

The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 15, 2019

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 73 No. 8

BMA of Mississippi Missions Report

by Larry Geraldson, Director

"Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." John 12:12

This is a special time! Easter is always a wonderful season of celebration mixed with anticipation. As the Jews on that "Palm Sunday," so many years ago anticipated the coming of their King, we anticipate that our risen Lord will one day return and take us home. Until then, we continue to labor to bring the gospel to the lost and the lost to Christ. Even though at times our world seems dark, we are reminded that Jesus said, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46) Will you help us reach them?



Larry Geraldson
Director

Special Emphasis

Our churches have placed a time on the calendar (April and May) referred to as 'Special Emphasis for State Missions.' Frankly, sometimes, wearied by the routine and challenges of promotion, I ask myself the question, "What's special about it?" Is it just a play on words so we can ask for more money? Some might think so. Don't take me wrong, I am grateful for those who will routinely give during Special Empha-

sis. Having tracked it now for 8 years, I can tell you that it is usually the same churches giving nearly the same amount....very well thought out and planned out and faithful in every re-

Special Emphasis for
State Missions
April & May

Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi Missions



gard. I truly am grateful. But, please, bear with me. To me, it is much more than money.

Special Emphasis is special because it gives us a time to reflect more thoroughly on this special mission we have been called to accomplish. The church is given the special mission to carry the gospel to those in darkness. She is special and the message she has to share is special, and when she sends missionaries out with that message, they are special.

It is special when we can help missionaries and their families go to different places and establish new relationships with new people,

continued on page 5

A United Vision in Latin America

by David Dickson

It's really pretty amazing how much we are alike. When you reflect on the multitude of differences that exist in the numer-



Recent recognition of some Latin American pastors

ous countries, ethnicities, and languages where Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America is investing in missions, you might expect to find stark contrasts in many areas.

Wouldn't it be logical to expect a few discordant notes involving the three pillars of "One Lord, One Faith, One Mission" in some areas? In reality, our churches and missions in Latin America are evidence that, although differences may exist in how a worship service is conducted or in the methods used to conduct missions, the

Most missionaries serving in Latin America are either bi-vocational or completely self-supported.

see Latin American Missions on page 3

Churches Planting Churches in Africa

by Phil Knott
from BMA of America
Missions Department

I sat outside the house near Kumasi, Ghana, where I was staying along with several pastors. This was a daily routine after the sun had gone down. With the power off and no fans, it was certainly too hot to stay inside, and the evening breeze felt good after a long day of conferences and training sessions.

This is our ongoing role in Africa, helping to raise the level of pastoral ministry and train and mobilize churches to plant new churches. I love these

times with faithful and dedicated men of God—hearing in their own words the challenges, setbacks, and triumphs of the gospel. And I love to hear their experiences of conversion.

John Nondia shared this: "I

was a grown man with a wife and kids by the time Christianity came to my village." He then described how pagan they were, worshiping ancestors. When they needed a favor or blessing, they would go to the



village priest or soothsayer, form a little idol out of the dirt, and pour out libations of water and the blood of fowls and sometimes animals, invoking the spirit-god of their ancestors. When they killed the guinea fowl or chicken, it would flop around, and the position in which the bird died might indicate blessing or curse, favor or no favor from the spirit-god. Herbs and roots, white for some things and dark colored roots for others, were used in potions.

Then a Christian missionary came. "They gave us rice and food, so we all became Christians." "Rice Christians" he explained, then added, "We built a church building, and

after a few months the missionary left and I became the leader of the congregation, but I was really no different than before.

We still worshiped our idols. At that time, in order to earn some money for my family, I traveled to a distant city and would stay for a few days loading and unloading trucks. They paid us each day, and each day I would get drunk and spend most of my money. I also smoked cigarettes, chewed khat, and slept with prostitutes. Then I would go back home to my family and my church."

"I was the leader of the church. Because of that, I

continued on page 8

Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

President's Perspective

I once said, "I can serve the Lord anywhere!" And only a few months later I was eating crow.

Let me first begin my personal testimony by referring to Acts 16:6-7 which says, "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."

I have often wondered about this passage of scripture. Just before these verses, the Bible tells us that Paul and his missionary companions were traveling throughout modern Turkey preaching the gospel with great success. Many were coming to know the Lord through their efforts. Clearly God's hand was upon their Kingdom work!

But when they attempted to open a new missionary endeavor where the Gospel had not been preached, the Lord stopped them. They attempted to go in

three different directions but the Lord blocked them from going. I can imagine their confusion. Surely sharing the good news of Jesus was always God's will! Surely, entering a new area to preach Jesus to lost souls was worthy

Linda and I now fondly call our one-year tenure at this small church, our 40 years in the wilderness experience! Because, boy howdy, it really seemed like 40 years to us!"

of God's blessing! Why would the Spirit stop them? After so much success on their missionary journey with many saved and churches started, why would the Lord hinder their progress? Simply put, it was not God's will! He had a completely different and better plan than what Paul and his friends could imagine. The Lord was about to open Europe to the gospel and they were to be his faithful witnesses! Paul accepted the "Macedonian call" and the doors for a new mission field swung open.

Now, back to my eating crow. My story begins shortly after I placed my faith in Jesus Christ and became a Christian while in high school. I felt the Lord's calling on my life to enter the ministry. During my senior year the Lord was drawing me toward the military chaplaincy. I became en-

thralled by the idea and was willing to enter the chaplaincy immediately! However, after contacting the various military branches, I soon learned I fell well short of the many requirements necessary for becoming a military chap-

lain. Some requirements included a four-year undergraduate degree followed by a three-year Master of Divinity degree. I had run into a serious barrier and I put the idea of the chaplaincy away for future reference.

So, off to an unaccredited Bible college I went. As I was finishing my senior year in college I again checking into the requirements for the chaplaincy. I thought that maybe I read them wrong or that the standards had changed. I was disappointed to learn that they had not. I had become burned out from full time work and full time schooling with part time ministry. I felt I was fully and biblically equipped to serve as a chaplain or in any ministry field and any institution that thought differently was crazy. I decided I did not need any more Bible

education... "After all," I thought, "I can serve the Lord anywhere!" I also thought, "Surely the Lord will bless my efforts to preach the truth of the scriptures wherever I go!" So I took the first ministry opportunity that came along, an assistant pastorate in a small church, in a small Texas town. Linda and I had been married for a couple of years and she had her reservations about my idea, but I ignored her and we moved to Texas.

Linda and I now fondly call our one-year tenure at this small church, our 40 years in the wilderness experience! Because, boy howdy, it really seemed like 40 years to us! We were under intense pressure and our efforts to serve in the ministry there seemed to be completely underappreciated. We were dedicated to the effort, but the Spirit just wasn't cooperating with our hard work. It was then I began to wonder if I had made a mistake. Could it be that we... gulp, were actually out of God's will? How could this be? Was it possible to be faithful in ministry and yet not reap

continued on page 3



Dr. Carson providing the State of the College address at the Church Donor Dinner.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Parking Lot

God just keeps surprising us with blessings! The deteriorating portion of our parking lot has been



Parking lot was recently repaired. A generous donor paid for half of the cost.

repaired for about 40% the original estimate! However, we are in need of \$5000 to match the generous donation that was given toward this project. See adjoining pictures.

Southeastern Baptist College Needs Update

SBC has many infrastructure and equipment needs. We have recently acquired a substantial amount of floor tile and now need it installed. If you possess the talent for this and would like to help, call us at 601-426-6346 (Tue, Wed, Thu).

Church Donor Dinner

We said thank you to all our pastors who encourage their church families to support Southeastern with a church donor dinner on Monday, April 8, 2019 at First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel, Mississippi. We had as our musical guest, Andrew Ishee, a great catered meal, wonderful fellowship, door prizes, and an update by Dr. Carson on the current and future plans for SBC. See pictures of the event.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

SBC will be the host site again for the 2019 Jones County National Day of Prayer Breakfast. The event is on Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 a.m. in the SBC gym. Guest speaker this year is Mitchell Williams, the Southeast Mississippi Multi-Area Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The program is FREE! However, please TEXT your name and the number in your party who are attending with you BEFORE April 25 to 601-498-8832 to reserve your seats. See adjacent flyer for more details.

Summer Courses Offered

SBC is offering a full Summer Session Schedule of both in-classroom and online classes. Classes begin June 3, 2019 (4 weeks inclusive). In addition, high school juniors and seniors can dual enroll for these classes! Registration is open now through May 20. Contact Admissions at 601-426-6346 (Tue, Wed, Thu) today!

On Campus:

- English Comp I & II
- College Algebra
- Art Appreciation
- Doctrinal Books (Meridian Extension)

Online:

- Intro to Computer App
- Biology I
- Minor Prophets
- New Testament Survey

Outdoor Lawn Furniture

Now that the weather is getting better, our students enjoy fellowshiping in the warm air and sunshine. We are in need of outdoor furniture for them. If you have any good used backyard furniture that you could donate to the school, give us a call at 601-426-6346.



Brother Arthur Broadhead speaking to our students with a dinner provided by Big Creek Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi and co-sponsored by SBC.



Dr. Carson providing the State of the College address at the Church Donor Dinner.

Latin American Missions

from front page

differences are much less significant than the similarities. In fact, many of the stories of missions in Latin America would sound familiar to those faithful men and women serving in Asia, Africa, Europe, or North America.

For example, many of our national pastors in Latin America serve in their home town where they minister to their extended family and neighbors they have known for years. In March of this year, Pastor Guido Samudio returned to his hometown of Pasto, Colombia, along with his Guatemalan wife and their two daughters, after serving many years in Guatemala. One of the first conversions recorded after his arrival in Pasto was his younger brother. His parents, even though they have not made professions of faith, are faithful to attend services in the mission. Former schoolmates and old friends

have been extremely receptive to the gospel message, their interest due in part to the transformation they have observed in Brother Guido. How many other missionaries around the globe have returned to their own hometowns to reach out to their relatives and childhood friends?

Most missionaries serving in Latin America are either bi-vocational or completely self-supported.

In Ecuador, Pastor Marco Tamay supports himself with income from his mechanic shop. Garifuna Pastor Cruz Norales, from San Juan, Honduras, besides being an effective preacher and pastor, is also a sought after contractor. And that gives him a source of income in addition to the modest pastoral salary he receives from his congregation. Brother Cesar Lacayo, pastor of a Belizean English-Spanish-Garifuna

congregation, works long hours in construction in order to support his family and be able to minister to a small congregation composed of the poorest of the poor.

But, if any of these men were asked what their profession is, the answer would not be mechanic, contractor, or construction worker; it would be "pastor." The respect they have earned through their sacrificial service is not in the least diminished because they are unable to give all of their time to ministry.

By the end of this year, five nations in Central America (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica) will all have had their own national day of missions.

Although each country has its own individual way of celebrating missions and missionaries, the common thread in all of those celebrations has been the joy over progress being made, souls being saved, new believers being baptized, and new missions being started. Two of the countries, Costa Rica and Guatemala, have their own foreign missionaries serving in Peru and Colombia. A passion for missions is not limited by geography, culture, or language. And it's certainly not limited to the United States.

As they have matured spiritually, our churches of Latin America are assuming responsibility for conducting and financing their own missions efforts. Although Mexico and Brazil have had national associations for many years, other fields are just beginning to organize their own national associations. They are grappling with limited budgets, the responsibility of missions supervision, and leadership training. Does any of that sound familiar?

But the clearest evidence of our united vision of "One Lord, One Faith, One Mission" is on full display when congregations all over Latin America and the world come together to worship.

Yes, there will be some obvious differences: musical instruments and their volume during worship services will vary. Some congregations will feel more comfortable sitting on the floor, while others prefer chairs or pews. Appropriate Sunday attire will range from modest shorts to suits and ties. But, when the preacher or missionary stands in the pulpit with a Bible in his hand and "rightly divides the word of truth," the differences fade away and we are reminded once again of what unites us—One Lord, One Faith, One Mission.

Southeastern College

from page 2

God's blessings for the work performed?

After much prayer, and the Lord repeatedly reminding me of the military chaplaincy, I decided to test the Lord. Yes, I know, we are not supposed to do that. But Gideon did and he received clear guidance through his asking the Lord for clarity in his mission.

I prayed to God that if it was truly His will for me to become a military chaplain that He needed to do five things:

First, He had to have my Master's work completely paid... and at the time we were completely broke.

Second, He had to find me a seminary that would accept my unaccredited undergraduate credits without any make up work.

Third, He needed to find me a Master's program that I could complete in two years instead of the normal three years.

Fourth, He had to find me a church

God just smiled at my lack of faith and thought, "That's all?"

To make a short story, even shorter, within two days, the Master's program was paid in full. Within a week I was accepted in an accredited Master Divinity program and met with the BMAA endorser. Within two weeks we moved to the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, where I began my two-year full-time quest to earn the necessary three-year degree. Within three months I was pastoring a BMA church in Corsicana, Texas, and in February, 1986, I was sworn in as an Army chaplain.



Brother Shane Singleton provides a devotion during the dinner provided to SBC students by Parkview Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi

There was a tremendous amount of work to be done, but when a person follows God's plan for his life, all things are possible! And though qualifying for the chaplaincy was not an easy path, it was a wonderful blessing to have the knowledge that we were completely in God's will!

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson



A newly formed Christian music group, "Pure Worship", performs in chapel to pastor for two years, as being the senior pastor of a church was a military prerequisite for becoming a chaplain.

Fifth, He needed to link me up with an endorsing agent who would be willing to endorse me into the military chaplaincy.

I think I ended my prayer with, "Good luck with that!" I'm pretty sure

2019
National Day of Prayer
Breakfast

May 2, 2019 **FREE!** **7:30 a.m.**

Southeastern Baptist College Gym
4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440

Keynote Speaker: Mitchell Williams
Multi-Area Director Southeast MS
The Fellowship of Christian Athletes

RSVP how many are coming in your party
By **TEXTING** (601-498-8832)
(but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)

New Outreach From LifeWord

We've been talking about it for a while now, and it finally happened on March 28th...the taping of the pilot for an Instagram show called The Table.

In 2017 Executive Director Donny Parrish began to formulate the idea for a way to speak into the lives of college students and millennials about absolute truth.



He says that, "Lifeword is determined to follow God's leading. In America and most of the world, the people we want to reach are living on the Internet. For the majority of their day, they're looking at smart phone screens for information. For college-age kids, we want them to know that there IS absolute truth and the Bible is where they can find it. If they're on social media like Instagram, that's where Lifeword wants to be."

Moral relativism, the belief that everyone's beliefs are acceptable despite the morality of them, has permeated modern society. Lifeword's goal for this one-minute show is to let students know that the alternative, absolute truth, is valid and can be found in God's Word.

To tape the pilot, the table was set up in the middle of the Central Baptist College campus, and students were interviewed about their opinions on trending topics like abortion and living together before marriage. As BMA Productions got their equipment ready, curious students asked what was going on, then signed consent forms agreeing to answer questions from Director of Internet Broadcasting and Digital Strategy Jon Dodson.

Their answers were very interesting: Some students said that anything is permissible depending on one's own beliefs and opinions; others turned immediately to biblical truths.

Four groups of students were interviewed and taped, then the responses will be edited to one-minute videos with scripture passages explaining what God's Word says on the topic.

Jon said, "@Lifewordmedia now has over 11,000 followers and growing on Instagram. Stats tell us that sixty percent of Instagram users are 18-24 years old. That means in 2018 there were roughly 63 million college-age users on Instagram in the United States alone.

"The average Instagram user spends an average of 53 minutes daily on their phone in this app. Lifeword will soon be communicating the absolute truths of the Bible through relevant conversations at The Table with a huge new audience.

"We are asking people to pray with us for this new media venture. We are looking forward with great expectation to the ministry God has for Lifeword on Instagram and beyond."

The Table will visit more college campuses throughout the Spring and Summer months with the show's debut in August or September. Please join us we pray for changed lives in this critical age group through this initiative.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

DISTRESSED JEANS

I can have enough fun to last a month just going to the mall and sitting and watching people and what they wear. One of the funniest sights is the "distressed" jeans that people wear. Not just kids but adults.

It always brings to my mind the story about my friend whose granddaughter bought a pair of those holey jeans a few years ago and they were too long so you know what granddaughters do when they need something sewed. They don't know how to sew so they carry it to Grandma. Well, Grandma said, "Sure, I can hem them up."

When the granddaughter went back to get them later, Grandma had not only hemmed them up but she had patched all the holes! Grandmas have patched holes all their lives!

This grandma is in the local Nursing Home now and has lost some of her cognitive skills, but when this story was told in her presence a short time ago, a big smile came over her face!

There are instructions for "patching" in the Bible. Go read Mark 3:21



2019 Senior Adult Conference

At
First Baptist Church
Mantachie, Mississippi

Tuesday May 14, 2019 - Registration: 9:00 am

Program: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cost: \$15 per person - Lunch included.

Preaching, great gospel singing,
door prizes.

All area churches are invited to attend. Please call the church office at (662)282-7425 as to how many will be attending.

Rocky Branch to Host Missions Luncheon

Ladies, you are invited to join us for lunch and to hear missionary Alicia Ramshur Samson speak on Saturday, May 4th at 11:00 am at Rocky Branch Baptist Church. Please RSVP to Judy Riley 601-270-4301. A love offering will be taken.

Meridian Church to Host Lefevre Quartet

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian, Mississippi (just north of Hardee's) will host The Lefevre Quartet in concert on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

Homecoming Bible Baptist Bible Baptist Church of Overt,

Mississippi, will celebrate her 40 years of ministry with a Homecoming service on Sunday, April 28. The morning service begins at 11:00 a.m. and all are invited to attend.

Pastor Darnell Minyard

Gospel Sing at Lebanon Church, Laurel

On Saturday night June 1, 2019, Lebanon Baptist Church will host a gospel sing featuring The Magnolia Boys and Foxfire,



Magnolia Boys

a bluegrass group from Bay Springs. We want to invite everyone to come and enjoy a night of great music. Plan on coming and enjoy a night of wonderful singing and music.

Missionaries to be Home on Leave

Danny and Rita Ballard, missionaries to the Philippines, will be home on furlough from



Danny and Rita Ballard

August through mid October. Churches wishing them to come by and share their ministry while home may schedule a visit may contact them by email me at ballardsphilippines@gmail.com.

Available Ministry Positions

Church Seeks Pastor

Campground Missionary Baptist Church located in Harrison County, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. If you feel led to pursue this opportunity please Email resumes to southernirrigation@att.net or contact Alan Sullivan at 228-860-8740.

Church Seeking pastor

Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church located in Itawamba County, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. E-mail resumes to kelbycomer18@hotmail.com or by regular mail to 1400 Greenwood Church Rd. Fulton, MS 38843.

Church Seeking pastor

Hopewell Baptist Church of Fulton, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. If you feel led to pursue this position please send a resume to Johnny Mann, 750 Chester Shumpert Road, Fulton, MS 38843 or email to jrman1951@yahoo.com.

Music Minister Sought

Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, Mississippi, is looking for a music minister. Resumes can be sent to vardamanstreetba@bellsouth.net.

Mississippi Baptist

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USPS 353-960
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
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 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

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI
**Missions Department &
 Revolving Loan Fund**



Larry Geraldson
 Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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Jason and Kylie
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Estuardo &
 Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia
 DuVall

Continued from front page

with the hope of bringing them to Christ. They have answered a special call to step out of their comfort zone and do something unusual. Missionaries and their families are special people!

Christ is special! It is His church, His message, His work, His Kingdom. "Blessed is the King..."

Wouldn't it be special if we decided to do some special things during this time of Special Emphasis? Here are a few suggestions: 1. Have special prayer for a different State Missionary each week. 2. Send cards of encouragement, make phone calls to uplift, or just do some act of kindness on purpose, to let your missionaries know you love them. 3. Host a missions' event and invite a missionary to attend. Sunday evenings are always good. 4. Visit a missionary on the field. While he may not have all the bells and whistles that you are used to at your established church, he can surely acquaint you with the challenges he is facing. 5. Do something special for the missionary's family.

All of these are great ideas that your

church can do in addition to taking up a special offering for State Missions.

Missions and Evangelism Conference

We had a wonderful conference this year. The attendance was a little off from previous years, but the quality of messages was tremendous. Each speaker did a great job and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. I want to



During the Missions conference luncheon Bro. & Mrs. Geraldson recognized Kim Parker for years of service to the Missions and RLF Department

express my appreciation to Midway First Baptist for the fine job they did hosting the event. Well done! In 2020,

we are going to explore moving this event to the Fall, possibly in the first week of November. The Spring seems to be a very full time and we often find ourselves unwittingly competing for time and attention. Future events will include reports from our Mississippi based foreign missionaries either directly or through a Foreign Missions Liaison. I will be announcing soon the name of a person who has agreed to serve as a volunteer in the role of Foreign Missions Liaison. This person will help us keep our churches informed about the work of our Mississippi based foreign missionaries.

Missions Update

God continues to bless our ongoing mission work. Our two newest missions, Salt Light at Waveland and Canaan Mission at Waynesboro are off to a great start. Services are being held and attendance is growing. Renovation on Redemption's newly purchased building is underway. We look forward to getting them in their new facility soon. We continue to get good reports from Bro. Pollock at Midway in Batesville and Bro. Estuardo

Marroquin says the Hispanic work is doing great. Bro. DuVall and I will be meeting with a new prospect in the greater Jackson area soon. Please keep this in your prayers. Bro. Farmer continues to do a great job coaching and training our missionaries in discipleship.

Church Ministries

Soon, we will be making some announcements about initiatives that we are developing, to help our established churches. We are working on several areas of focus. I just believe there is more that we can do and since Church Ministries is an area of responsibility assigned to the Missions Department by our Association, though previously unfunded and unstaffed and unstructured, I think we can bring life to this vital area of ministry.

May Meetings

In May, we will be attending the BMA of America meeting in Northwest Arkansas and the Mid-Year meeting of the BMA of Mississippi at East Amory. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel.

Photos from Missions & Evangelistic Conference



Left - Host pastor Blake McCain bringing final message

Those attending the Missions Conference sharing their appreciation to the conference speakers



Three of the state missionaries reported during lunch

Worshipful music, inspirational messages and good fellowship highlighted the day



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
 DWIGHT LINDSEY - DIRECTOR



DWIGHT LINDSEY

Fostering Faith... ...in working together:

We have a new project opportunity for those who would like to be a little more involved with the Home. We are inviting individuals, families, Sunday School Classes, and churches to adopt a room to renovate. We have ten rooms available in this phase of renovation. We have varying degrees of renovations. Some rooms could use woodwork in window seals, patched sheet rock,

and flooring. Other rooms are much less demanding on handyman skills. We are asking for at least paint, blinds, rug, and at least one scripture on the wall in every room. For more details on selecting a room or setting up a time to come and work give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Lord told Moses in Exodus 25:2 "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering." I hope we all can see the purpose in our giving and the hand of the Lord in action as we serve him. I don't see a crack in the dam yet, but I feel like I can see some water seeping through. I have too many things to share to keep this article concise. All I can say is stay tuned and keep praying!

Thank you to those who have given above your norm to help with our insurance burden. We have not reached the mark, but with your help we can. Continue to pray with us over potential children, priorities, projects, and provisions. Please contact us if you would like for us to come to your church in May, June, or beyond. Contact the office at 601-426-3928, our Facebook page, or my cell phone at 662-605-0996.



Photo above shows work on rooms and below shows the finished product



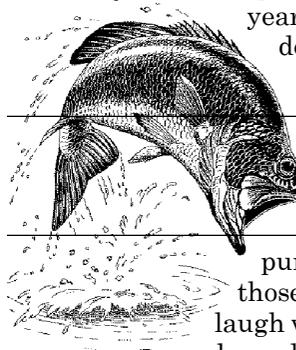
From The Mind of Chuck Lee Finicky Fish

Hollywood has nothing on the common largemouth bass when it comes to fickleness in fashion. The latest, greatest, new, can't afford to be without clothes of this season, are discarded with impunity the next year as not being worthy of even the scantest attention (scantest being the operative word). The largemouth bass is just as discriminatory when it chooses the lure that it will decide to find palatable to its taste as each year comes and goes.

As a teenager, my buddies and I would fish in ponds on one of our friend's property. His dad owned a sand and gravel pit company and the places where they had dug years ago left the perfect places for ponds to develop. I'm not sure where the fish came



Bro. Chuck Lee



from, whether they came in when the Amite River flooded or caught rides on the legs of birds traveling from pond to pond. All that didn't matter much to us. All that mattered was that we could go in there and catch plenty of bass and sac a lait every time we fished.

Our go-to lures were a black with blue tail worm, or a purple with a fire tail worm. The popular bass thought those baits were all the rage back then. They would laugh and laugh when one of their fish buddies were caught on any other color, calling them "guppy", or "carp" or "shoe pick" or some other fish form of slander. We really didn't care what colors we caught them on, as long as they ended up in the frying pan at the end of the day.

For a few years, those were the only colors we could consistently catch the bass with and then they decided they didn't like those colors as much anymore. We started having to use watermelon seed and tequila sunrise as those began to be the flavor of the day. Then the bass only wanted red shad or plum. Then they wanted worms with legs. Then they wanted the worms to be fished wacky style. It's amazing that lure manufacturers were able to keep up with all the different trends of the largemouth bass, but they were able to fill our tackle boxes with the latest and greatest baits each and every year.

Now that I think about it, these lure manufacturers may just be really good at convincing us that bass are finicky when it comes to the shape and colors that bass prefer in order to keep dangling the idea before our eyes so that we will keep purchasing the latest and greatest they have to offer. Surely not! Surely they would not dally with our vanities just to sell us more products. Either way, I'm going fishing. Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

Notes From Jude

by Tony Cleaver

The words of Jude: "...a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James..." Jude 1 "...To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ."

It doesn't get any better than this! That's the expression spoken freely when some event takes center stage in delight or importance or happy exhilaration: Well, this is that kind of time when it does not get any better than this for Christians! Look at the three points this verse brings to the front of consideration.

The first point is the Christian is called. Christianity is no accident. It takes the merciful miracle of mighty grace in one's heart. The second point is the Christian is loved by God the

Father. Only when there is a great God can there be a great love. The third point for the Christian is this: you don't have to "keep yourself saved?" You are being kept for Jesus Christ by the very Father who sent His Son on the mission to redeem you.

Let's say this aloud, together, and at the top of our voice again: "It doesn't get any better than this because ...To those who are called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ."

Jude 24 "Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen."

This passage is used many times as a benediction. It could also be read as a triumphant shout of Christians in exaltation to the glory of Jesus! There is no stumbling in Him. Sure the Christian makes mistakes, but does not stumble out of grace for he/she is made to stand in His presence.

How shall the Christian stand? The Christian shall stand without blemish

Gospel Music's Russ Taff At BMA National Meeting

Winner of 6 Grammys, 18 GMA Dove Awards, and inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame, Russ Taff has been hailed by Billboard magazine as, "The single most electrifying voice of Christian music." His success stemmed from his stints with bands such as the Imperials, the Gaither Vocal Band, and many solo ventures. Russ Taff will be sharing his music and his testimony at the BMA National Meeting on Wednesday,

May 8 at 3:30 pm.

and with great joy. This verse offers to our Lord several things: glory (magnificent grandeur), majesty (impressiveness off the scale), power (supremacy of command), and authority (appropriate right). Jude concludes that all this be acknowledged to Jesus in eternity past, now in this era we call time, and in eternity future-what we call forever.

All Christians can go to bed tonight with this thought to sleep well, or each and every Christian can face any hellish day of unsolvable and complicated problems with this on their lips to shout in praise!

A recent movie made about the life of Russ Taff, "I Still Believe," traces his iconic four-decade career, as well as the childhood trauma he suffered at the hands of an alcoholic father and abusive mother. Unable to overcome this shame for many years, Taff himself turned to alcohol, distancing his family, threatening his career and jeopardizing his life. "I Still Believe" also shines an important spotlight on Taff's wife of 42 years, Tori. Her tough love, fervent prayers and unflinching devotion helped her husband find freedom from his past through God's mercy.



Come and be blessed by gospel music's greatest voices and the story of a life redeemed by God's grace.



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

Exciting Days in the Philippines

by Stan & Donna Scroggins

Exciting things are going on at the BMA Bible College in the Philippines.

After two and half years we've seemed to have acclimated to our new life here. Right now, it is the dry season, no rain for over 10 weeks, so a great time to have a "Gary, Texas" experience 8000 miles away.

This week close to 700 campers have converged on our campus. For five days students and leaders are living in tents, cooking their own food and enjoying games, contest and preaching. Our college students get a week off from classes to help with teaching, music and games. At the same time seven men from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi have joined us to help with our continued efforts to improve our campus buildings. They will also lead in speaking to the campers and youth discipleship classes as well as visiting our mountain church plant in Ahgu.

Last month we welcomed Dr. Ralph Izard and the BMMI team which provided care in a local village. Because of their medical mission work in Barangay 15 we've been invited to start an adult



Large camp crowd at Philippine Bible College

Bible study and a children's story time. Next month EIM will be here to help us with VBS focusing on a new church planting mission there. Pray for Genesis Faith Merano, our new missionary to Barangay 15 in the city of Talisay,

Negros Occidental.

Please remember all our Philippine missionaries: Don Newsom, Doug &



Team from Bethel Church, Fulton



New Bible study beginning

Diane Lee, Danny & Rita Ballard, Sam & Dawn Freeman, Jimmy & Julie Walker, Alisha & Cris Samson. As always thank you. Your prayers sustain us every step of the way.

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden
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2019 GMA Retreat a Great Success

by Jessica Hayden

Girls Retreat 2019 was an awesome time filled with blessings from God. We had 122 registered campers with 2 new churches. Our guest speakers were Cris and Alicia Samson, our national missionaries to the Philippines. Cris and Alicia spoke with the girls about their mission work in the Philippines and the importance of being obedient to God.



Our girls were able to get a little 'hands on' experience with mission work by making about 200 snack bags, with hand written prayers from the girls, for 'Just the Crumbs' disaster relief ministry.



The girls enjoyed making bath bombs, having their nails done, and lots of silly games. A beautiful service on Friday night honoring all of the hard work the girls

put into the GMA program was a new addition to our Queen's Coronation Service. We had a ceremony recognizing our new Junior Miss GMA, Sadie Walley, on Friday night.

We raised \$1,673.95 for our 2018-2019 project, Bro. Carl Sookraj. Our 2019/2020 project will be Moral Action and Cris and Alicia Samson. Our 2020 Camp will be March 20-21 at Camp Garaywa. Our Theme for camp is "Lay Your Burdens Down" Matt. 11:28-30.



Missions Special Emphasis

1.4 Million Unsaved or Unchurched

In

Mississippi

April & May

National Brotherhood Annual Meeting

Richey Hester-Brotherhood Editor & Promoter

The National Brotherhood will be meeting for their annual meeting at the National BMA meeting in Rogers, Arkansas. The meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Tuesday May 7, 2019 in Grand Ball Room 7 at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center. Our speaker will be named later. We ask that all of our BMA men attend this meeting to see how Brotherhood is needed in all of our churches.

The Board of Trustees of the National Brotherhood will meet at 5:30 PM on Monday May 6, 2019 in Grand Ball Room 7.

May God Bless your travels and hope to see you there.



EIM Sends Out Praise and Thanks!

by Fonda Norris - EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ Coordinator

Over 15,000 Shepherd's Bags left EIM's storage warehouse last week! Will you say "AMEN!" with us? Bro. Tim Tyler, Director of 'Water For Christ Ministry' came with his truck and they were loaded bound for Ghana, West Africa. EIM is partnering with WFC to combine our shipment with theirs in order to allow these bags to be sent to Bro. Moses Adjekwei, our EIM Director in Ghana. These bags will be used to open doors to allow the Gospel of Christ to be preached in many villages and schools.

We praise the Lord for allowing EIM to use the Shepherd Bags in preaching the Gospel around the world and pray He gets ALL the glory. Heaven will be richer! A very special thank you to WFC's Tim Tyler and Luke Ryan for driving to Warren to get the bags as well as help Bro. Rocky, and the workers to load the container. And we especially thank all the churches and individuals who support and give so faithfully that we can continue making Shepherd's Bags to bless children with a gift that contains the Plan of Salvation in their heart language. Many of these children have never received gifts. As a little girl in Ghana overcome with tears said to her father after receiving a Shepherd's Bag, "I have never received anything so nice." As we've said many times before, those who give, pray and help us in this wonderful children's ministry really are EIM's Partners in sharing the love of Jesus. YOU are dear to our heart!

Here is our latest 2019 Update: Since we assemble bags year around, we are already working on our next shipment of Shepherd's Bags. This shipment will be going the Philippines to be used in evangelism and ministry there. The total cost of making one unisex Shepherd's Bag and shipping it overseas is only \$7.00. That's \$6.00 for the supplies and \$1.00 to cover shipment costs. Each bag is identical and all children receive the same items. That's less than most fast food meals. Statistics say for each three bags given, one person comes to know Christ. I'd like to think it's the gift that keeps on giving and pray even more come to saving faith!

If you'd be interested in learning more about EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ we'd love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have at 870-226-3626, email us at fnorris@eimworldwide.org or you can find more information online at our website at: www.eimworldwide.org "our ministries" link.

Churches Planting Churches in Africa

from front page

started reading my Bible and God began to convict me. I knew that what I was doing was not right, something was wrong with me. One night, that conviction was so great I could not sleep. I read the Bible, page after page, and then I came to that place in Corinthians. These words just jumped out at me!"

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. —I Corinthians 6:9-11

"I fell down on my knees and cried out to God, and I prayed the words of that verse I had just read, 'Oh, God, wash me, cleanse me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by your Spirit.' And he did save me by his grace."

John concludes his personal testimony: "I was changed from that moment on. I prayed every day, I read the Bible with more understanding and I preached repentance from sin. I saw the gospel triumph in the lives of many others; we turned from our idols, and from that day on I never

drank another drop of liquor, never smoked another cigarette, never chewed, and was never again unfaithful to my wife."

Good News

Joseph Eniowo is taking those first steps of planting a new church in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria. This is part of the missionary effort of the New Beginnings Baptist Church in Accra, Ghana, in partnership with Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America Missions. It is just one of many examples of 'Churches Planting Churches', a plan for starting new churches we are working hard to help implement in West Africa.

Joseph writes about the new work - "First, I wish to inform you about our new converts; the Lord Jesus has opened the hearts of five people to the gospel and they have become part of our fellowship. The number is still growing. Some of the parents of children who attend have shown interest in joining us. Second, let me tell you about Children Evangelism. I have reached out to some parents in my neighborhood introducing them and their children to the Mailbox Explorer Club (ages 5-12), and the response has been so amazing because parents are ever willing to release their kids. I believe the number shall grow within a short time. Third, we are also needing a new Bible study venue. Pray that the Lord will guide us in that."

BMMI Ministers in Philippines

by Sam Freeman

The BMMI team arrived on March 6 and immediately jumped into ministry mode. It was amazing to observe these medical professionals giving of themselves to ease the pain and provide much needed medicine to everyone that came for a check up at the various locations all over Negros Island. For four days the team ministered on the Oriental side of our island seeing approximately 1,100 patients.

I know I speak for all our involved BMAP Oriental pastors when I say a very heartfelt, thanks! All of you were



truly a blessing! Not only were physical needs met, but many decisions were made by those ministered to, to seek a spiritual cure for their sin sickness from the Great Physician! Please pray for our local pastors as they follow up with all the ones who came to the medical clinics.

The Master's Builder's work at Daniel Springs

by Nelda Malone, reporter

On March 4th, the Master's Builders began work at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas. Camp Director, Jason Prewitt, had several projects for the Builders to work on during our two weeks there. In the Daniel Dorm and Retreat Center, we were to: build privacy dressing areas for each shower and build larger stalls for restrooms in the sleeping areas, build stalls for the men's and women's restrooms in the large gathering area, run more wire so more outlets could be added in the kitchen counter area and an outlet for a new ice machine. In the Office/Bookstore area, they built a 20 X 20 addition onto the existing bookstore, put in a window and put tin up on it. They repaired the roofs on two cabins that trees fell on during a storm several months back. They put lavatories and counters in #9 cabin. We tried to do any odds and ends that Jason felt needed addressing.

A big Thank You to Jason for all his hard work at the camp.

Bethel Baptist, at Clayton, needed help with putting a cover over a side entry door to the auditorium and several of our men worked on this one day.

If you have any questions about the Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has any building needs, please contact Office Coordinator John Mangum at (318)-202-5155 or cell (318)-607-4100; or our Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at (903)-725-6549 for cell (479)462-1675.

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Together, Let's Bring Them Home!

Mississippi Missions
Special Emphasis



Will you help us reach them?