

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 15, 2014

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 68 No. 8

National Meeting Set For Little Rock

The 65th annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America is fast approaching and will convene on April 28-30, at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas.

Each department and ministry of the BMA will report and set plans for the future. In an earlier press release President Ed Stephenson urged our churches to be in attendance. He noted that in recent years attendance has been declining. Another important area to support is the Minute and Association Meeting Fund. Expenses for meetings has increased in recent years, but many churches have not increased their giving to this fund in recent years.

The Annual Meeting is always a great time of worship, fellowship and blessings as our great association continues its global efforts of missions, education, broadcasting the Gospel, church support and a variety of other ministries. Do all you can to be in Little Rock on April 28.



Admiral's admission: Obama told us to support 'gays' in military or quit

OneNewsNow.com - President Obama strong-armed military leaders in 2010 to accept open homosexuals in the military despite saying he would not, a Pentagon video shows.

News and entertainment website BuzzFeed reported that President Obama called the Joint Chiefs of Staff into his office during the heated debate over repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the armed services. His message was accept open homosexuals in the ranks or quit.

Buzzfeed obtained a video showing Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp after filing a Freedom of Information request. Papp was addressing Coast Guard Academy cadets in the video.

Bob Maginnis, senior fellow for national security at the Family Research Council, says the document shows that Obama told his Joint Chiefs

that he was going to allow open homosexuality and if they didn't like it, they could resign.

"Obviously none of them resigned, and they kept quiet during the whole process back in 2010," Maginnis, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, recalls. "We had a farce of a committee that looked at it - one hearing - and the Democratically-controlled Senate and Congress went ahead and rubber stamped what Obama wanted."

The BuzzFeed story makes a similar accusation, noting that President Obama said in 2008 that he wouldn't make repealing DADT a "litmus test" for military leaders. But the Coast Guard commandant told the cadets:

I cannot divulge everything he said to us, that's private communications within the Oval Office, but if we didn't agree with it — if any of us

didn't agree with it — we all had the opportunity to resign our commissions and go do other things.

Maginnis says it will be difficult to reverse the decision to allow homosexuals in the military, citing "hesitancy" in the Pentagon and Congress to reverse what has taken place.

"I doubt we're going to see a reversal of this anytime soon," he tells OneNewsNow.

Meanwhile, The Washington Times reported in March that male-on-male sexual assaults are happening at a rate higher than male-on-female assaults, a problem that the newspaper points out is occurring after DADT was dropped.

What Papp revealed in the video, says Maginnis, is further confirmation that Barack Obama's passion as President has been less about defending the nation and more about advancing his radical social policy.

Better Together

by Scott Attebery
DiscipleGuide Executive Director

I love the Baptist Missionary Association of America. I was born into a BMA family and have never known anything different.

Throughout my life, the BMA has invested in me. My pastors over the years preached God's word faithfully. My Sunday school teachers, children's ministry volunteers, and Galilean leaders invested in me week after week using BMA literature. My youth ministers poured into me through teaching, relationships, and special events. Some of my greatest memories stem from trips to Daniel Springs and the SOAR conference.

Likewise, my professors at Central Baptist College and the BMA seminary helped shape my understanding of ministry and the church.

As with many of you, God

has used the BMA to transform my life. That's why my heart longs to give back to our association. Just as faithful leaders poured into me (2 Timothy 2:2), I want to be a channel of blessing to others.



DiscipleGuide's vision is to invest in BMA churches with resources that will help churches minister effectively. I want to make sure our BMA children have the same powerful Sunday school experience I had. I want to see our youth continue to be transformed by God's Word at Daniel Springs and SOAR. And as a former pastor, I long to see our hard-working ministers receive the attention and resources they need to help them shepherd their congregations.

As I look back on my BMA experience so far, there is one thing that keeps coming to my mind: "We are better together." That's one of the major ideas that our association was founded upon, and it still holds true today.

Every church has strengths and weaknesses. But when we covenant together as an association, we all become more effective.

Your continued support of DiscipleGuide helps us to continue investing in our churches. Thank you for continuing to invest in us as we are working hard to invest in you. We are truly "better together."

CONSIDER
THIS
The Church
is not
a showboat;
It's a
battleship




Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund

State Missionaries and Wives






Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



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Sidney & Becky Farmer



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601.428.8616

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Special Emphasis is Underway

I want to thank Bro. Greg Medenwald and Magnolia Baptist Church for having me represent State Missions at their annual Missions Day. We were blessed to see this church undertake to raise support for 13 different missions' projects. Every group in the church was challenged to set a goal and work toward that goal. The results were outstanding and the encouragement that I personally received is so appreciated.

I also want to thank the Ten Mile Association for voting in their recent meeting to give an additional offering to Special Emphasis. The Ten Mile Association, like so many of our Local Associations, already works in partnership with State Missions to provide essential support that enables us to do what we are doing. This offering, which is above that normal support, is truly a shot in the arm. Thanks, Ten Mile!

We mailed a packet of information, to every church, containing posters for promotion of Special Emphasis. We have also uploaded promotional data onto our website at the following links: <http://bmams.org/?p=1960> <http://bmams.org/?p=1932> <http://bmams.org/?p=1957>

This year, we hope to allocate our Special Emphasis offering into three areas: Disaster Relief, Church Ministry (to help struggling churches with supplemental pastoral support), and General Missions. We need to have a great Special Emphasis this year. Please prayerfully participate in this cause.

Missions and Evangelism Conference

The 2014 Missions and Evangelism Conference will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Laurel. We moved the meeting to Saturday this year because the BMA National meeting is in the same week. We pray that this will not affect our attendance. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and you must be registered by 10:30 a.m. to be eligible for the iPad drawing later that day.

Arnold Knight Scholarship

A scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.00 to attend Southeastern Baptist College will be awarded at the Missions and Evangelism Conference. The Arnold Knight Scholarship (an ongoing scholarship provided by the Revolving Loan Fund) will be awarded to an individual who has surrendered to missions. In

coordination with SBC Interim President Danny Pitts, we will facilitate this award in recognition of years of service to our Lord's work by Bro. Arnold Knight. The award will be presented by a member of the Knight Family. The recipient's name will go on a plaque which will be displayed in the lobby of the BMA State Missions Office.

Revolving Loan Fund (as of April 8, 2014 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at \$18,191,228.00, an increase of \$724,307.00 since August 1st. Net assets are now at \$3,066,857.00, an increase of \$117,617.00 since August 1st. We have 8 new loans totaling \$887,172.00 since August 1st. Our current loan rate is 4.25%. If your church is in need of a loan to expand or build new facilities, we encourage you to give us a call.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

Hunkered in the Bunker

Editor's Note - Submitted a couple of days after the Fort Hood shooting of April 2

Several friends and family have contacted me over the past few days regarding the shooting at Fort Hood. I tell them my wife and I are safe, and jokingly say "we are hunkered in the bunker." In fact we are not remotely in any danger, nor were we during the event. Once again Fort Hood is in the news with this terrible tragedy. Quickly the name Ivan Lopez will become linked with Nidal Hassan in people's memories of "those terrible rampages of death."



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

The families who lost loved ones will be scarred. Those wounded will be forever changed. Our community will heal over some time, but yet have the thought of this incident in the recess of memory like the incident before.

Join with my wife and me—and the many others of the Fort Hood community—as we seek to bring the light of our Lord Jesus onto this dark episode. Pray with us to ask for grace for troubled families, wisdom for military and community leaders, and Holy Spirit guidance for our area churches as we minister.

The Fort Hood area has been our home for more than three decades now.

The towns of Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights and the extended communities of the area are very supportive of Fort Hood and its soldiers and their families. The entire area comes together in such times as these to provide exceptional care for our military.

News will come and go for a few days over background and other guesses regarding the motives of the shooter. Who can explain this? Why did this have to happen again? What can we learn from this to prevent this from happening again? These questions will have some quasi responses at best. We live in a broken world marred by humanity's normal nature that at times has no real reason that explains bizarre and incomprehensible acts.

Upcoming Events

BMA of America Annual Meeting
April 28-30, 2014 - Little Rock, Arkansas

Mississippi Missions & Evangelism Conference
May 3, 2014 - FBC Shady Grove, Laurel

North Senior Adult Conference
May 13, 2014 - East Fulton Church, Fulton

BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting
May 20, 2014 - Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel

Reports for March 2014			
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings
Church Planters			
Bob Burch	70	24	\$2,797.00
Bobby Elliott	98	34	\$2,586.00
Danny Bartlett	17	6	\$2,860.00
Kelby Johnson	26	14	\$1,002.00
Ray Boone	44	32	\$4,705.00
Sidney Farmer	40	28	\$5,631.00
Phillip Burns	7	4	\$459.00
Hispanic Missions – South (Estuardo Marroquin – Coordinator)			
Hattiesburg	20	6	\$646.00
Biloxi	9	3	n/a
Laurel	111	95	\$8,533.00
Hispanic Missions – North (Elvis Garcia – Coordinator)			
Tupelo	27	16	\$311.00
Oxford	58	2	\$538.00
Ripley	88	74	\$6,287.00
African American Missions – (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)			
Indianola	50	45	\$1,305
Olive Branch	19	12	\$1,895.00
Cleveland	31	50	\$2,913.00
Collectively, our missionaries reported 518 new contacts, shared the gospel 305 times, had 28 professions of faith and 2 baptisms and 5 join by letter.			

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Eternal Influence

The influence of a college cannot be known by lists of students, courses, and degrees. In fact, only eternity will reveal the impact which the ministries at Southeastern Baptist College have made in the lives of its students and others in our world. Hopefully this brief account concerning Sean Piper will help you see how deeply the school is appreciated by

many students.

Sean was licensed to preach by White Oak Baptist Church outside Ellisville. At present he is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church on the Lower Myrick Road near Laurel. He attended Southeastern during the 2013 Fall Semester. Sean had quadruple by-pass heart surgery on December 12th. When the Spring Semester began on January 13th, he was

present for the beginning of classes. He states, "I did not want to miss because Southeastern is like a second church home. I love learning and am learning a lot."

Surely many would have viewed his surgery as a valid excuse for taking a semester off, but he valued the difference his education is making in his life. In light of examples such as this from the past,

God Is Doing Exciting Things

Muslims and Jews converted to Christ through salvation. Many saved at each service. Marriages restored that were headed to divorce court. Drugs addicts delivered. Healing! Overflow and standing room only crowds in churches. We all need to hear sometimes how God is still doing miracles and amazing work. All glory goes to Him. We have such depressing news every day about how the country's morals are gone. It seems there is bad news on every corner. Many Christian churches that preach the truth of the Bible are struggling because American congregations do not want to endure sound doctrine. Yet, in the midst of this spiritual malaise I am seeing God move in mighty ways that cause me to not be able to contain the joy I have for it all. I just have to share the good news of seeing God do great things.

2014 has been an incredible year. The best ever in my ministry. I always think "God what else are you going to do?" He always says, "Watch this!" My wife and I have just returned from a part of coastal Florida where 90% of the population does not attend church. I was fearful that these young families at this church might not endure sound doctrine. But I prayed for God to give me bold utterance of the gospel and let the truth fly. It was amazing. Every service was packed out. Front row to back. People stood along the walls in the sanctuary for the preaching. They not only endured sound doc-

trine, but they applauded it. They brought family and friends. Lost people, different religions, and many who were living a lackluster life for the Lord came to hear. One small boy told me, "I know revival is over, but is it too late to be saved?" Of course I jumped on



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

it and he accepted Jesus as his savior. Never too late to be saved!

I was doing a marriage retreat and I told people that God was for marriage and Satan was for people living together. I said if you are out there today living together; then you need to separate your living arrangements or get down here during break and I will marry you!

To my surprise, two couples came forward who were living together. We had back to back weddings during the marriage retreat. Another lady said that she and her husband were separated and had divorce papers already signed. She received a flyer while jogging down the street and decided to come. Her husband came too. At the end of the conference, they came up and tore up their divorce papers and said they were going to let God restore their marriage. There have been 20

plus people that have come to me during the last couple of months and said they were getting divorced until they heard the gospel on marriage and God changed their minds and their hearts. In January, 1,000 teenagers came out to a Discipleship Now conference in Texas. Imagine that many young people growing in the Lord. Many folks say that the young people will not listen to hard core preaching. They did that weekend. There were so many kids who posted on social media how their life had changed. So many have now started Bible clubs, and written papers on Christ, or took a stand in the community. Many have now started ministries in their home towns to serve the Lord after the weekend.

I did a salvation message two weeks in a row and 21 people were saved during the morning services in Arkansas. Some of the older people said they had never seen a service like it before. The Holy Spirit took over and the service lasted into the afternoon. There were testimonies and even healing in Jesus name. People actually told how the Lord changed them during the services. No one left and no one paid attention to the time because the Holy Spirit was in charge. It was amazing to watch.

While in Mississippi, since February I have been to 9 churches and Southeastern Baptist College. The Big Creek Associational Revival was just mind blowing. God did such great things. Person after per-

son, family after family have shared stories of how they came one night to services and God changed their life forever. Marriages were restored. People stopped drugs and alcohol. People who were depressed found healing and hope in Jesus. Every night there were stories like this.

Repair and Renovation Fund

A special account has been opened at the Revolving Loan Fund for those who want to give to the repair and renovation needs at Southeastern Baptist College. Several rooms at the dorms and the teacher's home at the back of our school property have been transformed from nearly unlivable into nice places to stay. Bro. and Sis. Dennis Rankin have done most of the work and have furnished much of the resources. Their home church, Helton Road in Theodore, and the Alabama State Association have given over \$2,000 toward this project. Contact Dennis

Rankin at 251-666-5618 to help with this work. Also Roger Jefcoat is leading out in the building of a metal staircase to the second floor of the other dorm. Contact him at 601-319-3187 if you have welding tools which could be used in the work.

Facebook Information

Those on Facebook should be aware of Connecting Point - A Place for Friends from Mississippi to Connect. Although the site has a variety of Mississippi information posted, it provides a positive source as a Connecting Point for those interested in Southeastern people (past and present.) I understand that Daryl Rhoden, Bobby Murphy, and Latheal Parish originated the site. Check this out to see what God is doing.

son, family after family have shared stories of how they came one night to services and God changed their life forever. Marriages were restored. People stopped drugs and alcohol. People who were depressed found healing and hope in Jesus. Every night there were stories like this.

I was so encouraged to see the crowds. People kept having to crunch closer together to make room for everyone coming. Most of the services had some people either standing in the back or having to sit in chairs that were brought in. The Senior Adult Conference was overflow. Many people came for healing in Jesus name.

One lady was on a walker. When she came up to me for prayer, I asked her if she wanted to sit down in the pew. She said absolutely not. She knelt down in between her walker. We prayed to the only one who can bring healing and has the power- Jesus!

Now it is on to Alaska for my wife and me, where 70% of the people do not attend church. The last revival up there was scheduled for 4 days and went for 17! God is doing great things. He is everywhere. Everyone can have a revival and Holy Spirit filled services if we want it. God wants it for us. Praise and glory be to Him who sits on His throne!

North Mississippi Senior Conference

Tuesday
May 13, 2014



East Fulton Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Don Clark, BMA Minister, Dies

Donald R. Clark, 72 of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, died April 6 at his home. He was ordained to the ministry March 25, 1990 at New Caney Baptist Church in Gurdon, his first pastorate. He also pastored Sharon Rose Baptist Church at Malvern and Greers Ferry Baptist Church at Greers Ferry. Bro. Clark was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline Jimenez Clark; two sons, Jerry Wayne Clark of Arlington, Tex. and Paul Bradley Clark of Arkadelphia; a sister, Judy Beth Hutcherson of Arkadelphia; three brothers, John Allen Clark of Irving, Tex., Wallis Ross Clark of Mena and James David Clark of Bismarck; and seven grandchildren.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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History & Archives Commission

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601-729-8098

Moral Action

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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Recommendations Are Important

National BMAA To Meet In Little Rock April 28-30

Each trustee body and other committees bring recommendations to each annual session of the BMA of America. This of course is their duty and their job. A Recommendation Book has been mailed to each cooperating church in years past. This year the book is available via the internet. The Annual Report Book provided by the departments of the BMA of America has been released in PDF form. You may download a copy by copying the following web address in you web

browser: <http://msbaptistarchive.weebly.com/2014-report-book.html>

We have posted a copy of this document on one of our websites for your convenience. When you get to this page you will be able to click on the file and download it to your computer, phone, or tablet. The report is lengthy and the recommendations are important. We encourage our readers to get this document and review it prior to our meeting later this month.

Thank You

It is always a blessing to receive donations to this work! In the past 36 years the Lord has never failed to provide for the financial needs of this ministry. Our 2014 Special Emphasis receipts are listed below. We give a big 'Thank You' and 'God Bless You' to each church, group, and individual who gave this year. May His blessings be showered on your and your ministry.

If you find an error please let us know. Again, thank you for giving.

2014 Special Emphasis Gifts

Other	\$50.00
Other	\$1000.00
Antioch, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Berean, Soso	\$66.00
Bethel, Louise	\$100.00
Big Creek District WMA	\$136.50
Calvary, Taylorsville	\$100.00
Canaan, Richton	\$500.00
Canaan WMA, Richton	\$250.00
Centerville, Mantachie	\$90.00
First Baptist, Bay Springs	\$160.65
First Baptist Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
First Baptist Shady Grove, Laurel	\$100.00
Forked Oak, Booneville	\$36.00
Hopewell Fulton	\$71.00
Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune	\$127.73
Liberty, Belzoni	\$100.00
Little Creek, Perkinston	\$125.03
Magnolia, Hattiesburg	\$100.00
Mt. Calvary, Picayune	\$20.00
Mt. Gilead, Columbia	\$162.50
Mt. Olive, Union	\$200.00
New Bethany, Seminary	\$54.00
Oak Grove, Lucedale	\$60.00
Parkview, Laurel	\$90.00
Parkview Brotherhood, Laurel	\$100.00
Riverside, Ellisville	\$25.00
Sand Hill, Lucedale	\$250.00
Shiloh, Mt. Olive	\$200.00
Shiloh, Ethel	\$250.00
Spring Hill, Ocean Springs	\$114.32
Washington, Neely	\$68.31
Westlawn, Picayune	\$44.00
Wilderness, Vicksburg	\$200.00
Zion, Anguilla	\$500.00
Total	\$6,101.04

Guest Opinion

The Narcissistic Christian Leader

by Thom S. Rainer

Narcissism should not be said in the same breath as Christian. The former is love of self; the latter is love of God in Jesus Christ.

But the sad reality is that narcissism can and often does creep into the lives of many Christian leaders. And narcissists are selfish and inconsiderate. They demand excessive attention. They feel entitled. And they often pursue power and prestige without regard for others.

The world of narcissistic Christian leaders is complicated by the fact that these leaders rarely recognize their problem. And the disorder may not be readily apparent to those who see them from a distance. They can appear, at least on the surface, to be brilliant and charismatic.

In fact some of those leaders may be

reading this article thinking it's about someone else. They have trouble recognizing their own malady. Let me be more personal. On too many occasions

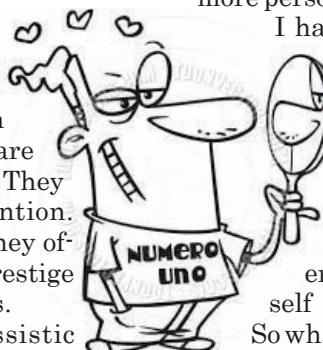
I have struggled with prideful and narcissistic behavior myself. And it took a confrontation from a friend or confidant to open my eyes.

Any person in leadership, even Christian leadership, can be tempted to love self and move into narcissism.

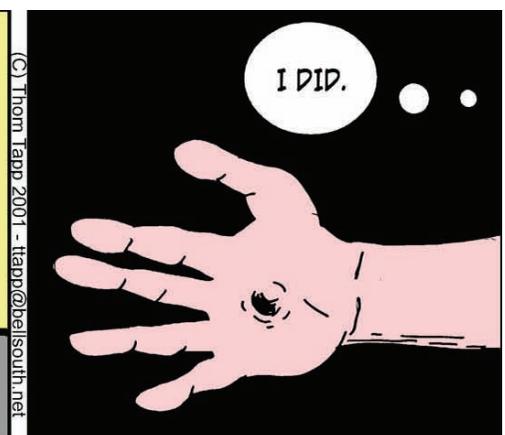
So what can we who are Christian leaders do to avoid this trap? What can we do proactively? Allow me to offer five suggestions.

Pray that God will open our eyes. A person of prayer is already demonstrating humility. He or she is admit-

continued on page 5



Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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Narcissistic Leader

from page 4

ting a dependency on God instead of self. Let those prayers include a request for God to remove the scales from our eyes, to let us see ourselves as we really are.

Get a trusted advisor. Leaders need someone who can speak truth into their lives. Unfortunately, many leaders surround themselves with sycophants who only tell them what they want to hear.

Get the true picture from those who serve under us. Narcissistic leaders might fool those who don't see us up close. But a true, clear, and often painful picture may be available from those who are and were closest to us. They really know us. But they may not have the fortitude to speak truth into our lives. It can be very helpful for a trusted advisor or coach to interview these current and former co-workers with a promise of anonymity.

Repent. Narcissism is a sin. Once we have an awareness of this sin, we must confess it to God.

Seek to restore relationships. A few years ago a trusted friend confronted me with my narcissistic behavior. He let me know that I was hurting others and harming my leadership. I never knew who shared with him about my sin. But I thought it was critical to let my leadership team know of my awareness, my apologies, and my desire to change in God's power. The entire process was very painful for me, but very necessary for me personally and for my leadership.

Christians who are leaders can be prone to think we have achieved our leadership status because of our intellect and keen skills. And that type of thinking is the first step toward narcissism. The godly Christian leader will realize that he or she is a recipient and conduit of grace, not a dispenser of wisdom and strategic insights.

And when we have that awareness, there is no way we can see ourselves as anything but a sinner who needs the grace and strength of our Lord every day and every minute.

...not to think of himself more highly than he ought ...

“Missions Now, More Than Ever”

(May 3, 2014)

Theme: “Missions Now More Than Ever”

Sponsored by: The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions Department

Hosted by: First Baptist Church of Shady Grove

10:00-10:30am – Music/ Introduction of the Theme/Opening Prayer – Larry Geraldson



10:30-11:00am – The Clarity of Our Message ... Jer 26:2, “Diminish not a word...” – Dr. John Adams



11:00-11:15am – Break/Music

11:15-11:45am – The Commitment of the Man... Daniel 1:8 “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat...” – Justin Cameron



11:45-1:00pm – Lunch – (During the meal, our Missions Coordinators will give brief reports.) Lunch will be provided.



1:00-1:10 – Music

1:10-1:50pm – The Certainty of the Call... Amos 7:15 “...the Lord said unto me, Go prophesy...” – Dewitt Bain



1:50-2:00pm – Break

2:00-2:30pm – Special Music by Damascus Road



2:30-3:00pm – The Captivity of The Conceited ... Jonah 1:3 “...Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.” – Bryan Atwood



3:00-3:10pm – Break/Music

3:10-3:40pm – The Collapse of Character... Mal 1:10 “...I have no pleasure in you...” – Johnny Williams



3:40-3:50pm – Break/Music

3:50pm-4:20pm – The Commission to Continue... Matt 5:13-16 & Matt 28:18-20 – Gary Smith



4:20-4:30pm – Break/Music

4:30-5:00pm – The Charge, The Course & The Crown... 2 Tim 4:2 “Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season;...” – Dr. Charley Holmes



5:00- Banquet Line Begins (The meal is provided.) @5:30pm – During the dinner meal, our Missionaries will share brief reports.)



6:20pm – Drawing for a New Bible, an Ipad, and other items.



6:30pm – (Dismissed)



56TH ANNUAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

MAY 3, 2014

SPONSORED BY: THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

HOSTED BY: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHADY GROVE



Elvis and Wendy Garcia – Way, Truth & Life, Ripley, MS



Ed & Patricia DuWall – Homestretch, Cleveland, MS



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin & Abby El Camino, Laurel, MS

At this conference, our speakers shall seek to affirm, from the Word of God, that during times of moral decline, national disobedience, religious conceit, corruption of character, the call is still clear, the commission still continues, the course is still set for us to do **“MISSIONS NOW, MORE THAN EVER!”**



Bob & Edie Burch – Calendonias



Danny & Brenda Gardlett-Clinton



Talby and Jessie Johnson – New Albany



Phillip & Dawn Burns – Sunrail



Bobby and Lisa Elliott – Burnsville



Sidney & Becky Farmer – South Forrest



Ray & JoAnn Boone – South Mattiesburg



Kenneth & Carole Pollock – Burnsville



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Abandoned Elderly

There have been stories circulated about elderly people being driven by their children to a hospital or other health facility and left at the entrance and abandoned.

This sounds pretty heartless and cruel. It came to my mind a few days ago when one of my offspring and his wife drove me to a Sam's Store while they met a doctor's appointment. Since I knew that their appointment would take a good bit of time, I proceeded to occupy myself with the task at hand, which was finding all the times on the list I'd been given. Then I decided I could kill some time by eating one of Sam's hot dogs. Then to kill some more time, I decided I'd just cruise the aisles. (I can now tell you where any item in the whole store is located.)

By now a cup of yogurt from the snack bar seems like a good idea. So I sat and ate and read a book until my eyes got tired and the employees began eyeing me with suspicion. So I left the snack bar and found a rocking chair display where I had a good view of the entrance, just in case they decided to come back and get me. (I also had a good view of all the people who came into the store and I decided that there are a lot of funny looking people in the world and I'm just one of them!)

Since the doctor visit turned into an extended visit, I wore out one of those rocking chairs before they came back for me. The whole episode lasted 5 and

a half hours and I called it a fun day!

No. 5 of the Ten Commandments says: "Honor thy father and thy mother." I doubt that this can be accomplished by dropping an elderly parent off at a nursing home to leave them permanently nor by dropping them off at a Sam's long enough to make them think it is permanent.

Response From Smart-aleck Kid

We thought it was a good idea. Food to eat, clothes to change into, several items of furniture to try out, fresh and unique entertainment coming in and out the door all day, and a wide selection of mattresses for you to chose from each night. But the Sam's Club got the FBI involved and tracked us down within the day. Now we're banned from all Sam's Club stores in the continental U.S. It wasn't a bad day just for you.

Final amount received for the Mississippi State GMA Project for 2013-2014

20 % General Fund	\$ 778.74
40 % Alicia Ramshur, Philippines	1,557.50
40 % Bro. Kelby Johnson, state missionary	1,557.49
Total Received	\$3,893.73
Balance in the General Fund 3-31-2014	\$10,181.18

The project selected for 2014-2015 is 20% General Fund; 40% Coleen Franks Ministry to the ladies in Ukraine; and 40% Bro. Phillip Burns, MS State Missionary in the Sumrall area. The theme for 2014-2015 is "As We Go" Matthew 28:19, 20.

Please pray and give to this project as God leads and directs. Let's accept Mrs. Beth's challenge and give even more to this project than we did the project for this past year. Mail all contributions for the project to: Mrs. Shirlene Smith; 730 Hwy 533; Laurel, MS 39443. God bless the MS State GMA to do great things for Him this year that His name may be known among all nations. Thank you for all that you do for the Lord's work.

Mrs. Shirlene Smith

Donna Lawrence Dies

Active State WMA Worker

Mrs. Donna Ann Hutcherson Lawrence, age 68, died Saturday, March 29, 2014 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. Funeral Services were held April 1, 2014 at Caledonia Baptist Church with Bro. LaVon Haden, Bro. Bob Burch, and Bro. Jim Ray officiating. Interment followed at Tabernacle United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Donna was born March 30, 1945 in Lamar County, Alabama to the late Murry Lee & Rammie Lee Conn Hutcherson. She was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church and attended Caledonia Baptist Church. Donna was former President of Mississippi State WMA and served as Northeast WMA Promoter. She was a homemaker

and loved gardening. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her infant brother, Doug Hutcherson.

Survivors include her husband, David D. Lawrence of Columbus; daughters, Deborah Faye Mashburne (Max) of Columbus and Deedra Faith Beasley (Darren) of Columbus; sister, Elaine Swink of Millport, Alabama; brothers, Eugene Hutcherson of Millport, Alabama and Danny Hutcherson of Fernbank, Alabama; four grandchildren, DeAnna Partridge, DeLayne Partridge, Darian Beasley and James Michael Beasley.

Memorials may be made to State WMA (for GMA's & Sunbeams); % Shirline Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.



Kelby Johnson
Director

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

Sharpen 2014

It is our hope and prayer that God would raise up strong families that will in turn help us have strong churches. To aid in this pursuit, the State Youth Department sponsored a pair of conferences encouraging churches to consider the importance of family.



On March 28, 2014, about 40 people gathered at Springhill Baptist Church in Laurel for 'Sharpen'. Bro. Chris and Mrs.

Megan Freeman prepared a fantastic meal for the gathering. Following the meal, Bro. Larry Geraldson spoke on "The Bible and Family." 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.



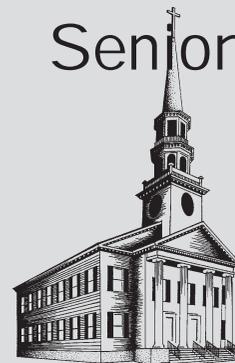
On April 4, 2014, about 15 people gathered at

South Green Baptist Church in Tupelo for the northern edition of the Sharpen Conference. After a meal, Dr. Gary O'Neal gave a great survey of the Bible and Family. Bro. Blake McCain followed with another excellent sermon from Deuteronomy 6. Both of the discourses were challenging to the people in attendance.



North Mississippi Senior Conference

Tuesday
May 13, 2014



East Fulton Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Mississippi GMAs

State Youth Auxiliary Director
Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

State GMA Promoter
Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
becky@southforrest.org

Contributions to the Mississippi State GMA Project

March 31, 2014	
Bethel, Fulton	\$ 225.00
Big Creek, Soso	100.00
Buffalo, McLain	200.00
Hopewell, Laurel	200.00
Mildred, Laurel	100.00
Mt. Carmel, Carriere	81.00
Paramount, Perkinston	113.00
Shiloh, Mt. Olive	300.00
Skyway Hills, Pearl	400.00
Springhill, Laurel	100.00
Temple, Lucedale	325.00

Funds Raised at GMA Retreat

12. Officers' Competition	80.02
13. Craft Sales	357.15
14. Snack Shop (one-half to the Galileans)	389.82
15. Silent Auction	424.00
16. Candy Grams	13.75
17. T-shirt Profits	484.99
Total Received for Project	\$3,893.73

National Brotherhood Update

by Pat Spriggs, National Project Promoter

National Brotherhood Secretary/Treasurer Robert M. Bynum reports the following disbursements: Thailand Missions \$1,955.56 and Galileans \$628.68.

Designated funds that are being held include: Galilean Scholarship \$985 and General Fund \$534.53.

Although the books have closed on this year's project, offerings will still be accepted at the national meeting in Little Rock later this month.

Big Creek Brotherhood Steak Fundraiser

The Big Creek District Brotherhood will be holding a Rib Eye Steak sandwich fund raiser on May 16 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The event will be held at what was the Corner Market across from Krogers in Laurel. The menu will include a Rib Eye Steak sandwich, chips and a drink for \$7.00. Please help with this worthy project to supply help for one of our missionary projects.

Missionary Resigns

By Wade Allen

What a blessing and honor it has been to be able to serve the Lord through BMAA missions for the past 12 years in the Philippines. We were blessed to be able to return home for furlough in April 2013. As we visited our churches to share more about the ministry in the Philippines, I found that my heart was

burdened because of the struggles facing many of our American churches. During our time in the U.S., these thoughts and feelings persisted and grew.

My family and I love the Philippines

and the ministry God has allowed us to be a part of, but God has been working in our lives and is steering us in a new and different direction in ministry.

It has not been easy for the Lord to convince us, but through His work in our hearts and through a series of divine circumstances, God has made His will abundantly clear to us. He has given us peace to know that it is time to turn our hearts back toward home, so we will be returning to the United States in June or July of this year.

Please pray for us through this time of transition, that we will continue to abide in Him so that our next steps in His plan will be made abundantly clear. We are eternally grateful for your partnership,

— Wade, Joanna, Carly and Caleb Allen (filipinowade@gmail.com)



Wade Allen Family

licensed by Sycamore Baptist Church, Carriere, and ordained by First Baptist Church of Henlyfield. He has been married to Robin for 39 years and they have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. He is currently enrolled in the Slidell Theological Seminary and expects to earn an Associates Degree in 2015. He may be reached at 601-347-6980 or 601-798-7273. He is currently a member of The Crossing Baptist Church in Pearl River, Louisiana.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Kenny Mitchell

Bro. Kenny Mitchell is available for service as the Lord leads. He has pastored five churches and one of those twice. He surrendered to the ministry in June of 1993 and was

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Commission on Senior Adults

The South Mississippi Senior adult Conference met Tuesday, March 25 at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. Almost 450 people filled the auditorium to capacity. "Awesome, incredible, amazing, fantastic, God blessed", were some of the comments made as people were leaving the building.

I want to express deepest appreciation to the host church for doing such a good job in hosting this meeting once again. It takes a lot of time and

hard work preparing for such a large number of people. The next South Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015. A love offering of \$1,448.18 was received for the Commission. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry.

Now we turn our attention to the North Conference to meet Tuesday, May 13 with East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton. This is always a good conference and the host churches always do a great job hosting the

meeting. I'm looking forward to the Senior Jubilee meeting in Fulton. It's going to be great.

These special days for our senior members fills a great need in ministering to our people.

The Senior Jubilee begins at 9:30 a.m. with registration to begin at 9 a.m. The \$15.00 registration fee is well worth the blessings of the day. All roads lead to East Fulton Baptist Church, Tuesday, May 7 13. Don't miss this special time in Fulton!

Mississippi WMA

President - Jessica Hayden

3208 Hwy 29 North
Soso, MS 39480
662-251-0455

Email: blhaden@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

National WMA Project

The books have closed on the National WMA project for 2014, but you can still give even up to the national WMA meeting April 22nd. At the end of February the local chapters of WMA have raised \$30,663.54 for the IAW (I Am Woman) project in the Middle East. To see a video update of the ministry visit the national WMA website at www.nationalwmaofbmaa.net

As we get closer to time for our meeting we need to be considering a project for 2014-15. Please remember these projects must be presented to the Project Promotion Committee by April 15th and the nomination must be made by a local WMA chapter represented by messenger or by letter at the national WMA meeting. Nominations cannot be taken from the floor because there are certain criteria that must be met for a project to be considered. To be considered a project must be associated with a department or ministry of the BMA and have a quantifiable financial need.

Feel free to follow this format or something similar when submitting your nomination:

We, the messengers of the WMA of (name of church), present the following nomination to the National WMA for consideration: (Name of Ministry) promoted by or affiliated with (name of department or ministry) in (location). This project needs (amount of money) to be used for (purpose).

Also include with your nomination the name of someone to give a 2-3 minute overview of the project need at the national meeting. This is not necessary but helpful in choosing a project. Project Promotion Committee 2014
Valarie Fish, Ann Raines, Alice Smith

Attention Big Creek District WMA

The next meeting of the Big Creek WMA is set for May 5th at First Baptist Church of Calhoun at 7:00 pm. We encourage all of our big Creek WMAs to be present.

Hopewell Baptist Church Sets Revival

Hopewell Baptist Church, 95 Jasper Hwy 533, four miles north of Soso, will hold revival services May 4-7, 2014. Services on Sunday will begin at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Monday through Wednesday the services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m.

Our evangelist will be Bro. Steve Crawley, Director of LifeWord Ministries of the BMAA, Conway, Arkansas. Bro. Kenneth Flynt and Hopewell Church invite all to attend.

Christians face animosity, false charges in Crimea

OneNewsNow - Christians are at risk by the Russian government in Crimea, according to an American pastor.

The unidentified American has been in contact with Sam Rohrer, President of the American Pastors Network, who says the information indicates the FSP - which is essentially the old KGB with a new name - is mistreating the church.

"There are confirmed accounts of pastors being called in by the old KGB and having property seized, bank accounts seized and being ordered to turn over their church membership lists," Rohrer tells OneNewsNow.

Those actions are reminiscent of the old days in the Soviet Union when persecution was the norm.

The Master's Builders in Arkansas

by Nelda Malone
Master's Builders Reporter

The Master's Builders arrived in Summers, Arkansas, to begin work on March 24th. They were there to help with new additions to the existing sanctuary and classrooms. A

The Master's Builders. The weather did not cooperate for the two weeks we were there, but with the help of the pastor and a large group of men from the church, the work is nearing

men on most days. His wife Becky coordinated our meals and the food just kept coming and coming! Thank you to all who helped with the food and everything that was done for us! A special thank you to Staci Shook, who was the church photographer and was with us ladies in our Bible study almost every day. She is our sister, friend and buddy! Again, words can not express the blessings we received from our time at Summers Baptist.

Some of us now head to West Park in Ozark. Please pray for our men as they work for the Lord in this ministry. Their average age is 71! Please pray for the Lord's leading more men to help with ministry. It is hard work but is a lot of fun too. The fellowship we share with each other is so sweet. We are a family!

If your church has building needs or if you have questions about The Master's Builders, contact: Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-205-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.



new entry with two bathrooms was built, with 7 foot wide, enclosed hallways going around the left and right sides of the sanctuary. The left hallway leads to the new 100 x 45 foot building, which will have classrooms and a fellowship hall.

This was the 127th job for

completion. The Master's Builders now head to Ozark, Arkansas.

Thank You does not even say enough to the Summers Baptist members for the care and support given to us while we were there. Pastor Paul Young, worked along side our

Be Sure of Going to Heaven

by Grover Laird

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Corinthians 5:1)

The greatest blessing that anyone can obtain in this life, is the everlasting life in Jesus. The next greatest blessing could be: the assurance that we have it. People who do not know that Heaven will be their home after this life, should be "of all men most miserable."

In our text, the Apostle Paul tells us that he knew that he would go to Heaven when he died. Others such as Job, (Job 19:25-27) David, (Psalm 17:15) John, (1 John 3:2) and others spoke of having this assurance. Yet none who have rejected Christ as their Savior have this peace. However, all can have it.

Sinners who repent and believe in Jesus will obtain this everlasting life and assurance of Heaven. You see, God moved in love for the world and fixed it where all can have it-- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) "Whosoever" includes the poor, the uneducated, the sickly, the unlovable, and even the wicked. Our God is not willing that any should perish-- "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering

to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) In providing salvation in Jesus, God has made the way simple, free and eternal. He also has given plenty of time for all to accept it, though it can be dangerous to delay. (Isaiah 55:6)

I must tell you however, that Satan does not want sinners to repent and be saved. He knows where he will spend eternity, and he is working to carry everyone else with him-- "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:3,4) Those who end up in Hell will surely hate Satan and have some hard things to say to him then, but it will be too late to matter.

Jesus is now inviting sinners to come to Him for this wonderful salvation. All who are heavy laden because of the guilt of the past, the emptiness of the presence, and the fear of the future should come now. God's forgiveness and cleansing will move the guilt of the past. When Christ comes into ones heart and life, the emptiness of the present is gone. Since being saved will change ones destiny from Hell to Heaven, this will remove the fear of the future. Jesus invites all who feel a need to come-- "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

DiscipleGuide

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Scott Attebery

This Summer, See Faithfulness Embodied

A Review of the *Compass Summer 2014 Quarter*
By Charles Reddin

God's people today still face a problem that existed three thousand years ago, when Israel's King David prayed, "Help, Lord ... for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Psalm 12:1). To counter a dearth of faithfulness among Christians in modern times, next summer's adult Sunday-school studies from DiscipleGuide Church Resources will develop the theme "Faithful Anywhere Anytime."

Dr. Virgil Porter, who developed the quarter as a member of DiscipleGuide's Compass Curriculum Committee and then wrote the Compass quarterly, explains: "This quarter concentrates on the last nine chapters of Acts, where Luke details the trials and travels of Paul that eventually bring him to Rome.... Luke reminds us of

how faithful Paul was to continue his service to God regardless of where he was or what his circumstances were."

Paul sets the example, Dr. Porter says, in being "faithful servants anywhere, anytime, any place, to any people, under any circumstance, and welcoming any opportunity."

The lessons will teach such faithfulness by illustrating it in a variety of real-life situations. They will show Paul faithfully serving Christ when a man fell asleep while Paul was preaching, when friend after friend was warning Paul to back down in his determination to travel to Jerusalem, when a mob assaulted him bent on killing him, when he stood trial in multiple one-sided courts, when he waited through two unjust imprisonments of two

years each, when a fierce storm was breaking up the ship transporting him to Rome, and even when a snake bit him. (How many of those incidents would cause your faithfulness to fail?)

Covering nine consecutive chapters in fourteen lessons, the summer quarter will give ample opportunity for expositional Bible teaching. Yet the dramatic events of these nine chapters will add the spice of adventure to the studies. Most of all, the flesh-and-blood example of Paul's biography will challenge Christians to faithfulness anywhere anytime. The goal of these Bible studies is to keep today's Christian leaders from having to say, "The faithful fail from among the children of men."

To order Compass and other DiscipleGuide resources for the summer, visit DiscipleGuide.org or call 800-333-1442.

Get Ready
for
S.O.A.R.
2014

SOAR:lit Summer 2014

Surrounding the excitement of the SOAR 2014 conference in July, students will embark on a 14-week trek through God's Word in SOAR:lit Summer 2014.

Author David Vandergriff starts the series at an evangelistic level playing field with a lesson about mankind's need for reconciliation with God. From there he uses a marathon metaphor — and a marathon approach — to take students on a sightseeing tour of many important points on their journey of discipleship. Obedience, repentance, drawing near to God, spending time in Bible study — all these concepts are introduced before students get halfway into Summer 2014.

Vandergriff then encourages and coaches students in the ways they can recognize discipleship in their lives and grow spiritually and, finally, explains how they must become disciple makers themselves. He leaves no doubt that the first step in making a disciple is searching out the lost and bringing them to Jesus.

He says in Lesson 11, "Many times, we will use the excuse that we don't know what to say, or we don't want to offend (people) and cause them not to be saved. The problem with that mentality is that it will cause us to never share the gospel. You may offend some, and you may mess up what you are saying, but if you never say anything, you will never win anyone to the Lord."

"We need to place the value of a person's eternity above our own comforts and securities. If you don't know what to say, take actions that will help you learn what to say. There are plenty of programs out there that do just that."

"I've often told people that we should see people in two categories, the believers in Christ and the unbelievers. If they are unbelievers, then we need to share with them what Jesus did for us. That's how we begin making disciples."

These powerful teachings are sure to make an impact on youth who study them and apply them to their lives.