

# Mississippi Baptist

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## Reaching Muslims through Lifeword Community Radio

In 2003 after years on the run, a prominent Muslim soldier, Emir Hashim (not his real name), surrendered himself, his band of renegades and his firearms to the government (country withheld for security purposes), all for enough money to live peacefully in an area that is a Muslim stronghold. Prior to the surrender, they were made to understand that life would always be hard for him and his group if they didn't take advantage of this "government reconciliation program."

By 2007 it became obvious that the



government would not keep their promise of livelihood-support money. So Hashim went back to his former headquarters planning to gather firearms, soldiers and resources to resume his life as a wanted man and Muslim leader.

Plotting his next move, he returned

to his secluded hut, but mosquitoes kept him from sleeping. Searching in a trash heap for something to burn so they would go away, he found an old book with no cover and was about to throw it into the fire when he felt something stop him. Without realizing it was a Bible, he read

"Searching in a trash heap ... he found an old book with no cover...."

the Old Testament, then the New Testament and the story of Jesus in the Gospels. With conviction from the Holy Spirit, he surrendered his life to Isa Almasih ("Jesus Christ" to Muslims).

For eight years after his conversion, he searched for understanding of God and Scripture, associating himself with pastors and missionaries from various Christian denominations. However, his

## State Association Set For Amory

by Matt Hudson, President  
BMA of Mississippi

It is hard to believe the month of May is almost here. With May approaching comes a lot of associational activities. Departmental trustee meetings, the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference, and the BMA National meeting are a few which take place prior to May.

The bi-annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi will be meeting May 16, 17 at East Amory Baptist Church in Amory. These fine folks are diligently making things ready for our meeting. Pastor Roger Akers shares motel information in this issue for your convenience.

The meeting will begin on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Brotherhood and WMA. The Tuesday meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with singing, preaching by Bro. Ed Steele, and reports from our departments. If you need help with issues before the meeting, feel free to call me at 662-260-0244 or Bro. Akers at 662-231-4025. I look forward to seeing you in May at East Amory Baptist Church.

experience with them was more destructive than beneficial; they used him to raise funds intended for his livelihood which he never received. He had every right to be discouraged but somehow never turned away from God.

A year ago Bro. Hashim met a missionary working with Muslims. At great risk to himself, this missionary had settled in the town to penetrate this

Muslim area with the gospel. Through the power of God, he crossed paths with Hashim, who had decided to work alone and attend church planting classes. As their association grew, Hashim was again challenged to continue his Muslim work.

In November 2015 at a BMA associ-

**continued on page 2**

## Three Things Churches Love That Kill Outreach

by Ed Stetzer

*(Stetzer is president of Lifeway Research and has spoken at the BMA National meeting on a couple of occasions. He is constantly looking at church growth issues.)*

All churches love certain things. Some love fellowship, some worship, some prayer. Those are good loves. Some are neutral loves. Some are not. Other churches love their building, their history or their strategy.

Those can be good or bad, depending on what we mean by love and how we value those things. But, some things that churches love hurt their mission and hinder their call. Here are three I've observed from my work with thousands of churches.

### 1. Too many churches love past culture more than their current context.

It's remarkable, and I've said it many times: If the 1950s came back, many churches are ready. (Or the 1600s, or the boomer '80s, depending on your denomination, I guess.)

There is nothing wrong with the fifties, except we don't live there anymore. We must love those who live here, now, not yearn for the way things used to be. The cultural sensibilities of the fifties are long past in most of the United States. The values and norms of our current context are drastically different and continue to change. The task of contextualization is paramount to the mission of the church because we are called to understand and speak to those around us in a meaningful way. We can

learn much from the Apostle Paul's example recorded in Acts 17:16-34.

So, a church on mission — in this time and place — engages the people around it. Yes, in some ways, it resembles its context — a biblically faithful church living in its cultural concept. But, if your church loves a past era more than the current mission, it loves the wrong thing.

### 2. Too many churches love their comfort more than their mission.

The fact is, your church probably needs to be less focused on what makes it happy and more focused on what pleases Jesus. This is an easy trap to fall into because it happens very subtly.

Most churches have worked hard to

**continued on page 5**

## Enjoy the highlights of the 2016 BMA National Meeting!

BMA Productions will broadcast portions of the 2016 Baptist Missionary Association of America National Meeting from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, live via online video April 25-27. Viewers may access content by navigating to [bmalife.com/tv](http://bmalife.com/tv) during the following times:

Monday, April 25, 7 p.m. - First General Session (President's Message) -

Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m. - Third General Session (Annual Message) -

Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m. - Sixth General Session (Missions Commissioning & Johnny Hunt).

# Reaching Muslims

from page 1

tion meeting, Hashim shared his powerful testimony, challenging attendees to help him reach Muslims in his area with the gospel. After the meeting, a local pastor told him about Lifeword Community Radio and how it could effectively reach his Muslim brothers and sisters. Hashim became very excited, believing that, given the danger of his work, it would be the best way to reach them. Passionately, Hashim told his new friend that he would willingly give his life for such a work.



This pastor said of Hashim, "God has opened

the door for us to reach Muslims with Christ's saving power. He is the modern Apostle Paul sent by God to us. We couldn't penetrate the gospel to the Muslim world without this converted brother. For years Christian groups have worked to reach Muslims without substantial results. God has given him to lead us to them. We might not have another opportunity as this. God has gifted us with LPFM technology (Lifeword Community Radio) and preparing me and my trained leaders and Emir for a great harvest of souls in this Muslim area."

Hashim returned to the area with a great excitement for his ministry and several media tools (a used video projector, DVD players and films produced in the dialect) given to him by area pastors. Hashim thanked them for the gifts and said they he would use them for house-to-house and group evangelistic meetings with Muslims.

Lifeword is currently working with Hashim to determine the type of broadcast to best reach this volatile area. Local Lifeword trainers and leaders are surveying the area, and plans are being made to possibly use a combination of traditional broadcasting and strategically-placed Lifeword Community Radio equipment in "more favorable" Muslim areas. Please pray for this groundbreaking effort and a harvest of souls.

*And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Act 1:7-8*



State Missionaries

Theme: "The Gospel"

1-2:00pm  
Reports by:



Bob Burch



Phillip Burns



Danny Bartlett



Sidney Farmer



Bobby Elliott



Wesley Martin



Kenneth Pollock



Anders Lee

BMA of MS  
Hispanic Missions



Estuardo Marroquin  
Hispanic Missions  
Manager



Elvis Garcia  
Hispanic Missions  
Coordinator



Ed DuVal  
African American  
Missions  
Coordinator



760 Church Well Rd  
Hattiesburg MS

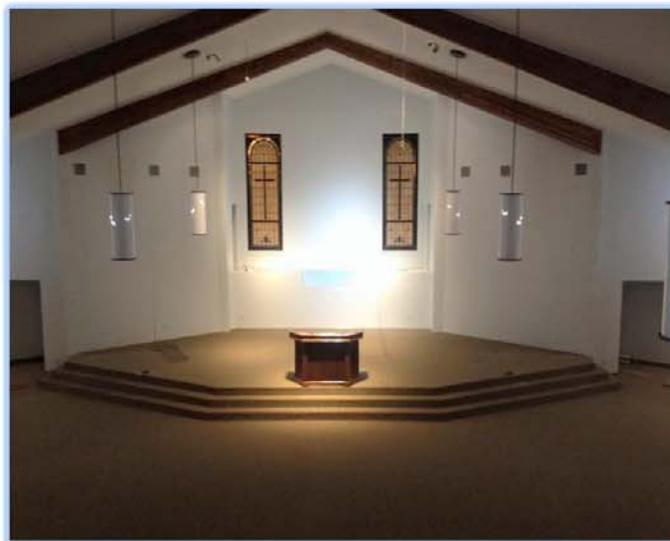
## 58TH ANNUAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

MAY 6, 2016

SPONSORED BY: THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Hosted By: South Forrest Baptist Mission  
760 Church Well Rd, Hattiesburg, MS

(Lunch will be provided)



Music by: Jeff & Rosalind Dixon



Special Music by:  
Harold Floyd



*If, according to 1 Peter 1:4, our eternal inheritance cannot fade away, then, of necessity that which brought us this great inheritance must never fade, diminish or become less effective. Therefore, with fresh power we preach the gospel, unashamed of its simplicity, unintimidated by those who reject it, unwilling to be quiet because we agree with the Apostle Paul, "...necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Cor 9:16b - Larry Geraldson*

Preaching by:



Larry Geraldson  
Director of Missions,  
BMA of MS



Dennis Knight Pastor  
of Paramount Baptist  
Church



Blake McCain Pastor  
of Midway First  
Baptist Church



John Lewis  
Pastor of East Fulton  
Baptist Church



Chad Cummins  
Pastor of Evergreen  
Baptist Church



James Sprayberry  
Pastor of First  
Baptist Church,  
Bay Springs, MS

10:10am  
"The Gospel of God"  
Rom 1:1-6

10:30am  
"Man the Sinner"  
Rom 3:10

11:15am  
"The Gospel of  
Jesus Christ"  
Rom 3:24-26

2:30pm  
"The Gospel of  
Grace"  
Acts 20:21-24

3:05pm  
"The Power of  
the Gospel"  
Rom 12:1-2

3:50pm  
"The Everlasting  
Gospel"  
Rev 14:6

# Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - President

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

Danny Pitts



*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

## College Recognized for On-line Program

We received word recently that Best Colleges has selected their list of best schools in a number of categories. Southeastern Baptist College was chosen the Number One Best Online Bible College in the nation. Below is part of the information included on their page.

In a world where alarming headlines are an everyday reality, there is a growing need for clergy, counselors and others who can restore calm, encourage hope and bring people together to strengthen their faith. Bible colleges are designed to help students achieve a deeper understanding of theology and pursue vocations that allow them to serve through ministry, community outreach or missions. The focus on religious studies without the distractions and demands of a more traditional university puts students on a fast track to an online degree in Biblical Studies or Ministry.

The best online programs for earning a bachelor's or associate's degree from a bible college are listed below. Snapshots of each college include an

overview of academic strengths, learning goals and statistics. Several of the colleges offer a combination of distance learning classes with classroom instruction, while others offer all online programs. Southeastern Baptist College offers a handful of online courses each term. The classes incorporate a biblical worldview in a Christian setting, and distance learners can choose from courses on Christian doctrine or take a marketing class presented within a biblical context. Each course counts for three credit hours and can be taken either independently or to fulfill a requirement for an SBC degree program.

Online courses at Southeastern Baptist College are open to professed Christians; applicants are considered on a case-by-case basis according to previous scholastic accomplishments and future academic potential. SBC's online courses, accessed through the the Populi student portal, offer modular study options to first-time freshmen and returning students who are interested in learning about Christian concepts or aspiring to a career in biblical studies or ministry.

Go to <http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-bible-colleges/> or to the link at [www.southeasternbaptist.edu](http://www.southeasternbaptist.edu) to see the list. This honor is the result primarily due to the special efforts by Dr. Aaron Parker and Amy Hinton in planning the program. We thank all of our online teachers and students. May we grow even more in ministry online through online degrees.

## GMA's Support College

Southeastern Baptist College was the 2015-2016 project of the BMA of Mississippi State GMA's. They raised \$3,591.33. We thank these young ladies and their leaders for their efforts in raising such a substantial amount. The arrival of the check was very timely. Southeastern has also received some special offerings recently which have been great blessings. Some of them have been from folks who requested anonymity. We honor that request, but quote Jesus: "thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." May the Lord bless you in this world and in the one to come.

## New Dean Introduced

Dr. Scott Carson, who will be the Academic Dean at SBC, will be on campus as of the first of May. He had his official retirement ceremony on April 4th completing 30 years as a chaplain in the army. Because many do not know him, I include this article written about him a few years ago from South Park Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas



Dr. Scott Carson

issued or use a weapon. "But I felt very protected. My assistant, Staff Sgt. Jarmon, was very serious about his mission as my bodyguard. Every time we went outside the wire he was very serious, very alert." As the brigade chaplain Carson said he and his chaplains were downrange to minister to wounded and dying soldiers at the FOB medical clinic.

"We conducted a great deal of ministry at our medical clinic. An R&R Chinook was shot down," said Carson. "It had about 30 people aboard. All of them were brought to our clinic. Many survived, but it was a very tragic event.

"Shortly after that a medic chopper was shot down. And several convoys traveling through our sector were hit and the casualties were brought to us," said Carson.

Carson speaks highly of the medical team he worked with. "I was extremely impressed by the professionalism and the morale of Charlie Med," said Carson. "The way they handled the crises both during and after. . . they were well prepared to do their work; mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

"They worked hard to save lives, and when a Soldier didn't make it, they were saddened," he said. "They didn't disengage from the human side of what was occurring."

Losses in an organization have a great affect on those who survive, said Carson, and his team supported the psychologists and medical personnel. "We conducted a crisis intervention ministry. We would gather the soldiers who had experienced the loss firsthand and have them talk it out and support them."

The brigade chaplains also ministered to the living with worship services and counseling, he said. "We prepared the soldier's soul for combat.

"Our soldiers have to do what has to be done, and they are doing it quite well under unique situations," he said. "It is a difficult balance - being combat soldiers, yet trying to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people.

"One morning on my way to breakfast I passed a National Guard convoy getting briefed," said Carson. "The last thing they did was assemble around a sergeant who led them in prayer. They were all gathered around and not another chaplain was in sight. I was impressed to see they were seeking spiritual guidance before going out on a mission.

"There is no denying the importance of the spiritual side of a soldier before they risk their life for their country," he said.

"That's what chaplains do - we help to prepare the soldier's spiritual dimension as they try to prepare themselves for what might happen to them," said Carson. "I'm convinced a soldier who is spiritually prepared is a better soldier - not just for combat, but for all parts of life."

## CHURCH NEWS

### Oak Grove Association

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Association met with Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on March 17. The service was opened with Scripture and prayer by Bro. Blake McCain. Bro. Estuardo Maroquin gave a report on the Hispanic ministries in South Mississippi. Bro. Philip Burns spoke on behalf of his missionary work with the Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall. Bro. Danny Pitts gave a report on Southeastern Baptist College. After a special in music by Bro. Sam Oglesby, the evening message was brought by Bro. Danny Pitts.

Westover provided a wonderful meal prior to the meeting. This was the first time we have had the time of food and fellowship before the service and everyone seemed to enjoy the change. The next meeting will be with Calvary Baptist Church in Purvis on May 12. They will begin serving the food shortly after 6:00.

### Church Seeks Music Director

Lebanon Baptist Church is in need of a part-time music director. This person would be over leading worship service Sunday morning and night, as well as doing cantatas and other special music. We are looking for someone who is able to incorporate both hymnals and contemporary style music. All interested persons who have questions or would like to send their resume may do so by emailing Adam Parker at [parkeradam288@gmail.com](mailto:parkeradam288@gmail.com).

### North Mississippi Church Seeks Pastor

Tombigbee Baptist Church in Mantachie, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. Those interested are asked to contact James Jones at 662-871-8824 ([redjones@nexband.com](mailto:redjones@nexband.com)) or Sid Kirksey at 662-401-5888 ([kirksey@nexband.com](mailto:kirksey@nexband.com)).

## Serving Spiritual Needs

by Susan Huseman

(June 6, 2006) **The BMAWeb**—While chaplains don't carry weapons, they nevertheless can find themselves in harm's way.

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Carson found himself in the thick of enemy activity while assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

He deployed to Afghanistan from July 2002 to February 2003 and to Iraq from July 2003 to March 2004. Last month Carson was awarded the Combat Action Badge.

Of his time downrange Carson said, "We were mortared and rocketed more times than any of us could remember. . . on a nightly basis." The enemy missed most of the time, he said, but "we took a direct hit just before I left [Forward Operating Base St. Mere Eglise, Iraq] and a couple of medics were killed."

Chaplains are considered noncombatants, said Carson, and the Geneva Convention does not allow them to be



Don Brown

# Mississippi Baptist

# Opinion Page

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Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

## An Easy Helping Hand & Missions Project

Prior to our recent trip to the Philippines we were in constant contact with missionaries Doug and Diane Lee. Their ministry is with the Philippine Bible College Music department. As is the case with many in the ministry, they are involved in a variety of projects and ministries.

We were constantly getting advise and instructions while preparing for our trip. Most things covered personal matters such as clothing, expenses, events, etc. During one of our conversations Bro. Doug asked if we could locate and bring some Vacation Bible School literature with us. We quickly made some contacts and were able to get some used literature thanks to the good folks at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso.

We stuffed this small amount into our luggage and hoped we were not "overweight". During one of our visits to the Bible College the Lee's introduced

us to the young lady who will spend her summer going to various villages and along with others, teaching VBS to the children.

The amount of literature we were able to take was much less than our churches here are used to having, but the young lady who will use it was

overjoyed to have it. She will be able to have lessons, a theme, and a more complete VBS with this literature than she would have otherwise.

We all know that quality literature is expensive and a professionally prepared curriculum makes the teaching much more effective. Due to the expense, most of our missionaries and small churches in the Philippines (and surely on other fields) cannot afford or do not have access to good materials.

Many churches give their old literature to other churches for their VBS. This is a great opportunity for churches to be a blessing to our churches in the Philippines and other mission fields. I urge each of our churches who have



Bonnie and I delivering some VBS literature during our recent trip

VBS to save your literature and make arrangements to send it to the Philippines and other mission points around the world who will put it to good use.

Not everyone speaks English therefore groups and churches could seek out VBS material in the language of particular mission fields.

Another way to be a special blessing and to support individual missionaries would be to find out some of the personal preferences of individual missionaries and provide items that they do not have access to on their fields. Here are a few that I have heard of - Dr. Pepper, Twinkies, & Grits.

Contact a missionary and see how you can bear a little of the burden!

### Upcoming Events

**BMA of America**

April 25-27  
Gatlingburg, Tennessee

**Missions Conference**

May 6  
South Forrest Mission  
760 Church Well Rd.  
Hattiesburg

**North Senior Adult Conference**

May 10  
East Fulton Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

**BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting**

May 16  
East Amory Baptist Church

**State Youth Camp**

June 6-8  
Waukaway Springs  
Vossbur, Mississippi

**SOAR**

July 6-8  
Dallas, Texas



FW

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### The Center of the Bible

I came across this the other day and found it pretty interesting so thought I'd pass it on.

This is pretty strange or odd how it worked out this way:

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 119

Which chapter is in the center of the Bible? Answer - Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118.

Add these number up and you get 1188.

What is the center verse in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 118:8

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just sent them to the center of His Word!

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

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**History & Archives Commission**  
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## Church Endorses Ministry - Urges Support

To the Churches of the BMA of Mississippi

Greetings in the awesome name of Jesus! Things are going well at Central in Southaven, Mississippi! We are being blessed tremendously in the work. We want to thank you for your support in prayer and finances!

One of the great things that is happening in our midst is with the Sookraj family. Carl & Dana Sookraj have surrendered their lives to mission work in Ica, Peru. They know they are called of God to begin an orphanage that will work with and compliment the work of church planting missionary Johnmichael Poulin.

The Sookraj's own their own business in Olive Branch. It is for sale! Pray that it sells soon! They are walking away from it and giving their lives to this new cause that God is calling them to! J&B Towing has been a very successful business for over 10 years. They will be missed greatly in their community as they contribute a great deal to the city network.



Carl Sookraj Family

The Oversight Team and Mother church of Central fully endorse this new ministry. The Missions Advisory Committee of the National Missions Work has unanimously recommended them to our churches already. They will be presented as a new mission work to be approved by the churches of the BMA at our national meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They will be available to you at the meeting in the missions display

## Summer '16 Compass Focus on New Testament Message and Messengers

DiscipleGuide is pleased to continue offering Compass Bible study users a survey of the entire Bible through our "Big Picture" series. For the past several quarters, Compass has surveyed

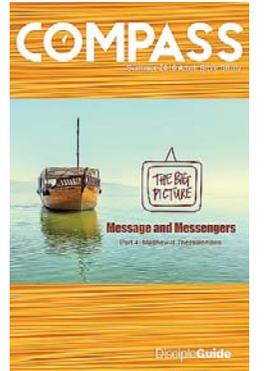
area. We recommend that you invite the Sookraj's to your church to share this new work in the BMA. They are raising funds to begin the new work. All of the funds will go towards the purchase of a new facility there that will house children. Once approved you can give to this fund through the national mission's office. You can join churches that are already giving to this ministry. There is such a great need in that area as there are many children without care and love! Thank you for considering this ministry! Pray for them! To contact them you may call Carl Sookraj at 901-488-5266 or email him at carl.jbcollision@yahoo.com.

His Therefore Yours,  
Anders Lee, Pastor  
Central Southaven, Mississippi

individual books of the Bible in an attempt to give readers a bird's-eye-view of Scripture. As with any genre, book, or passage of Scripture, a lifetime could be given to explore the depths of God's truth. The goal is to provide believers with a better understanding of the whole of Scripture. Sometimes seeing a large map helps you navigate specific terrain.

The summer quarter will focus on the message and messengers of the Gospel of Matthew through Second Thessalonians. Special emphasis will be given to the heart of Christ's saving message and how rapidly it traveled throughout the world after his resurrection. Lessons centering on epistles will highlight the gospel foundation, purpose, and mission of the local church.

For more information or to order Compass, go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 800.333.1442 today.



## Three Things Churches Love

continued from page 1

get to a place where congregational customers are happy—their needs are met. The problem is that we are not called to cater to customers. We are called to equip co-laborers. When we win the affections of those inside our circles, it becomes hard to pull away from the affirmation we receive. Again, this only becomes a problem when the affirmation of those on the inside works to the detriment of our mission to those on the outside. It is a lot easier to settle down with the people who are like us than to reach the foreigner or alien among us.

So, a church does not exist for the comfort of its people. Actually, the Bible reminds us again and again that we are to "provoke one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24), to "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), and more. But, if your church loves its comfort more than caring for others, it loves the wrong thing.

### 3. Too many churches love their traditions more than their children.

How can you tell? They persist in using methods that are not relevant to their own children and grandchildren. Far too often, church leaders, in an effort to protect the traditions of their congregations, draw lines in the sand on nonessential issues.

This is not to say that "tradition" is wrong. It depends on how you define it,

but I think most will know what I mean. Christian scholar Jaroslav Pelikan said, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." Churches that love tradition that way will choose their traditions over their children every time.

Too often, churches allow traditions to hinder their ability to humbly assess their missional effectiveness. Moreover, they allow traditions to trump the future trajectory of their demographic. I know of several young pastors who have been exiled from their local congregations because they didn't fit the mold of what had always been the ethos of the leadership. Sometimes this is because impatient pastors try and force change too quickly. Other times it's because settled churches resist change so forcefully.

Undoubtedly, there are always times to defend the traditional stances of essential doctrines in the local church. But we should not have a cultural elitism that hinders passing the torch to a new generation of leaders. If your church loves the way you do church more than your children, it loves the wrong thing.

### It's time to evaluate your church.

Love is good, and everyone wants a loving church. However, loving the wrong things leads you the wrong way. Loving what is good, including our context, Jesus' mission and the next generation (to name a few things), moves

the church in the right direction. The church should be always reforming, that is, humbly looking at itself and assessing its ability to reach people with the good news of Jesus. Sadly, many of the people Jesus devoted His time to would not feel welcome in our churches.

What about your church? What does its posture, behavior, practices and activities communicate to your community? I think all of us want to understand the culture and community we are ministering in so we can communicate the gospel with absolute clarity. To do this, we need to ask ourselves the hard but needed questions.

### Who are we reaching?

Are we primarily reaching people who are like us? Are we primarily reaching people who are already believers? Are we primarily reaching people who understand Christian subculture and taboos? What about the people who don't have a church background? What about the people who are unfamiliar with Christian beliefs? What about the people who don't understand church subculture and behavioral taboos?

To say we are unable to reach the lost because of our traditions or preferences is simply unacceptable and antithetical to the mission of God.

## Adams Opens Mississippi House in Prayer



Rev. John Adams (far right), Pastor at First Baptist Church in Mantachie and director of Moral Action for the BMA of Mississippi and BMA of America led Mississippi House members in a word of prayer to open a recent session.

## Come See and Experience Daniel Springs.

Thanks to the dedication of churches, youth groups and college ministries, the following improvements and enhancements to Daniel Springs have been made over the past few months. Several open-air tabernacles have been remodeled. The main tabernacle interior drop ceiling was raised, painted and insulated and new lighting was installed, all of which will keep everyone cooler and reduce energy costs. The dining area received new paint on the inside and outside, and the popular canteen area was painted as well. All work was done to make sure every camp attendee has the best experience possible.

In 2015, Daniel Springs was blessed to have a summer work staff of twenty students. The 2016 goal of thirty students is almost complete. All female staff positions have been filled; however, male staff positions are still available. If you are interested or know someone who is, applications can be found at [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com). You can also contact Jason Prewitt at (903) 685-2433.

Registration for camp is open with many options to choose from. Listed below are the 2016 Summer Camp experience options:

June 7-10 - Galilean

June 14-17 - GMA

June 21-24 - Student Camp I (7th grade-College)

June 28-July 1 - PreTeen I (4th-6th grades)

July 12-15 - PreTeen II (4th-6th grades)

July 19-22 - Ark-La-Tex Family Camp

July 26-29 - Student Camp II (7th grade-College)

Schedule your camp experience today. For more information and to register your church, visit [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com) or call (903) 685-2433.

## Women's Missionary Auxiliary

### President

Linda Smith  
2816 Old Bay Springs Rd.  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-470-1398



### Corresponding Secretary

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

## WMA State Project Water for Christ

by Chris Smith & Marilyn Welborn  
State WMA project promoters

Water for Christ is our state WMA project this year. Brother Tim Tyler is the director of W4C and has been drilling wells in Africa for the past five years. The cost of a well is about \$5,000.00. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our State WMAs raised enough money for several wells!

We here in America take our clean water for granted. The need for clean water in Africa is great and one well will provides water for a whole village. Not only is Water for Christ providing physical water, it is also providing spiritual water - the word of God. Individuals go

to assist with the wells and ministers go to preach the word. Brother Tyler says the Lord is blessing Water for Christ by providing their needs.

What a blessing to be part of this project. We are told that the people jump for joy as water gushes from the well. More importantly people respond as the word of God is presented. Praise the Lord for such a great opportunity to provide such a need - physically and especially spiritually.

Please pray for Water for Christ and give as the Holy Spirit directs. Jesus said in John 4:14 - "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

table for our meal related to the parable of the sower and the seed. John 4:36-37 says, "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gatherest fruit unto life eternal: that both he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth."

Trevor Morris from Bassville spoke of the various mission trips that she and her husband have taken. She has traveled on different types of mission trips and since her field is in education, she is placing emphasis in her future trips on teaching.

Beth Haden dismissed the program with prayer.

## Big Creek District WMA & Brotherhood to meet

by Bonnie Brown  
2nd Vice President

The Big Creek Association WMA & Brotherhood will meet May 2, 2016, at First Calhoun Baptist Church, Laurel. Please put this on your calendar and plan to be there. You will be blessed by attending the meeting.

## Oak Grove District WMA Report

by Betty Kendrick, reporter

The Oak Grove WMA held its quarterly meeting at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Purvis on April 8, 2016. The table decoration centerpieces on each

## Daniel Springs Gets a "Face-Lift"

by Jason Prewitt

Director of Camp Ministries

Daniel Springs has been in need of a "face-lift" for several years. Thankfully during the month of March, many churches supported financially and volunteered their time to give Daniel Springs a new and improved look.



New Tabernacle at Daniel Springs Camp

The week of March 6th brought members from Mount Olive Baptist Church, Scurry, TX; Union Hill Baptist Church, Brownsboro, TX; and Springhill Baptist Church, Springhill, LA to camp. They constructed new open-air tabernacles, sealed cabin windows, painted the inside and outside of the cafeteria and helped with the main tabernacle remodel. Everyone had fun while working even though it rained over 8 inches.

The week of March 14th brought the student ministries from Davis Street Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs, TX and Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, TX to camp. They finished the open-air tabernacles and the sealing of windows and doors on cabins. They also painted and cleaned up work

areas. All of this was accomplished in 2 ½ days.

During these two weeks, an enormous amount of improvements were made to camp facilities. Everyone worked with great mindsets, willing hands, and servant hearts. The work done by these churches has made a lasting impact on Daniel Springs. There are projects still needing to be completed before camp season starts. If you or your

church would like to be a part of helping with the lasting legacy and ministry of Daniel Springs, please call 903-685-2433 or email [Jason@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:Jason@danielspringscamp.com).

Come see the new and improved Daniel Springs. Register by visiting [danielspringscamp.com/register](http://danielspringscamp.com/register). It is going to be a great year at Daniel Springs. Come be a part of it!

## SOAR 2016 Concert to Preview a Taste of Heaven...

by Jonathan Wilson, Director of Marketing

DiscipleGuide is pleased to announce that We The Union will perform Concert for the Nations at SOAR 2016. Concerts have always been a highlight of SOAR student conference. However, nothing will compare to what We the Union has in store with Concert for the Nations.

The Bible describes the throne room of heaven as a place where people from every tribe, tongue and nation join together praising the Lamb who was slain before the



creation of the world. During Concert for the Nations, We The Union will lead students to sing in languages from many tribes, tongues and nations. It will be a small preview of what awaits in heaven.

For over three years now, We The Union has served as SOAR band. According to DiscipleGuide Director Scott Attebery, "We can't imagine a more fitting artist for this year's concert. SOAR conference owes so much to the commitment We The Union has made to our students over the years." Aaron Williams, lead singer of We The Union, attended SOAR as a youth group member and later as a member of SOAR worship band. Now as lead singer, he continues to bless SOAR with the talents God has given him. We The Union is in the process of recording a new album that will be released later this year. They also have an EP (extended play) available on iTunes.

For more information on SOAR 2016 and to register your group, visit [gosoar.com](http://gosoar.com) today. Conference registration is \$110 until June 10, 2016. Hotel booking is also now open for the Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Texas, at [gosoar.com](http://gosoar.com). For the latest news and updates, follow @soarconference on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

# The Call To Preach

We live in a world today that puts great emphasis on education. Now that I am out of school with nobody to tell me I have to return, I can also say that having an education is a valuable asset. However, when we use that as a requirement to go into the ministry, we assume to know more than God. I know some of you may think this is a bold and wrong statement to make...but you are wrong.

You must also know how to dress. The night before I announced my call to preach, I went to Wal-mart and bought a pinstriped suit jacket and a tie to go along with a pair of gray slacks I already owned. With the standard, button-down white shirt, you might say I was a frontrunner in the fashion world of young ministers. My wife wouldn't let me wear my brown work boots, but I still looked pretty classy in a pair of Rockports her Uncle had convinced me to buy a few weeks earlier. In retrospect, I probably shouldn't have opted for the button in the tie that played "Achy, Breaky Heart", but hey, you live and learn.

Being an eloquent speaker is also a must. The best way to practice speaking is by standing in front of a mirror and just start talking. I would pretend

like I was preaching. It worked well until the security guards came and asked me to leave. They claimed I was scaring the customers that were trying to buy lipstick. This method also prepares you for rejection, which you must be able to endure if you plan on preaching the truth. One man seemed to think that once I got rid of my heart worm cough (I was just really nervous), that I would do alright.

As glamorous as I make it sound, the ministry isn't all glitz and glimmer. There are countless sleepless nights, back problems from carrying around commentaries, and making yourself eat Mrs. Hugsalot's mystery casserole simply because she made it "just for you". Yeah, when it's all said and done, you might want to be sure that your calling is from God. You will need all the help you can get.

## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)



# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

18 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928  
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



### Let Us Worship the Lord

Psalm 100 gives us some good instructions on our worship to the Lord. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." Verse 1. God wants the whole world to worship Him and give thanks to Him.

Verse 2 says, "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing." It is good we are able to serve the Lord gladness, because there is joy in our hearts, and the joy of the Lord is our strength.

"Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture." Verse 3. We can look to the Lord and submit to Him, to follow Him, and obey Him.

We worship the Lord as we, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." Verse 4. Why do we worship the Lord in this way? "For the Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." Verse 5.

May the Lord help us as we humbly seek Him in worship. May our hearts be joyful and thankful. May the Lord give us grace to serve Him and submit to His will for our lives.

### Final Progress Reports Before Summer Break

Well, there are just a few more weeks

of school before this school year will be history. Our girls and boys continue to do well in their studies. Our fifth grade girl made the Principal's List (all A's)



again and also was selected as Student of the Month recently. Our first grade boy, second grade boy, and third grade girl all were on the Honor Roll (B's or better) this past nine weeks. We are thankful and grateful for their progress.

### Remember in Prayer and Focus Verses

Continue to remember the girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. Read and meditate on Psalm 100.

# A Successful Annual Ministry

by the Editor

Each year the Big Creek Association pastor of First Baptist, Magnolia, Ar-



A crowd of over 300 at Big Creek Church, Soso

holds an Association-wide revival. The attendance has been very good over the past few years and the spirit of fellowship and worship enhances the work and ministry of each church and the association as a whole.

The revival rotates each evening between cooperating churches. This year the meetings were held at Temple Church, Laurel; First Baptist, Bay Spring; Parkview Church, Laurel; and Big Creek Church, Soso.

Bro. David Watkins, former president of the BMA of America and former

kansas was our guest speaker. Bro. Brandon Wilson led the music and an association wide choir performed each service. Special music was heard dur-



David Watkins preaching at Temple

## North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

### East Fulton Baptist Church Fulton, Mississippi

May 10, 2016  
9:30 AM

Food, Fellowship,  
Music, Door Prizes,  
And Worship

ing each service along with great congregational singing.

This effort has worked well for the Big Creek Association. Other local associations also hold revivals. If your local work has not considered this, I recommend it.

## Roy Derfelt Dies

by Bro. Jeff Swart

Deacon Roy Derfelt, of First Baptist Church of Galena, Kansas, went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday evening April 6th at the age of 93. He leaves behind his bride of 73 years, Virginia, and four children and more grandchildren than I can count. He was a faithful deacon for over 60 years and very active in our associations—



Roy Derfelt

local, state, and national. He was a founding board member of the Minister's Resource Agency and gave \$1,000 to help get the department started. He was a faithful and godly man who will be missed by this pastor!

Editor's Note: I met the Derfelt family through their friendship with Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Kellar. Bro. Derfelt loved the Lord and was a loyal supporter of his church and our association. He will certainly be missed.



# Special Emphasis

For

# State Missions

## Our Goal:



← **Carthage, MS**  
71.15% of households  
unreached



**Oxford, MS** →  
70.72% of households  
unreached

**Jackson, MS** →  
71.51% of households  
unreached



Help us raise **\$25,000.00** to  
plant churches in  
Mississippi...

### Facts:

- Approximately 1.4 - 2 million people are unreached
- 67% of households do not have even one born again believer



← **Ridgeland, MS**  
72.14% of households  
unreached

**Starkville, MS** →  
73.75% of households  
unreached



**April – May  
2016**



← **Edwards, MS**  
71.27% of households  
unreached