2014 BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting Report Issue

2014 Annual Meeting Held In Laurel

by the Editor

The BMA of Mississippi held its 208th Annual meeting on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on October 21-22. Sixty churches were represented by 115 messengers. Fifty-six additional churches were represented by letter. There were 25 visitors listed with the church letters.

$5,255 was received into the minute fund with an additional $8700 going to the program fund. There was one petitionary letter from All Nations Baptist Church, Indianaola where Bro. Donnie Logan is the pastor.

Preceding the annual meeting was the State Brotherhood and WMA meetings on Tuesday morning.

Following the auxiliary meetings was the Pastor’s and Layman’s Conference. After the conference message by Bro. Blake McCain, four breakout sessions were held. The WMA ladies conference was led by Mrs. Mary Sprayberry dealing with growing a church’s ladies ministry. Breakout sessions were led by Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary, on soul winning; Bro. Tracy McMillan on retaining the youth in our churches; and Bro. Larry Geraldson on using social media in the church’s ministry.

Department Reports

The BMA of Mississippi held its annual meeting October 21-22, 2014 in Laurel on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College.

This issue contains a report on the meeting, but details of each department is included in the individual department and commission reports. Those reports not included in this issue should be available for the November 15th issue.

New President Issues Challenge

by Gary Smith, President · BMA of Mississippi

To the churches of the BMA of Mississippi, I want to thank you for your confidence in electing me as your president for this next year. I want to thank Brother Ken Riley for the outstanding job he has done the last two years in leading our great association. I count it an honor to serve.

We had a great meeting this year with great preaching and singing. The reports from our departments were exciting and encouraging. A new missionary family was elected to plant a church along the Gulf Coast in Diamondhead, Mississippi. The missions work in our state is growing by leaps and bounds. The report from the college was encouraging with enrollment up this semester and improvements being made on the buildings. Our children’s home has more children and life at the home is great. Moral Action is on the front lines fighting for conservative values in our state. Publishing, Baptist music fellowship, State youth, and Senior Adult ministry all gave great reports. Our association is growing and we are thankful and you, the churches, are the reason why. Of course, all the honor and glory goes to our Father in Heaven.

Our theme for the meeting was DETERMINATION. If I may, I would like to challenge each pastor to be more determined than ever to lead your church in supporting these great ministries. I would also encourage you to attend the events planned next year in our state. Pastors Retreat, Missions and Evangelistic Conference, Midyear meeting, and of course the annual meeting next October.

We live in a world that is ever changing. Moral decay, corrupt politicians, intimidation and persecution against pastors and churches, radical judges, and an anti-God sentiment all around our nation. We must stay together and work together to get the job done. In these last days let’s keep our hands to the plough and our eyes on the Lord and do all we can do until He comes!
“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” Revelation 1:5b-6

God has richly blessed us and we are so deeply grateful that He has saved us and adopted us and given us purpose and meaning for our lives. We labor to honor Him and serve His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

This past year, 19 men working in 13 different locations engaged 5185 new people, and they shared the gospel 3732 times. 484 of those people professed faith in Jesus Christ and became followers of Him. Efforts are being made to train these people so that they can join the ranks of those who are living out their faith in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In two locations permanent presence was established as two of our missions, New Heart, in South Hattiesburg, and All Nations, in Indianola, organized as New Testament churches. I am confident that they will do well under capable leadership and will soon join the family of churches that make up the BMA of Mississippi.

To reinforce our efforts we are recommending the addition of a new missionary to begin church planting in Gulf Coast region.

The Leaders of our Hispanic work, Bro Estuardo (in the South) and Bro Elvis (in the North) have succeeded in enlarging our contingency of believers in the Hispanic community, by training and sending men into new areas. This strategy is working and will continue.

Bro. Ed DuVall continues to reach out to the African American community through assimilation and retraining of existing congregations, and through church planting efforts.

Brothers Burch, Farmer and Elliott have become capable veteran missionaries, who, while still serving, have become valuable leaders among our team of missionaries, providing counsel, discipleship, encouragement and motivation. Spread from one end of the state to the other, they form a formidable human resource, which I believe God is using to accomplish much, and enlarge our efforts, and make us more efficient in our missionary endeavors.

Brothers Bartlett and Burns are earlier in the process and are facing the daily challenges and setbacks of engaging their communities with the gospel. They are all doing well, and making progress commensurate with the challenges they face. Their own personal development, as missionaries, will factor into their progress going forward.

Giving in 2014 has been good. We continue to work hard to improve efficiency. This past year, $.84 of every dollar we received for State Missions went directly to the missionaries. This is an improvement in efficiency over the previous year. Our 2014 annual audit is complete and we ended the year in the black. Missions and RLF are audited together and we were given an “Unmodified Opinion” which, according to our Auditor, is the cleanliness audit rating you can receive.

I am very thankful for our local associations. Our partnerships are critical to the ongoing work of missions throughout the State. There are 14 local associations of BMA churches across the State of Mississippi and all but one of these associations is actively involved in some support of our missionaries through the State Missions Department. Praise the Lord!

Our Revolving Loan Fund has grown 34% since 2011. BMA of Mississippi people and churches indirectly support, through their participation in the Revolving Loan Fund, our missionaries and churches with loans to purchase property and build facilities.

In addition to the number of loans made to churches this past year, the Revolving Loan Fund approved a loan for South Forrest for $375,000.00 to building a new sanctuary. This is the second building in their overall plan. The trustees also approved matching fund in the amount of $50,000.00 to help with Freedom Baptist Mission’s debt reduction campaign which ran through September. Freedom raise all $50,000.00 which will be matched to reduce their debt by $100,000.00.

The outpouring of support both in volunteer labor, to help with construction, and the response to our matching funds campaign to reduce indebtedness for mission projects, is nothing short of amazing.

You helped mitigate costs and reduce debt to your mission congregations. Freedom Baptist Mission, Missionary Bobby Elliott, finished their 6,000 sq ft facility at a cost of $167,709.38. The reduction of $100,000.00 will leave them with only $67,709.00 of debt. Praise the Lord!

I would be amiss if I didn’t express our appreciation to the Master Builder who have given time and help on both the Burnsville and South Forrest building projects. We are deeply grateful for their support.

Funds have also been committed for the purchase of land and the construction of a first unit building in Clinton for Grace Baptist Mission, Missionary Danny Bartlett. The contract has been signed and we are presently involved in due diligence and hope to close on this property by the end of the year.

Through our relationship with the BMAA Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist College, we continue to provide professional development for our missionaries. This past year we sponsored a class taught by Dr. Mark Livingston, Adjunct Professor at the BMAA Theological Seminary. President Charley Holmes and Interim President Danny Pitts assure me that they are working hard to provide us with additional human resources to meet the demands of our ever growing missions work.

In addition to these things, I have tried to be faithful to preach the gospel and be an encouragement to our people. I want to express my appreciation to all the churches that have extended opportunities to me to preach. I remain available to visit any of our churches and share about the work of the BMA of Mississippi as a whole, the work of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund or simply preach the Word.

I want to express my appreciation to the people who served on our Missionary Committee, led by Chairman Dennis Knight and our Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, led by Chairman Kenneth Lott, this past year. Thank you for all the time and attention that you give to our work. I want to express my special thanks to Bro. Wexford Parmer who is departing the Missionary Committee and to Bro. Kenneth Lott who is leaving as a Revolving Loan Fund Trustee. We appreciate your faithfulness, leadership, your passion and your service.

Ultimately, our work is the work of the Lord and the Churches of the BMA of Mississippi…you have caught the vision…you have seen the possibilities…you have embraced the future…you have welcomed the
2014 Annual Meeting

continued from page 1

2015 Meetings

The 2015 Midyear meeting will be held at Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, with Blake McCain as the speaker and Brian Arwood as the alternate. The 2015 Annual meeting will again be held at Southeastern College. Bro. Larry Geraldson will bring the annual message with Blake McCain as the alternate.

Reports

Four of the directors from national departments were present and spoke about the work of their ministries. Dr. Charley Holmes presented the work of BMA Sominary in Jacksonville, Texas; Dr. John David Smith spoke for National Missions; Dr. Steve Medrick Savell.

The Revolving Loan Fund continues to grow in both deposits and assets. Current loans are available to churches and missions at 4.25% while deposits currently are earning 2.67%.

Missions presented one new family to work on the mission field in Diamondhead, Mississippi. Diamondhead is newly incorporated and currently has no Baptist church. Wesley & Holly Martin will be planting a church in this area.

Bro. Danny Pitts continues to serve as Interim President of Southeastern College. The school ended the year in the black financially, but that is without any salary paid to the president. Dr. Aaron Parker continues to serve as Academic Dean until a new dean can be hired.

Doctrinal Statement Committee Selected

A committee was appointed to bring a recommendation to the midyear meeting concerning an addition to the doctrinal statement concerning marriage. Dr. John Adams pointed out in the Moral Action report that this was being recommended to all religious groups and churches by attorneys and government officials. He shared conversations he has had concerning this and the advice he has received.

Adams is working with others to bring a recommendation to the National meeting next Spring. The committee for Mississippi is Dr. Adams, SBC President Danny Pitts, Missions Director Larry Geraldson, Bro. Frank Panzrino and Clerk Justin Cameron.

Recognition

A number of individuals were recognized for their service as trustees, employees, and volunteers. These are shown in this issue with their photographs.

Tony Cleaver Publishes New Book

Tony Cleaver has just published his new book “Scriptures for Today” on Amazon. Amazon provides a free downloadable reader and preview of Cleaver’s new e-book. Here is the site to preview and purchase Scriptures for ‘Today: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00OGIMER4

Scriptures for Today is a devotional commentary on Bible verses designed for anyone to read each and every day of the year. It has some points of evangelism for those who seek Christ and want to be found of Him. It contains some admonitions and encouragement to church workers especially those we call pastor. It has some words of hope for those in hopeless situations. The Word of God speaks for itself for our lives in a marvelous way.

No human being can survive without breathing, drinking, and eating. Reading the Bible on a daily basis is like that for the essence of the soul. We find in the Scriptures the very breath of God, the water of life, and the food for which we so desperately long.

It is my prayer Scriptures for Today will call each reader to a closer walk with the Lord Jesus who died for us. He invites all of us to a life like His.

There is a Scripture index at the back of the book for your use in finding passages on the dates of the year.

Cleaver says about Scriptures for Today: “The Scriptures are God breathed and inspired, and they are the perfect guide for our daily living. Each portion of the Scriptures has the authority of God in it. The emphasis of Scriptures for Today is the focus on a daily Bible passage. Reading through Scriptures for Today one may have a Bible verse highlighted for each day of the year.

Scriptures for Today will make a wonderful gift for your family or a special person in your congregation. Because of the power of the Scriptures, it can be a contribution to your friends in whom you are interested in enabling to become Christians.”

Missionary’s Mother Dies

Gwen Smith Broom, 71 of Columbia, Mississippi, mother of BMA missionary Dale (Celia) Broom (Ghana, West Africa), died October 12 at her residence. Bro. and Mrs. Broom were able to return to the States to say goodbye and returned to Ghana on October 15.

Mrs. Broom was a homemaker and a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Columbia, Mississippi. Other survivors include her husband James R. Broom, another son, Danny Broom and a daughter, Angie (Marc) Holland, all of Columbia: three sisters, Shirley Donald and Dorothy Smith, both of Hattiesburg and Irene Jones of Petal: three brothers, Ronnie Smith of Hattiesburg; Glenn Smith of Rawls Springs and Tommy Smith of Ellisville: seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held October 14 at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and interment was at Mt. Gilead Church Cemetery.

Illinois Missionary, Dies

Jerry Wayne Bell, Jr., 44 of Plano, Illinois, died suddenly October 8. He was elected to serve as associate missionary with Rob Hagar at Jacob’s Well in Plano in 2011. Bro. Bell, who grew up in Duncanville, Texas, was a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. He surrendered to the ministry in 2010.

He and his wife, Jennie (Oliver) Bell have been married for 19 years and have two children, Renee and Jackson. Mrs. Bell serves Jacob’s Well as Women’s Ministry Team Leader.

A memorial service was held at Jacob’s Well Friday, October 10. Funeral services were October 15 at First Baptist Church in Red Oak, Texas, under the direction of Wayne Boze Funeral Home in Red Oak.

Missions from page 2

challenge...you have graciously stepped forward onto this, “Journey of Faith.” There is much to do but you are moving in the right direction. You are to be commended.

A full report of the Revolving Loan Fund will be presented by Bro. Lavell Lee, Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Larry Geraldson
Director of Missions and RLF
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

2014-15 Brotherhood Officers

Pictured left to right - Roy Caldwell, Larry Trammel and Mark Jones.
Editor’s Annual Report

“Determination,” the overall theme of this year’s meeting, is certainly based in scripture. Jesus was dedicated, or determined, to complete His work on the earth. Noah was determined to complete his task to the saving of his house – Hebrews 11:7. Paul stated to those in Corinth in I Cor. 2:2 “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

To be ‘determined’ about a subject means that one has decided to make up his mind to believe a certain thing, to do a certain thing or to go in a certain direction. Let us all ‘determine’ to do God’s will in His way as we go forward in His work.

I have been blessed to have held this position for over 36 years. I am just as determined to try to reach each and every BMA family with the Mississippi Baptist as I have ever been. We have taken steps to try to get the paper in the hand of as many of our church families as possible. There are 143 churches who are currently on the family plan. That means that the church supplies the name and address of its church member families and we send them the Mississippi Baptist at each publishing.

There are 40 churches that we have identified that are not currently providing the paper to their church families. I am sure there are various reasons that these churches are not subscribing to the paper. We have taken steps to try to bring them on board. Beginning with the October 1st issue we have added these churches to our mailing list. We are sending a bundle of papers to each of these churches and asking them to distribute them to their membership. So far we have not received any of these returned in the mail. This tells me that we have the correct address of the churches and/or their pastor.

We will continue this effort for a 3 month period. There is not charge to the church. We are trying to introduce the paper to the members in the pew and then encouraging them to subscribe at the end of this trial period. Even though there is no charge, the cost of this effort to this department is about an additional $500.00 per month in printing and postage cost. We feel this investment is worth the cost in an effort to introduce the paper to as many of our families as we can.

Finances

Currently our finances are fairly stable and have been for the past few years. In 2012 I reported that this department had experienced a $3,470.64 surplus for that year. In 2013 we reported a $2,349.69 loss or cash flow negative. This year our records show that we have a $2,682.93 deficit. Our church subscription income was stable, but we experienced nearly a $5,000.00 decrease in regular monthly support from the churches. Our Special Emphasis this past January was up about $1,600.00 over the previous year, but overall our contributions were down. Overall, our income was down almost $3,000.00. We have not raised rates in several years, but our expenses have slowly been creeping up. We have been blessed to be able to meet all of this ministry obligations, but unless we can bring our income up to the level of our expenses, this will not always be possible.

We are not asking for a rate increase, but we are asking for a subscription increase! The members of our churches need the advantage of receiving the paper to be able to keep up with the ministries of the BMA of Mississippi. If your church is a BMA church, and it is or you would not be at this meeting, and if your church supports BMA ministries, and it does or you would not be here, then your church needs to receive the Mississippi Baptist and have the information it provides to be available to them. When they see the work our association is doing and the blessings and needs of various ministries, they will be more inclined to pray for it, support it financially and be willing to be personally involved in its ministries.

When more subscribers are added, this will solve our income problems while adding very little to our production costs. Additional subscribers will help this department to remain financially viable.

Content

I must thank each individual who regularly contributes to our content. Our department workers rely on the paper as a tool to communicate with their supporters. If you want to keep up with the overall work of each of these ministries, you can ‘read all about it’ is your Mississippi Baptist.

There are a number of individuals who contribute. Troy Cleaver, Chuck Lee, Barbara White, Travis Plumlee, and others. Cartoonists Thom Tapp and Gary Thomas allow us to use their work in our pages. (We even have a comic section – Maybe sports will be continued on page 6

Editor’s Notes

Adopt A Mission Challenge

The Editor’s annual report begins on this page. One item that I would like to highlight is our policy in providing the Mississippi Baptist to state mission projects. Each mission receives the paper at no charge to the mission. We are asking churches to “adopt” a mission and pay for their papers for one year. Most of the cost is between $13.00 and $26.00 per month.

One local church heard about this program and has adopted 2 (yes two) missions. One of our mission projects has been adopted by their mother church. This program will help the mission, take the financial burden from this department, and be a blessing to your church.

These new missions with new people need to be exposed to the work of the BMA of Mississippi and BMA of America. They will get a good deal of information and exposure to our work through the Mississippi Baptist.

If your church would take this challenge, please contact the editor to be assigned a mission church.
MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Baptist Missionary Association of America
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
On The Web at www.macbma.net/
Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

STANDING WITH THIS AGENCY
Your faithfulness to stand with this agency has been the strength upon which we have drawn from this past year. Ms. Adams and I thank you for your continued prayers as we have joyed in the work of this ministry. We wish to thank each church, association and organization for your financial contributions. Sixty-three of each church, association and ministry. We wish to thank employment of some changes, I have taken position as a state missionary, but instead of Deuteronomy 6. Both of the discourses were challenging to the people in attendance.

COMMENTS ARE WELCOME
Moral Action of Mississippi welcomes your comments and suggestions regarding this ministry. We are dedicated to spreading the message of morality through God’s Word. Please feel free to contact us at: Telephone: (662) 282-7425 Cell: (662) 231-3863 Email: fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

Sturdy Christians still tremble at the mighty hand of God. Isaiah 13:9, “Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.” Then in verse 11: “and I will punish the world for their evil.”

THINGS TO PRAY FOR
Pray for this ministry Promote Moral Action of Mississippi in your church and Association Support financially
Share your needs, ideas, concerns
Pray for the National Moral Action

2013-2014 YEAR
During the 2013-2014 associational year, your Moral Action Ministry has been represented at the Mississippi State House and at our United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. It was my distinct honor to share with Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant. I was privileged again to lead in the opening prayers for the State Senate and State House. I have visited with U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and U.S. Rep. Alan Nunnelee.

MORAL ACTION SUCCESS
A newer outreach of this ministry is the “God and Country Rallies.” I have participated in five rallies outside the state. Feel free to talk with me about the “God and Country Rallies” and the possibility of scheduling for your area.

RESPECT FOR THE FLAG
We, as Americans and Christians, need a patriotic and spiritual renewal. Our children and youth need encouragement as well on these attributes. Our highlighted theme for the 2014-2015 Associational year will be “Respect the Flag.” Here are past highlights:
2006-07 Religious Freedom
2007-08 Gambling
2008-09 Abortion and Pro-Life
2009-10 Homosexuality and Gay Rights
2010-11 Muslims and Sharia Law
2011-12 Value Voting
2012-13 Political Involvement
2013-14 Separation of Church and State

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR MORALITY’S SAKE?
Get the salt out of the shaker. As a born again believer, influence your local school principals, superintendents, teachers and school boards.
Talk to the city/town mayor and council members about good, clean sponsored events. Get involved. Study the board agenda. Pledge support for Godly measures and approval for ungodly propositions.
Inform the chief of police, sheriff and supervisors of your desire for a better city, county, and state. Obey the laws and be a good citizen and role model.
Hang the American flag with pride at your home.
Get to know (introduce yourself) to your Governor, MS State Senators, and US Representatives. Telephone them. Send cards, notes, emails with encouraging words and let them know that you are praying for them. Go the the capital when the legislation in in session. Get involved.
Contact your U.S. Senator and U.S. Representatives regarding your concerns for a better state and nation. Be respectful, kind, and precise when telephoning or writing.
Make a display in your church building for the Moral Action of Mississippi. Display materials, recommendations for books, magazines, literature and contact information. Take the time to review the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

BE ALERT CITIZENS
Be Patriotic Americans. Teach your children and grandchildren the American Christian Heritage they have been afforded. Visit memorials. Many of the details have been deleted from today’s American History Books in the public schools.
Visit the Moral Action of Mississippi Office at First Baptist Church, 6080 Highway 363, Mantachie, MS.
The most important of all the above, pray. The greatest gift we all have been afforded is PRAYER. Our nation needs PRAYER. If we do not pray, WHO WILL? God bless America.

Winter Compass Curriculum to Focus on Attributes of God
This winter, your church’s adults will be blessed by the Compass literature from DiscipleGuide. This quarter’s study, “What we believe about God,” will focus on God’s attributes. Adults will be challenged and inspired by lessons on God’s Holiness, Justice, Sovereignty, and Power.
The Winter lessons are the second in the four-part, “What We Believe” series written by Dr. E. Harold Henderson. To order, or to learn more, call 800-333-1142 or go to discipleguide.org.


After a short break, Bro. Cliff Jenkins continued with a message on “The Church and Family.” Both messages were rooted in Deuteronomy 6 and included numerous practical instructions for the family and church. Many who were in attendance commented on how helpful the event was. A large number of people stayed for an extended period of time after the meeting to discuss the topic.
The second event was the Sharpen Leadership Conference in the North. On April 4, 2014, about 15 people gathered at South Green Baptist Church in Tupelo. After a meal, Dr. Gary O’Neal gave a great survey of the Bible and Family. Bro. Blake McCaun followed with another excellent sermon from Deuteronomy 6. Both of the discourses were challenging to the people in attendance.

This third, and largest event, was the State Junior Camp. It was held on August 1-2 at The Retreat Center. Approximately 60 people gathered on these 2 days for worship and fellowship. Biblically rooted sermons were brought by Bro. Cliff Jenkins, Bro. Brandon Wilson, and Bro. Chris Myers. We also had a time of Question and Answer where we allowed the students to write down any type of biblical question and the leaders tried to answer it.
The following men sat in front of the camp and answered questions: Bro. James Sprayberry, Bro. Phillip Burns, Bro. Brandon Wilson, and Bro. Chris Myers. The students raised some very good questions and it allowed for a great biblical discussion.

It was interesting to see the wisdom of God’s men being passed down to the children. We also had good times of worship in song and prayer.

I am very thankful to all the churches and the trustees for your support. I am also thankful for Mrs. Brandy Riley and all the hard work she does. May God bless his churches as they continue to serve Him.
Ministry of Jimmy & Suzi

The Mississippi State WMA met October 21, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel of South Eastern Baptist College, with President Jessica Haden presiding. After an opening song and prayer visitors and wives of missionaries were recognized. Our speaker for the morning was Becky Farmer, wife of missionary Sidney Farmer, from South Forrest Baptist Mission. She shared with us the exciting and encouraging news from the growing mission. Special prayer was led by Mrs. Chris Smith. Registration Committee Report: 28 messengers, 13 visitors, 19 churches with 41 total present.


All ladies are encouraged to support this project for the time is now.

RESOLUTION
Be it resolved that:

1. We commit to speaking up in defense of our Lord and His values when he is maligned in our presence.
2. We commit to obeying Deuteronomy 6:5-9 as we rear our children and assist in the spiritual training of our grandchildren.
3. We commit to more diligently study and to rightly divide God’s Word in order to be able to actively show our faith and to give a reason for the hope that is within us.
4. We commit to an intensely diligent prayer life through thanksgiving, intercessions, and petitions for the spiritual and moral needs throughout our world.

Thanksgiving Heretics

by Tony Cleaver

Introduction

The doxology is in most hymn books- praise and thanks to the Lord. All school children have been taught the Pilgrim story. Who does not remember the school plays with the costumes of the Indians and Pilgrims? We sing songs of Thanksgiving. A heretic is one who dissents from an accepted belief or practice or doctrine: a nonconformist. The Thanksgiving Heretic is one who:

A. GIVES THANKS FOR FOOD ON THE TABLE, BUT DOESN’T REMEMBER THE BREAD OF HEAVEN

There might be an acknowledgment for the wife who cooked, but no more. Jesus tells us in John 6.35 “I am the bread of life: he who comes to me will never hunger.” In communion/ Lord’s Supper we take the bread that is celestial nourishment for our souls.

B. GIVES THANKS FOR THE CLOTHES HE WEARS, BUT IS NOT MINDFUL OF THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

The father of the prodigal son in Luke 15.22 says to the servants, “Put the best robe on him, a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet...” In Revelation chapter 7 multitude in white robes are washed in the blood of the lamb. We often sing in our church services: “Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power are you washed in the blood of the lamb there is a fountain flowing for the soul unclean, O be washed in the blood of the lamb.”

C. GIVES THANKS FOR HOME AND FAMILY, BUT IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE FAMILY OF GOD AND LOOKING TO A HOME IN HEAVEN

The last book of the Bible says, “...God...who comforts us in all our troubles, and gives us faith, and with faith will give the comfort we have all received in times past.” 2 Corinthians 1.4 speaks to our souls when it says: “...God...who comforts us in all our troubles, so we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God...” In the circle of gloom remember- “Thou art with me, and with thee is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16.11). The Pilgrims lost lots of people that year but he harsh New England winter, yet they gave thanks.” We give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow. Let us sing the Doxology now!

Gerald Kellar sermon outlines: revised by Tony Cleaver

Publications Annual Report

from page 4

You know the blessing they and many others have been in their efforts to provide a nice new home for the Smith family. When you report on activities, always try to send a photo. When you take your photos, make sure your photo is sharp, clear and in focus. We need a computer file such as a jpeg format or an original print. We can not use photo copies of pictures. We do not need to try to use a dark, fuzzy or out of focus picture. In most cases, a photo taken with your cell phone is not good enough. However, some of the newer phones do a pretty good job. Make sure there is enough available light and always use a flash, even outdoors. These tips will make for a more readable Mississippi Baptist.

Bonus

A bonus at this meeting is the Lifetouch album that is being produced. Each pastor, preacher, minister and ministry staff person is encouraged to have your picture taken. You will receive a sheet of wallet photos for your personal use and each person who has their photo taken will receive a copy of the 2014 BMA of Mississippi Minister’s Directory. There is not charge to you for either of these. This project is the result of a discussion between me and Bro. Larry Geraldson a few months ago. It is a worthwhile effort and we hope you will participate.

Trustees

I am thankful for the trustees of this department and their willingness to serve. They are not asked to do much due to the nature of this work, but they are faithful in their duty to serve you through this trustee board.

Ministry

Everything the BMA of Mississippi does, supports and is involved in is a ministry. Ministry is the working out of our salvation as stated by Paul in Philippians 2:12-13 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

I pray all of our work is for the purpose of doing His will. May God bless you all as you are involved in the work God has for you.
Everybody Has a Plan

Several years ago, I found myself wearing one hundred and ninety pounds on a one hundred and sixty pound frame. I pondered this phenomenon over a box of cheese crackers dipped in chocolate with a medium pepperoni as an appetizer and came to the conclusion that it was someone else's fault. Food companies were obviously putting more calories in their products, thus the reason for my obesity. Dirty Communists! If they can't get us one way, they will get us another.

I decided that I had better take actions into my own hands before the free world became a socialist nightmare. First thing I tried was cutting back on snack time, which consumed half my day. Water became my drink of choice, and taking a brisk walk took the place of sitting in the recliner laughing at old reruns of Andy Griffith. Within a couple of months, my bony frame was sighing a breath of relief and thanking me for taking off all the pressure that I had put on it over the last year.

Sure, I looked into all the new fangled diets plans sweep ing the internet and the nation, but they all required me to buy their product to sell. My plan included eating less and exercising. Drat! I couldn't take advantage of anyone to make my fortune. Even writing a book was out of the question. What I had to do was to buy a one sentence book that everyone would, I thought, be interested in reading. So I wrote:

Just for grins and giggles, next time you go to that buffet, look at the enormous amounts of food people are putting on their plates. Is it any wonder the diet plan gurus are rolling in the dough (hope you got that pun)? We, as Christians, are guilty of piling on the things of this world, and are also wondering what has gone wrong. And, for only $9.95, plus shipping and handling, I will send you my one sentence book on how to be more spiritual.

Available For Service

Matthew Yonts

Matthew is available for service. He is 32 years old and surrendered to the ministry January 2009. Recently resigned as pastor of Mineral Springs Missionary Baptist Church of Taylorsville. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist College and the School of Arts in Bible. He and his wife Jennifer have two sons age 12 and 5. He may be reached at 601-818-4393.

Church News

Oak Grove meeting set by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with an associate of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove on Thursday evening, November 13. Our churches are encouraged to send messengers to hear the various reports and take care of the Lord's business.

Meridian Church to host pianist Andrew Iahae

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5312 Highway 39 North (just north of Hardee's) in Meridian will host pianist Andrew Iahae on Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Andrew played piano with The Kingsmen Quartet and The Palmetto State Quartet. Of a gal-...
**Southeastern Baptist College**

Danny Pitts - Interim President

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

**President’s Annual Report**

Our theme at this meeting is DETERMINATION. The etymology of the word is de- to limit or focus completely and terminate to finish or bring to completion. The idea is “resolve- luteness, not willing to quit until the goal is reached.” The text which comes to my mind is Galatians 6:9: “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” “Faint not” has the idea of not quitting.

I connect this verse to my first year as pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. Bro. C.G. Clark had the church purchase a freezer for me. In early spring, he planted three gardens: one for his family, one for the widows, and one for the pastor. None of the gardens came up. He replanted and failed again. The last time he planted, his family, the widows, and the pastor had a good garden. That December I moved to Texas to attend the seminary and lived on the contents of the freezer for two years. If Bro. Clark had stopped planting the first time, no one would have had veget- tables. If he had stopped after the second failure, he would have lost the blessing.

Determination without quitting because of difficulties is required by farmers, churches, and departments of the BMA of Mississipi.

The challenge of giving an annual report is knowing what to leave out. During the months read last October, the recommendation was for “the executive committee of the trustees” to serve as chief executive officers of the college.” The staff immediately was concerned about the response by our accrediting agency. When contacted, ABHE allowed this for a very short period, but a committee cannot serve in this administrative position. The trustees asked me to serve as Interim President in November. The year has been filled with a mixture of blessings and burdens, but God has been faithful.

Our enrollment during the fall last year was in the 30’s. The decrease in enrollment had been consistently around 10 for several years. Although the enrollment this semester was not what we desired, it shows the first substantial increase in several years. The total BMA of Mississippi students increased from 9 to 20. The number of new students increased from 12 to 22. The majority of our student population are freshmen and sophomores.

With the expectation of retaining many of them and adding more, we have high hopes for the future.

The audit revealed a final figure which was over $12,000 in the black after depreciation. We have not achieved this but a time or two in the past 10 years. This monumental accomplishment was reached without a salary paid for the President’s position. Total salaries were $110,000 under the previous year. In addition to the lack of a president’s salary and the reduction of staff by previous leaders, all employees are working a 5-day work week schedule. Our goal is to return to a 4 day work week as soon as possible.

The credentials of our teachers are excellent. We plan to hold that standard at the highest possible level. Our standing with ABHE accreditation has risen remarkably since the days of warning status three or four years ago.

Several issues have arisen since June that could have been devastating. Maintenance, repair, and insurance problems have multiplied. Although the process continues, the Lord has blessed in every area.

I want to mention some folks who have had a major part in the progress at Southeastern. First, my wife has always been supportive of me and any area in which I have felt led to follow the Lord. She had done without me more during the past year. First Baptist Church of Shady Grove has been very gracious in allowing me to spend time away from the field. My service would not have been possible without the sacrificial work of Nelle Lowe, my secretary at First of Shady Grove. All of the staff at SBC have worked extra to keep the ministries going. Dr. Aaron Parker has been Academic Dean for 14 years. When I went to see him last November, he was working on his day off with the big machine trying to clean the carpet in the halls. He has over- seen many maintenance and repair projects in the past few months. Much of this takes away time from his work as Dean. A plaque from the board shows 26 years as teacher at Southeastern.

We have been able to offer 50% of a degree online. ABHE has indicated that we should be able to offer 100% of the courses for degrees online. We are at work trying to accomplishing this and believe that it will transform the ministry of our school. Pray that God blesses with this endeavor. The churches, pastors, and associations have been very gracious to me during the past year. I thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity.