

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 15, 2017

www.msbbaptist.org

VOL. 71 No. 8

## Johnson Named Director of International Missions

Bro. Eric Johnson, former missionary to Mexico, will replace Bro. Phil Knott as Director of International Missions, effective in May. Bro. Knott recently announced his retirement after four years in that position.

Johnson was born into a family of BMA missionaries, and he and his wife, Kelly, and three children, Audrey Lee, Matty Ann, and Abram Gaylan, began serving as church planters in Pachuca, Mexico, in 2008. In 2011 Kelly was diagnosed with an illness that, over time, God has used to lead them back to ministry in the United States.



Eric Johnson Family

Since then Johnson has continued to serve in BMA Missions through church planter training in evangelism, discipleship,

and Biblical studies. Knott will work with Johnson during the next year as Johnson transitions into his new role as International Missions Director.

“We give praise and glory to God, our Healer, for the work he has done during the difficult time of Kelly’s illness and diagnosis, and we are very grateful for his mercy in our lives. Because of the strict nature of her diet and her immune system we had to conclude that it was not God’s will for us to live in Mexico. This was not an easy decision, but an obvious one. Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Phil and BMA Missions staff were very helpful to us during this time. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord and our churches, and I believe that God has much more in store for our future.”

## The Future of Daniel Springs Camp

by Scott Attebery, Executive Director  
DiscipleGuide

Recently, DiscipleGuide’s trustees asked the BMA Coordinating Council to study Daniel Springs Baptist Camp’s finances in order to help ascertain whether or not the current organizational relationship with DiscipleGuide is in the camp’s best interest. Over the past several years, the camp’s financial situation has suffered and the trustees have repeatedly discussed the situation.

After much study and analysis, the DiscipleGuide trustees feel it would be wise to seek the opinion of the Coordinating Council in trying to determine whether or not the current organizational relationship is financially beneficial. This led the trustees to request a review by the Coordinating Council.

In the spirit of clarification, please note the following:

1) DiscipleGuide is not requesting to separate from Daniel Springs. Instead, the request is simply asking for more help analyzing the situation.

2) DiscipleGuide wants what is best for Daniel Springs. This request is intended to help the DiscipleGuide trustees make the best decision for the camp.

3) DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs have a great working relationship. This request is to investigate the financial relationship between the two entities, not the working relationship. Partnership between the two entities is at an all-time high and will remain so regardless of future financial structures.

Please join us in prayer for the Coordinating Council, DiscipleGuide, and Daniel Springs.



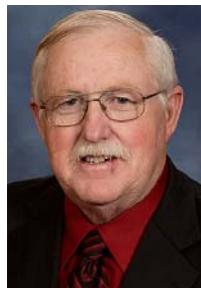
Scott Attebery

## 68th Annual BMAA Meeting in Texas

by Paul White, BMAA President

Greetings to the churches of the BMA of America!

Well, it is nearing that time of the year we have an opportunity to gather and conduct the Lord’s business as an Association. This note is to remind each one that this May 1-3 has been set aside as the time for our 2017 annual meeting to convene in Arlington, Texas. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless all our



Paul White

departments, agencies and churches. I hope you are already making plans for your church to be represented at this year’s meeting.

Again this year you will be given the opportunity to choose between several great breakout sessions presented this year by our National departments and agencies. It is the desire of your officers and those involved in planning to provide you with materials and practical instruction that you will be able to use in your respective fields of service. Of course, these are provided in addition to the times of conducting business and oppor-

tunities to gather for worship.

This year we will have a special ceremony to recognize those who have served in the ministry for over sixty years. It is only proper that those (preachers) who have given a lifetime to serving God be honored by receiving a Life-Time Achievement certificate.

Remember, this year’s theme, "Brick by Brick", is built around teamwork with the emphasis on increasing our attendance for strengthening every area of our ministry. Make plans now to join us and may God bless every aspect of our time together.

In His Service,

## Senior Adult Conference Details Announced

DiscipleGuide’s annual Senior Adult Conference is your opportunity to catch up with friends in the beauty of the Ozarks. Join seniors from around the BMA November 13-15, 2017 at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Missouri. Enjoy the powerful preaching of Don Chandler, inspirational music of Steve Green, and encouraging ministry of the Central Baptist College Singers. Plus, Neil

**SENIOR ADULT**  
CONFERENCE • BRANSON, MISSOURI

DON CHANDLER STEVE GREEN DAVID ATTEBERY NEIL DUMAS SIGHT & SOUND

November 13-15, 2017

Dumas and David Attebery will lead everyone in singing! This year’s conference includes tickets to Sight & Sound Theaters’ special Christmas show, Miracle of Christmas, when you register by October 19. Plus, enjoy a fully catered breakfast each morning. And in your free time, walk across the street to Branson Landing for food and shopping.

For more information about the conference, or to register your group, visit [discipleguide.org/senior](http://discipleguide.org/senior) or call 800-333-1442.

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

## Interim Presidents Perspective

The Scriptures inform us that as believers, we are strangers and pilgrims upon this earth. Our citizenship is in heaven, and we represent the King of Heaven while we dwell in this foreign land and amongst its foreign residents. II Corinthians 5:20 states, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Linda and I were blessed while serving in the Army to live in several countries in Europe. It was a wonderful experience and we will forever cherish our experiences living in different cultures. At each duty assignment, our commander would often remind us Americans that we were more than tourists in these countries. We were unofficial ambassadors of the United States representing the best of our people's customs and ways to our host nation. As we journeyed abroad visiting fascinating sites, we were always careful to avoid being what the locals might call, "an ugly American". What is an "ugly American?" One who might criticize the customs and manners of the local people. One who demands Ranch Dressing where none exists or who might get publically upset over the "cover charge" on a bill, which is the table cloth laundering charge.

We Christians can sometimes misrepresent our heavenly homeland when we get riled up about suffering some perceived injustice. One day, while assigned in Texas, I was driving home from work. I approached a traffic light that was notoriously long. This day I thought I was highly favored when the light became green as I and the vehicle in front of me got close to it. I thought, "Yeehaw! I won't have to waste ten minutes sitting at a red light this day!" However, the person in the car in front of me began to slow down. I became anxious and tailed her closely. She slowed even more until the light turned red. Oh, we both could have made the light had she only kept her speed up! But instead, there we were, stuck for ten minutes until it turned green again. Since I was privately in my own car, I



Dr. Scott Carson  
Interim President

began to rant and rave while flinging my arms up and about.... Until I caught the driver's eyes staring in her rearview mirror at my bizarre behavior. It was then that it dawned on me that I still had my Army cap on, the one with the big silver cross prominently displayed indicating that I was a Chaplain. I quickly grabbed the cap and threw it to the floor, but it was too late. The driver shook her head, and I felt ashamed of my failure to represent the cross of Jesus (but she still should have made that light...Ha!)

We represent our Lord in all we do and wherever we go upon this earth. As His ambassadors of grace and mercy, we need to remind ourselves often that we directly reflect God on high in this foreign land. The apostle encourages us in 1 Peter 1 to, "lay aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking." May we endeavor to reflect the love of Jesus in every situation and wherever we walk this foreign land called Earth!

## Television Commercial

We are excited that our first television commercial for Southeastern Baptist College is now being aired on WDAM throughout the month of April. We pray that this will help generate interest in the college throughout Southeast Mississippi and increase enrollment.

## National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Southeastern Baptist College is partnering with local churches in the Laurel, Mississippi, area to provide a community-wide National Day of Prayer Breakfast at the College. The event will feature Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel as our special keynote speaker with several local dignitaries and pastors of various local participating congregations. 300 breakfast meals will be provided free of charge. Reservations are required to ensure there is enough food and seating for those attending. The breakfast begins at 7:30 am on May 4, 2017 and will be located in the school's gymnasium. Later, there will be the annual prayer event on the City of Laurel's courthouse steps at 12 noon. Preferably, text 601-498-8832 to secure your free reservation for the prayer breakfast or call 601-426-6346.

## Greek Course Planned in the Fall

If you are interested in learning to study God's Word in the original Greek

**Who's Who** - Five of our outstanding students were selected for this year's Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. See the photo of those who made the list.



Congratulations to James McGhee, Matt Crumpton, David Ledlow, Zech Rogers, and Justin Rhodes (with Dr. Carson) on their selection to Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities! This national recognition marks a pinnacle of scholastic achievement for the outstanding campus leaders of the year. College students are the reservoir from which our nation draws its leadership strength and it is this thought that is the guiding principle behind the Who's Who Among Students program.

language, we are planning to offer Greek I in the Fall Semester. Of note, we need a minimum of ten students to offer this course. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346 as we will need to make a decision if this course is a "go" before the end of this semester.

## Available Scholarships

No joke! \$1000 scholarships! The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our recruiter, Ronnie Kitchens, has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid. Contact Brother Ronnie at 601-426-6346 or rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

SBC possesses the 2017 Silver Award as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. There is a time limit to your VA benefits, so I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them. Use them before it's too late! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

## Great News!

The Internal Revenue Service has officially notified us that Southeastern Baptist College Tax Exempt Status is

renewed and retroactive to November 2010.

## Summer Courses

If you are interested in taking a short elective course for credit or audit this summer, contact Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

## An Idea

I encourage every reader of the Mississippi Baptist to seriously consider contributing toward the BMA of Mississippi's premiere school of Biblical knowledge. We were awarded the distinguished Best Online Bible College in the nation for 2016 for a reason! SBC is the best of the best when it comes to educating people in theology and the scriptures! Will you consider setting up a scholarship in your church to help educate and advance leaders in the BMA of Mississippi ministries?

Pastors, youth workers, ministers of music, potential missionaries, deacons, Sunday school teachers and more will all benefit greatly in their personal walk with the Lord and be more effective in their callings. I believe every church in our work should have someone on their church staff taking classes online or in our classrooms. I encourage you to seriously consider what an education in the Bible or in Christian leadership can do to advance the Gospel in your "neck of the woods."

## Available to Preach

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

**From The Mind of Chuck Lee**

**Try Jesus?**

Years ago, I went in for a job interview hoping to impress with my charm, appearance, and overall likeableness. In other words, I was trying to make them believe I knew everything about something that I knew nothing about. You know, the standard procedure for procuring a position you aren't qualified to obtain. Anyway, I was thrilled to find out I had once again pulled off the ultimate in smoke and mirrors when I received the call to report to work that night. I was less thrilled when I found out that it was on a trial basis unloading parts from eighteen wheelers in the loading dock all night. It wasn't a bad job, considering that it required no high intelligence, a fact of which my supervisor constantly reminded me. In fact,

he said with that requirement alone that I was overqualified. We didn't get along.

Being on a trial basis, and not being the son of one of the board members, it seemed my best option was to simply ignore the offhanded compliments of Big Al and work hard to prove that I was management material in the hopes of quickly climbing the ladder of success. Unfortunately, the ladder on the dock was just a step stool. But, hey, a step up is a step up, even if it only has one step. Thankfully, with uncharacteristic hard work and two of my coworkers tendencies to imbibe in the evil spirits of alcohol, and despite Big Al's morale booster pep talks,



Bro. Chuck Lee

I was able to obtain a full-time position with the company. Success had finally been achieved. Who would have thought that showing up to work on time and sober, working hard, and not getting caught slipping muscle relaxers into Big Al's coffee would pay off?

This mentality seemed to serve me well in the years to come, except when it came to trusting Jesus. We sing a song called Try Jesus, and as far as I know, the writer had great intentions in mind when penning the hymn. So let it be known that I would in no way try to mischaracterize the meaning of a well meaning song. Don't write me with ugly letters because that is just not Christian, unless, of course, you add a twenty dollar bill with the letter. Then you can say what you want. Send a Harbor Freight or Lowe's gift card and you can even call me and give me the "what for".

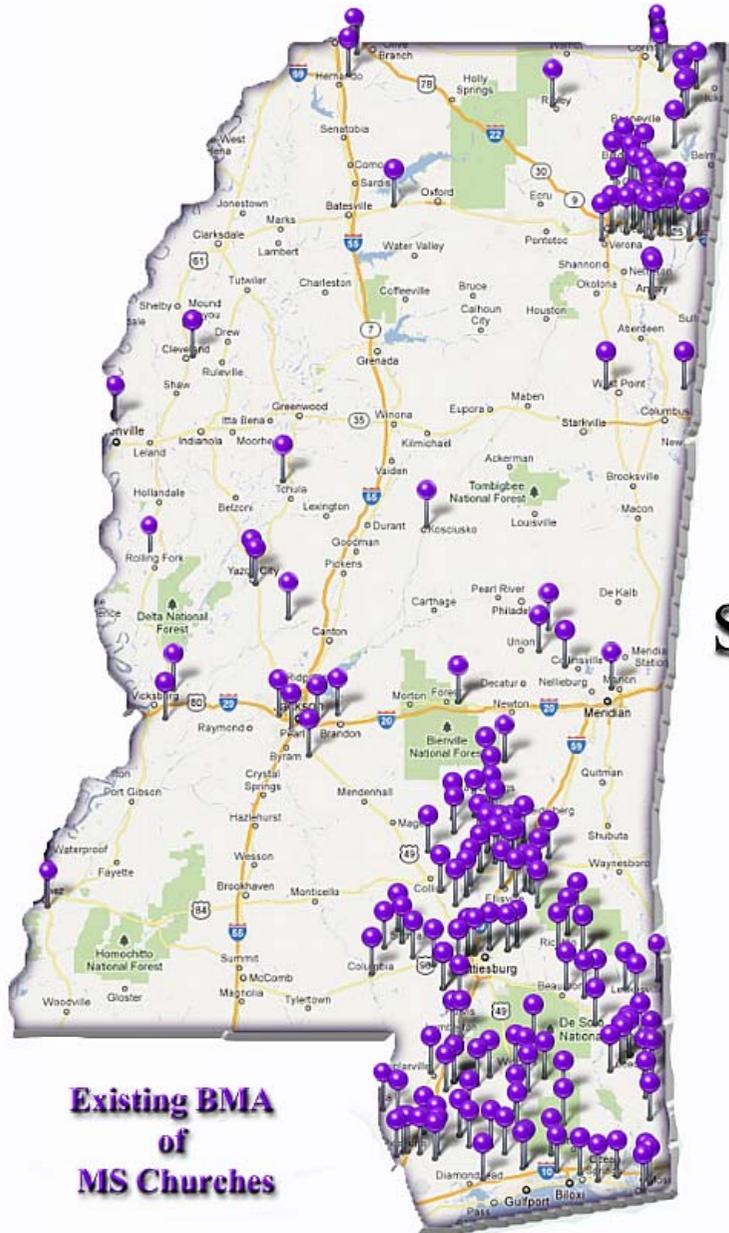
But, Try Jesus? I'm afraid that is what many are doing. He is on a trial basis to see if He can provide what we

desire. Breaking News... This just in! You don't put your Creator on a trial basis. As a lost person, I would pray for salvation and then kind of peek up to see if God saved me. Needless to say, that didn't accomplish the desired result. When I finally quit trying Jesus and completely trusted Him, God fulfilled His promise of salvation. I've had to learn that lesson as I have tried to live for Him as well.

For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, stormy seas or tranquil nights, God is still God. My idea of who He is doesn't change who He is, and my best option for this life and through eternity is to simply trust Him and not just try Him. Besides, when you became a new creature in Christ Jesus, wasn't that enough proof of His qualifications? Not that He needed proof.

*Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com*

# Mississippi State Missions

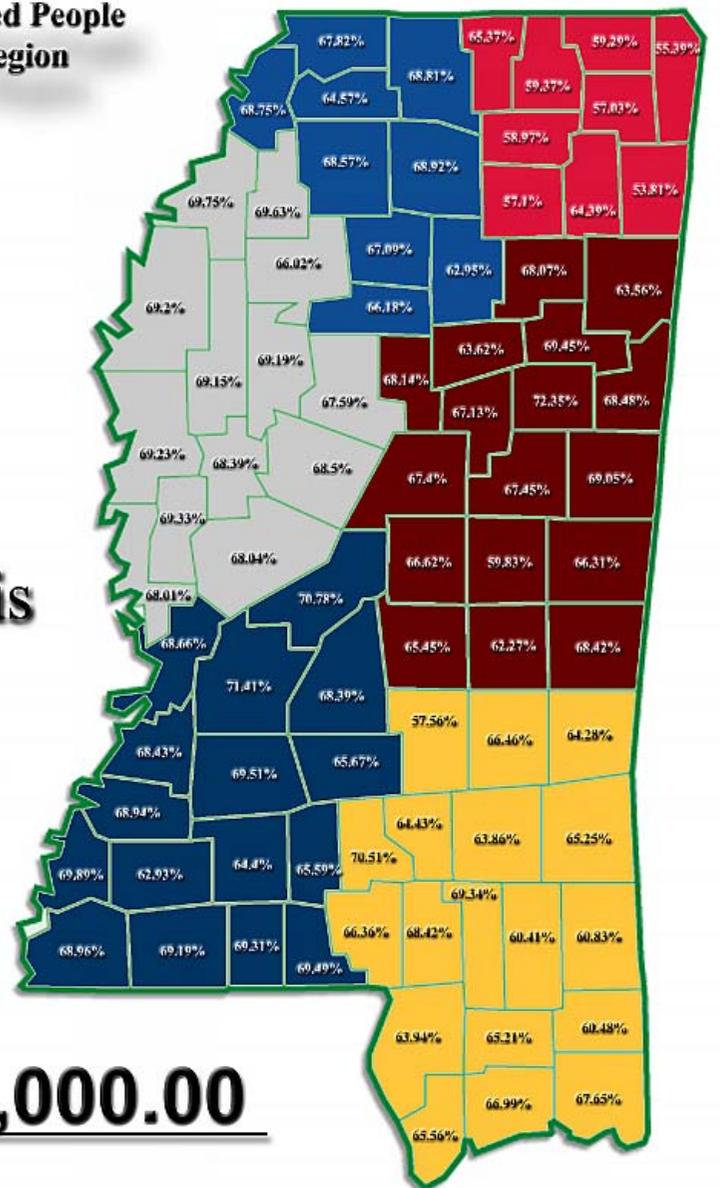


**Existing BMA of MS Churches**

**Percent of Unreached People by County & Region**

- Region 1 - 67.07%
- Region 2 - 58.97%
- Region 3 - 66.68%
- Region 4 - 68.62%
- Region 5 - 68.22%
- Region 6 - 64.87%

**2017 Special Emphasis for State Missions**



**Our Goal: \$25,000.00**

## Dear Absent Church Member

By Daryl Cornett  
Pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Hazard, Kentucky

**Editor's Note:** *There are probably a great number of pastors who could write such a letter and who, no doubt, would like to!*

Today I saw your empty seat as I stood to welcome the people to worship. I wondered to myself what it was this week that had kept you away once again from gathering with other believers on the Lord's Day.

I love being your pastor, but I must admit that I experience sadness every time I see your empty seat. I visit the older members of our church in their homes because age and sickness has taken from them their independence and mobility. They long to be able to do what you so easily seem to give up most Sundays.

I'm not aware that you've been ill or that you're experiencing some kind of crisis—maybe you are. If so, I sure wish you would let me know. In your hardest times you need to draw closer to God and allow others to lighten the load of your burden rather



than withdraw. However, it seems from your Facebook posts that most of the time you're simply busy chasing other things.

I used to think when you would disappear for weeks at a time that maybe I had done something or said something to upset you. But I've learned over time that kind of thinking has mostly been my own insecurity. My conscience is clear.



As a younger pastor I used to feel irritation when you were absent. Your lack of commitment frustrated me. But now my feelings have turned more to grief because I've come to realize your absence is not really about me. It's about you and what you are foolishly trading to keep up with this world. It's about what truly captures your heart and what you value most.

I see your beautiful children whom you love with all your heart. Yet you're setting them up to care little for God's church. One activity after another displaces any real commitment to the Lord's Day. I understand that everyone occasionally has something special that comes up, takes a vacation or a trip to visit family. But this is different. You cram your family with so much activity revolving around the kids that devotion to God is consistently squeezed out.

Your kids are learning that church is something the family does only when they have one of those rare Sundays off from the activities. And even then, because everyone is so ragged out, on some Sundays you just can't get out of bed.

This letter is not to fuss or to shame.

You know that I've preached to you the grace of God. Your church membership, giving, attendance, and service don't earn you favor with God. It's all about faith.

I'll never rant in the pulpit about your absenteeism. I'm always going to preach to the ones who are present. But I want you to know how much I care about you. I want you to understand that my greatest joy would be to see you love God and His church and to observe you growing in Christ. ... You're part of the flock God has entrusted to me, and

## Compass to Explore Ephesians This Summer

Every human being wants to know, "Who am I?" and "How should I live?"



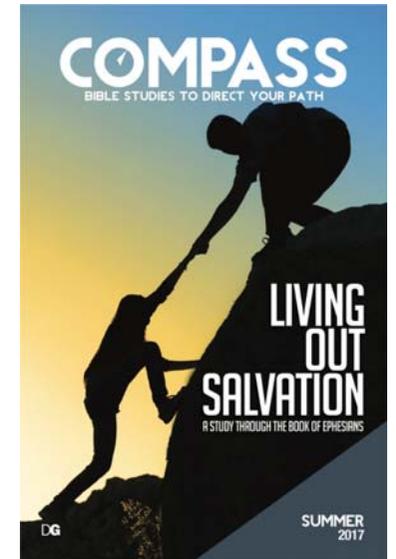
Tim Brewer

This summer, Compass Adult Bible Studies will seek to answer both questions through lessons entitled Living out Salvation: Exploring the Book of Ephesians. This study will examine the blessings and responsibilities that await believers in Christ Jesus. Each lesson has been prayerfully composed by Bro. Tim Brewer.

Tim serves as pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Guy, Arkansas, where he and his wife Christie have ministered for seventeen years. He is dad to five children: Drew, Page, Sam, John, and Lydia. Tim is a gradu-

ate of Central Baptist College, Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

To order or learn more about



Compass Adult Bible Studies, visit [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 800.333.1442.

## Annual BMA of America Annual Meeting May 1-3, 2017 Arlington, Texas

every sheep is precious. You're not just a number.

God loves you and so do I. He has already loved you in Christ with a love that needs no further demonstration. ... I pray that if you truly know Christ, that you'll come to your senses like the prodigal son and run home to your heavenly Father who stands with open arms.

Until then, I will still be praying for you and possibly sticking my nose in your business. After all, I'm your pastor.

-BaptistNewsService

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

#### Neal Helton

Neal Helton is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He and his family are members of Midway Baptist Church near McLain. He may be reached at 601-508-2889.

## BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 [www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth](http://www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth)

### Summer Camp 2017 June 5-7

Camp is less than 2 months away!  
If you have yet to sign up, there is still time.  
Contact Bro. Kelby at 662-316-6233 or  
[kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com)

Location: Waukaway Springs  
Speaker: Donnie Parrish  
Music: Mark Williams  
Cost: \$100

Camp is for all ages (K-12)



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P.O. Box 8181  
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE  
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail  
\$15.00 Per Year by Email  
CHURCHPLAN  
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Postmaster:  
Send address changes to  
Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O.  
Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

## CHURCH LEADER'S CRUISE

DiscipleGuide's Church Leaders Cruise, January 13-18, 2018, will provide an opportunity for vocational and lay leaders to rest, relax and recharge. Church Leaders Cruise combines the best of the former Great Escape conference and Pastors Oasis conference in an environment from which any church vocational and lay leader can benefit. According to



DiscipleGuide's Director, Scott Attebery, "We wanted to find ways to serve those who serve our churches, and we felt that branching out in this way would accomplish that goal." Three conference tracks and a flexible schedule allow leaders to customize the experience for their particular needs. The cost for the conference is \$80 per person until September 1, and \$100 per person after that date.

## Church Survey Response Needed

BMA Information Services would like to express our appreciation to the large number of churches that have provided updated information for our upcoming BMA Directory. The response this year has been great and we are truly thankful. However, there are many churches we have not heard from. **THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOUR CHURCH TO BE INCLUDED!** If you have not yet completed a survey, we WANT to hear from you.



2017 Annual Church Survey

There are two easy ways to make sure your church's information is accurate:

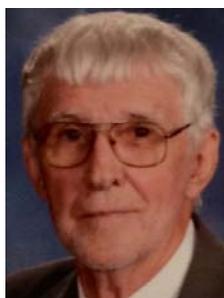
- 1) Complete your form online at [www.bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/](http://www.bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/)
- 2) Contact John Meriweather ([john@bmamaerica.org](mailto:john@bmamaerica.org) / 501-499-6810) or Lauren Noland ([lauren@bmaamerica.org](mailto:lauren@bmaamerica.org) / 501-358-4007) to receive a survey already complete with your church's most recent information. You can simply make the needed changes and return via email or physical mail.

The BMA Directory serves a very vital purpose, enabling our association to remain informed and connected. However, we also know much of the information in the directory is inaccurate and out of date. BMA Information Services is committed to providing BMA churches with complete and accurate information, but we cannot do that without you. Just a few minutes of your time will help ensure that we have the best possible publication for all of our churches.

## Paul Lee Dies

Paul E. Lee, Director of the Prisoners Bible Crusade, passed away at home on April 10, 2017, after a struggle with Pulmonary Fibrosis and Asbestosis. He was 77.

Bro. Lee was born at home in Leetown on August 16, 1939, the son of Chester C. Lee and Ora Parker Lee. He graduated from Sellers School in 1957. He served in the National Guard in 1956 and also served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1958-1962. He graduated from Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi in 1971. He received a BA degree in Religion in 1974 from Louisiana College in Pineville. He pastored churches in Mississippi and



Bro. Paul Lee

Louisiana. In 1985 Paul became Director of the PBC after the death of his father Chester Lee, who began the PBC in 1973.

Bro. Lee is survived by his wife of 53 years Gretchen Germany Lee of Philadelphia, Mississippi, two children Albert Lee and Cathy Lee Davis (Jason); grandchildren Trevor Lee (Emily), Samantha Lee, and Ian Morgan; great grandsons, Corbin and Colt Lee. He is also survived by his sister Claudette Heasley (Roger), sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

He was proceeded in death by his parents Chester and Ora Lee; siblings Helen Hester, Walter Lee, Alice Reeb and Sammy Lee.

Memorial Services will be held at Lee's Chapel #2 Church on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Visitation will begin at 10:00 with the memorial service beginning at 11:00.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Prisoners Bible Crusade.

The five-day Western Caribbean cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas with ports of call in Progreso and Cozumel. Cruise reservations may be made with Carnival Cruise Line at (800) 819-3902, ext. 85267. Remember to request "Church Leaders' group with early dining," and book early for best rates.

For more information visit [discipleguide.org/cruise](http://discipleguide.org/cruise).

### Conference Speakers

- Inspiration Track — Do you need to be refreshed by God's Word? The Inspiration Track aims to uplift and strengthen leaders struggling with discouragement and burnout. Join Brent Summerhill, pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia for encouraging messages from God's Word.
- Family Ministry Track — Dr. Timothy Paul Jones



Summerhill

will equip leaders to reach children, students and parents in a biblical model. Jones is a popular speaker, author of Family Ministry Field Guide and serves as a professor at the Southern Baptist Seminary. He has been featured on American Family Radio and The Gospel Coalition blog.



Jones

• Leadership Skills Track — Matt Perman, author of What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done, will help you become a more effective leader. Matt has been featured in Christianity Today and The Gospel Coalition blog. Matt will share insights for ministry leadership and productivity.



Perman



State Missionaries  
1:30-2:00pm 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

## 59TH ANNUAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

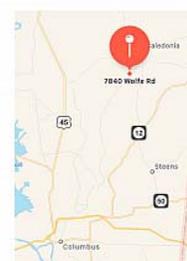
April 22, 2017

SPONSORED BY: THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Hosted By: Caledonia Baptist Church  
7840 Wolfe Road  
(Lunch will be provided)



Music by: Jeff & Rosalind Dixon



Exit off Hwy 82 on Military Road and go North. Turn left on Wolfe Road and continue until you see the sign for Caledonia Baptist Church on your right. 7840 Wolfe Rd

Theme: "Contending for the Faith"

Preaching by:



Larry Geraldson  
Director of Missions,  
BMA of MS



Dr. Robert Burch  
Pastor of Caledonia  
Baptist Church



Josh Daniels  
Pastor of Shiloh  
Baptist Church



Dr. Gary O'Neal  
Pastor of Oak Park  
Baptist Church



Leon Carmical  
Pastor of FBC of  
Calhoun



Dr. Grover Laird

10:30am  
"Introduction to the  
theme" Jude 1-3

10:40am  
"Contending For The  
Faith: Rejoicing In  
Our Woes"  
1 Pet 1:1-9

11:30am  
"Contending For The  
Faith: Relying On  
God's Wisdom"  
1 Cor 2:1-5

2:15pm  
"Contending For The  
Faith: Redeeming Our  
Weakness"  
2 Cor 4:1-11

3:15pm  
"Contending For The  
Faith: Recalling the  
Wickedness"  
2 Tim 3:1-17

4:00pm  
"Contending For The  
Faith: Praying While  
We Work"  
Eph 6:18

## Master's Builders Report

On March 3rd, The Master's Builders gathered in Smithville, Arkansas, at Stone Ridge Baptist Camp. We were there to help with remodeling the ceilings in the building that houses the kitchen, lunchroom, lounge, bunkrooms, evangelist quarters, and cooks' quarters. Sheets of white metal roofing was used to brighten up the interior ceilings. The men also worked on several smaller jobs that Camp Director, Scott Small, needed done.

The Master's Builders have a very busy Spring ahead of us. We will be at Daniel Springs Camp, Gary, Texas, on April 10; at Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas, on May 8; and Summers Baptist, Summers, Arkansas, on June 5.

If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, contact Office Manager Bro. John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or Field Manager Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Clothespin Bags

Well, I did something today that I have not done in many years. I made me a new clothespin bag. My old one was wore slam out.

I made this one of real heavy denim and as I was sewing it, I had the realization that this bag is going to outlast me. Then I'm thinking I need to put this thing in my will. That set me to wondering to whom I would will it. My kids don't hang clothes out, my grandkids think clothespins are for closing a bag a chips. I could leave it to my friend, Mary Ann, but she leaves her clothespins on the clothesline.

So when I'm gone, if you need a clothespin bag, just show up at the estate sale when they sell all my stuff and that's what it all is - Just stuff.

But stuff is good for hiding a king. Read I Samuel 10:22.



### Big Creek District WMA Brotherhood Dates Changed

The Big Creek District WMA and Brotherhood has changed the date of our next meeting. We will meet May 8 at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Calhoun. See you all there!

## Seminary Summer Schedule Includes Free Online Preaching Course

Since 2000, the BMA Seminary has offered intensive week-long studies each summer that focus upon various areas of religious education. The 2017 summer schedule includes courses for both credit and non-credit students.

Non-credit students may be interested in auditing the seminary's DiscipleWay training June 12-15, 2017, on its main campus in Jacksonville, Texas. The training includes an introduction to the biblical, educational, and philosophical principles that undergird DiscipleWay curriculum, exposes individuals to each DiscipleWay discipline, and gives particular attention to the disciplines of Bible study and witnessing. DiscipleWay's goal is to teach individuals how to perform disciplines without the help of a teacher while also developing the ability for those same individuals to teach others without the help of a teacher.

Non-credit students may also be interested in the seminary's free online course in Oral Communication/Preaching course with Dr. Tony Cleaver. The study begins May 30 and ends July 25, 2017.

Credit seeking students can enroll in both on cam-

pus, online, and hybrid courses. Students may enroll in an appropriate level of DiscipleWay training on



campus with Drs. Philip Attebery, David Hellwig, and Ronnie Johnson June 12-16. Online students may enroll in Church Administration with Dr. Mark Livingston, Greek Appreciation with Dr. Gary O'Neal, or New Testament Interpretation: Gospel of John with Dr. David Hellwig (May 30-July

25), and a hybrid course in Sermon Preparation or Expository Preaching with Dr. Charley Holmes (July 17-19).

Deadline for registration is May 12, 2017. All courses may be taken at reduced costs for non-credit. Students interested in DiscipleWay training without credit may register until May 30, 2017.

### Mississippi State GMA/Sunbeam Treasurer's Report March 1, 2017 by Shirlene Smith

Balance February 28, 2016 .....	\$ 10,338.65
Total Received	
March 1, 2016-February 28, 2017 .....	24,328.48
<b>Total to Account for .....</b>	<b>34,667.13</b>
Paid Out .....	16,177.55
<b>Balance on Hand, Feb. 28, 2017 .....</b>	<b>18,489.58</b>
General Fund .....	\$ 10,126.29
GMA Project (75%) .....	8,269.16
Sunbeam Project (75%) .....	94.13
<b>Balance on Hand .....</b>	<b>18,489.58</b>

#### Contributions to the State GMA Project GMAS:

1. Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton .....	\$ 500.00
2. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs .....	5,871.00
3. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel .....	166.00
4. Mildred Sumrall, Laurel, MS .....	100.00
5. Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere .....	152.35
6. Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale .....	1,001.49
7. Paramount Baptist Church, Wiggin .....	105.00
8. Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive .....	1,104.00
9. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl .....	516.00
10. South Forrest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg ..	76.00
11. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale .....	494.50
12. In Memory of Ginny Kellum .....	100.00
RECEIVED FROM ACTIVITIES AT GMA CAMP:	
13. Silent Auction .....	395.35
14. Candy Grams .....	43.00
15. Officer Competition .....	205.87
16. Snack Shop (1/2 proceeds) .....	365.85
17. Craft Sales .....	195.55
18. T-Shirt Sales .....	1,054.26
<b>Total Received for the Project .....</b>	<b>\$ 12,446.22</b>

#### PROJECT:

25% General Fund .....	\$ 1,592.21
75% Water for Christ	
(Wells in Ghana, Africa .....	10,854.01
<b>Total for Project .....</b>	<b>\$ 12,446.22</b>

This was a record-breaking year for our project in the Mississippi State GMA. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, contributed enough to have a well drilled and the Mississippi State GMA gave enough to have a well drilled. All honor and praise goes to our great God!

The project for 2017-2018 will be 25% General Fund and 75% will be divided equally between Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment and the orphanage in Peru/Missionary Carl Sookraj. May God add His blessings to our efforts to raise money this year for these very worthy projects!! Send your contributions for the Mississippi State GMA and Sunbeam projects to: Shirlene Smith; 730 Hwy 533; Laurel, MS 39443. Thanks again to all who gave!

## National Brotherhood at the National BMA Meeting

by Richey Hester

National Brotherhood Editor and Promoter

The National Brotherhood of the BMA of America will meet at the 68th annual BMA meeting in Arlington, Texas. We will meet in Room M5&M7 of the Arlington Convention Center on Tuesday morning May 2nd at 8:00. The speaker for the meeting will be Bro. Steve Clark from Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. We hope see you all there.

President Mark Jones has asked me to remind you that if your brotherhood has not sent in their project money for this past brotherhood project year to please do so. The National Brotherhood project for 2016-17 was the Moral Action Agency. Please send your offering to Dr. John Adams at P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855. We will be electing a new project for 2017-18.

One last thing to mention is our National Galileans. They will have their National Galileans Camp in Smithville, Arkansas, June 29-July 2, 2017. Please pray for these young men who will be future leaders of our great church. Please continue to support the Galileans.

## Meridian Church To Host Gospel Sing

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North in Meridian, will host one of southern gospel music's most prolific songwriters, Jeff Steele and The Steele's, on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Jeff and his family have traveled all over the country singing in churches and major concert halls. They have been featured on several of the Gaither videos. Their song, "On The Road to Emmaus", was recorded by the Gaither Vocal Band on their latest CD. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this night of music. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

## The Poirier's Work In Haiti

by Mike and Ruth Poirier

We thank you for your prayers while we are here in Haiti. Since we have been here we have had 4 new people saved and one couple has been married. Eight people got baptized last Saturday, we have had one death, and one of our church members robbed at gunpoint. We give God the praise and glory for all of this. Even though we have seen some difficult happenings, God is still good! The man who was robbed was protected we believe by God, to not be killed even though he was held at gunpoint by three men and one with a gun was told to shoot him, but for some reason he did not shoot. This was, we believe God's protection on this faithful member of the church in Ségur.

We have witnessed 4 new births at Onaville - We are running in the 40's on Sunday. It is easy to preach for the people there, they have a sweet spirit. The people love each other and help each other in time of difficulty. In time of need they care for each other? Amen! Yet they are not without their difficulties. *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Rom 10:13

**One marriage** - On March 25th we were involved in helping with a wedding. In Haiti if a couple doesn't have money the preacher takes care of the setting up, the preparation, the expenses, the banquet, etc. It was suppose to begin at 4 pm but at 5:45 everything began because the wedding party was running behind time (they have no sense of time here) and finished at about

8:30. This was only the wedding ceremony. We stood in the back outside for all this time because there were not enough benches for the visitors. Praise the Lord they are married now and want to get baptized as soon as possible.

**Eight baptism candidates** - 8 people asked for baptism and are being taught what baptism means. For all qualifying candidates they were baptized in the Caribbean on Saturday April 1st. One of the ladies who was saved in May of 2016 (we purchased a house "wood shelter" for her) The Pastor gave a testimony of her saying, that even though she is very poor, she never misses an opportunity to give her tithe. When she gets something given to her she always gives to God first. What a testimony. She is like the widow who gave her widows mite. Praise the Lord! They all got baptized last Saturday morning, singing and rejoicing in the Lord. *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* Matt 28:19

**Held at gunpoint:** One of our church members was stop by 3 thieves this morning (Monday March 27th) coming from the bank. Let me tell you about my friend Tius. "Last week, traveling in separate cars, his brother along with Tius and his family, were coming home from the funeral of his brother when his other brother had a head on collision putting his brother and his nephew and sister-in-law in the hospital. Tius had to pay for all the expenses of the funeral and the hospital bills for the family because he is the only one in his family who works. Tius doesn't have much money, but he has a job and provides for his family. He is generous and he is involved in the church of Ségur. When Tius came out of the bank, while he was getting into his truck three men came to him and one of the thieves told to him hand over his money! He did, and one of the thieves said; SHOOT HIM! SHOOT HIM! But, he did not shoot and they ran away. Dear friend, it was only by the grace of God that Tius was spared! Someone drove him home and he is now resting, but yet quite shaken up by the experience. (Pro 21:31 ... but safety is of the Lord.)

Your prayers are important to us! We are working together to reach people for the Lord and also interceding for our brothers and sisters that are going through difficult times. We are so thankful that God is in control and that we have many who pray for us personally. Thank you if you are one of those people. (Phi 4: 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.)

Mike and Ruth Poirier  
52 Rte Kennedy N.  
Vallee Jonction, Qc, Canada G0S3J0

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

### Resurrection Celebration

The Easter season reminds us each year that Jesus Christ has conquered death! In fact, each and every Sunday reminds us as Christians that Jesus arose on the first day of the week. It was on the first day of the week, Revelation 1:10, when the Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day heard Jesus say, "Fear not, I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; And have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:17,18.

Because of the fact that Jesus lives the future is full of hope for the Christian. The resurrection is proof that the grave is not the end for the child of God. "Because I live," said Jesus, "ye shall live also." John 14:19. Jesus also said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

Because Jesus has conquered death His resurrection makes it possible for Christians to shout: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55.

I trust that each one had a great "Resurrection Celebration" praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the victory that we have in Him!

### Student Recognition

We would like to recognize Desi, our tenth grade student, who is a member of "Imagination" of the West Jones High School Show Choir. This group placed first place on several competitions in the state of Mississippi. They were also asked to compete in national competition in Nashville, Tennessee. They placed in the finals. Congratulations Desi on your hard work this year in your studies and show choir activities.



Desi

### Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. Until Jesus comes may we heed the words of the Apostle Paul, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58.

## Laurel Church Welcomes New Pastor

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, welcomes the Goodwin family to their fellowship. Bro. Jason Goodwin, his wife Jessica and their children



Kennedy, Cooper, Delaney, Wyatt, Avery, and Knox, moved to Laurel on April 7. Bro. Goodwin's first Sunday was April 9

The Goodwins come to Laurel from El Dorado, Arkansas. The church welcomed them with a fellowship and 'grocery pounding' on their first Sunday evening.

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



# COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt  
Director

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference is just around the corner, and this is one you don't want to miss. It's going to be a great day for our seniors up North. Greenwood Baptist Church and Pastor Kelby Johnson are waiting and prepared to host this meeting on Tuesday, May 9th. Registration

bringing the morning message and Bro. Bryson Haden once again directing the afternoon of Gaither Style Homecoming music with choir using local talent from the local churches.

The noon meal will be catered by the Dorsey Volunteer Fire Department, this all you can eat buffet is a favorite time

## Dr. John Ladd Leaving Missions Dept. Employment

Dr. John Ladd sent the following statement to be shared with our readers.

"Today, March 31, 2017, marks the last day of my employment with the BMAA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the churches and individuals, who have made it possible for Shirley and me to live the past



John & Shirley Ladd

52 years with great joy being a part of God's plan for us in His kingdom work in Nicaragua and Mexico. We plan to continue working with Dr. Izard in BMMI as well as the Good Samaritan Clinic in Mexico. Thank you once again."

John Ladd, M.D.

**Editor's Note:** I had the privilege of visiting the Ladd's at their mission field in Mexico and also made a BMMI trip with him to Haiti a few years ago. John Ladd is a dedicated worker in the Lord's work and we wish him well as he continues in the medical ministry.

## Texas Home Director Retires

Meeting in special session at the Home campus in Waxahachie, Texas, on Thursday, March 9, 2017, the board of trustees voted to accept the resignation of Home President Bro. Eddie Marsh as he has chosen to take retirement. Bro. Marsh has served as Home president for the past twelve years.

The board thanks Bro. Eddie for his service during his term as the leader of the Home ministry. Our prayers are extended to him and his wife Lynda as they transition to the next place of service the Lord has for them.

Randy Odom, executive vice-president of Texas Baptist Home, will be serving as the Home's interim president until a replacement is selected.

## MORAL ACTION

**Baptist Missionary  
Association of America**

Dr. John M. Adams, Director  
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855  
662-231-3863

On The Web at [www.macbma.net/](http://www.macbma.net/)  
Email - [fbcidmaj@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcidmaj@yahoo.com)



Dr. Adams, Director of Moral Action of Mississippi led in prayer in the court of Judge T.K. Moffett. Dr. Adams stated it was an honor to share that day in the courtroom.

**April - May  
Mississippi Missions  
Special Emphasis**

**Goal  
\$25,000**

## North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

May 9, 2017 - 9:00 am

## Greenwood Baptist Church Fulton, Mississippi

begins at 9:00 am and the program begins at 9:30 am.

The registration fee is \$15 per person and entitles you to a full day of blessings and fellowship. Door prizes will be given throughout the day. Great preaching and singing with Bro. Jeff Dixon

of food and fellowship.

It's going to be a great Senior Adult Conference and we want you to be a part of it. The churches in North Mississippi know how to make you feel at home and always do an excellent job hosting these conferences, hope to see you there.

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