama



Emily Armstrong, Rachel Morrell and Hannah Armstrong singing at the Alabama Mission Development at New Home MBC in Wetumpka, Alabama



ABA Recommended Missionaries from the Eastern Baptist Association: Mike Weiler (Indiana), Phillip Wysocki (Michigan), Brandon Rutherford (USA), and Scott Bourland (Indiana)



Missionary Kevin Pruit, Journey Baptist Church, Bloomington, Indiana



ABA Recommended Missionaries from the Florida State Meeting: Timothy Sims (Thailand), Temple Meek (India/Florida), Brandon Rutherford (USA), and Brett Bell (Florida).

# “Rubies” I’ve met along the way:

By Gena Stewart



Alice Solis, Missionary wife of Errol Solis (Costa Rica)



Amy Armstrong, Missionary wife of Paul Armstrong (Alabama)



Stacey Gallegos, Missionary wife of Juan Gallegos (Texas/Mexico)



Irene Perkey, Missionary wife of Randall Perkey (Missouri)



Paulina Espinosa, Missionary wife of Candelario Espinosa (Mexico)



Diana Rutherford, Missionary wife of Brandon Rutherford (USA)



Donna Weiler, Missionary wife of Michael Weiler (Indiana)



Peggy Ross, former officer of the National Women’s Conference and wife of ABA Recommended Missionary, Jay Ross (Brazil). Their building project is the recipient of the National Women’s Conference goal for 2020.

*...her price is far above rubies.*

*Proverbs 31:10*



# Thanksgiving Missions Offering

Join us in reaching our goal of

# \$300,000

on or before

# November 29, 2020

*O give thanks unto  
the LORD: for he  
is good; for his  
mercy endureth  
forever.*

**1 Chronicles 16:34**

Please send offerings to:

**Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, American Baptist Association**

**PO Box 1050, Texarkana, TX 75504-1050**

**Phone: 903.792.2312, Email: [missions@abamissions.org](mailto:missions@abamissions.org)**

