

Mississippi Baptist

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Reentering Pastorate

International Missions Director Resigns

from BMAA Missions

After serving as International Missions Director for four years, Eric Johnson recently announced his resignation effective in mid-May. Johnson accepted the role after Phil Knott left the position in May of 2017.

He and his family are returning to Texas where he will be lead pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. Born and raised in Mexico to a missionary family, Eric later served there with his wife Kelly and three children. They returned to the States when First Baptist Church called Eric to pastor their Hispanic congregation, which he did until assuming the international director role.



Missions Executive Director John David Smith says, "We are profoundly grateful to Bro. Eric for his self-sacrificial approach to leading BMA international missions these past four years. His love for the Lord and his loyalty to our association of churches are unquestioned. We pray God's richest blessings on Bro. Eric, Kelly, Audrey, Matty, and Abram as they begin their ministry at FBC Jacksonville, Texas, and we look forward to Bro. Eric maintaining a small role with BMA Global Missions. Thank you, Bro. Eric, for your ministry and leadership."

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

"Don't Bunch Up"

Seems I heard these words a million times during the early days of my military training. I learned later, for a good reason. With the COVID-19 raging, we use the words "social distancing" - meaning the same thing, don't bunch up.

It is difficult to even think about calling our seniors together in our conferences due to the danger of the virus. We do have two churches on the waiting list to host our next conferences and I am anxious to see our seniors come together again, but we are trying to use wisdom and not put our seniors in a dangerous situation.

We are looking at the Spring of 2022, March and May, as possibilities. We will just have to wait and see.

In the meantime, our support for this ministry remains good and we do thank you for supporting this ministry.

Just as soon as it seems safe, we will let you know, but at the present we do not want to "bunch up".

Thank you and God Bless.

Special Emphasis for State Missions

by Larry Geraldson, Director of Missions

Our special emphasis is from April to May. We have prepared some promotional videos for our churches to use for promotion. These videos can be downloaded directly from our website at bmams.org. Just scroll down on the home page and follow the instructions for downloading. If you have any difficulty, please give us a call at 601-428-8616.

Organizations & Ordination

April 24, 2021, *Redemption Baptist Mission* of Diamondhead will be organizing as a New Testament Church. The service will begin at 2pm. Campground Baptist Church is

the mother church. Bro. Wesley Martin is the Missionary Pastor.

May 1, 2021, Bro. Leo Adan, missionary at *El Camino in*

Hattiesburg, will be ordained into the gospel ministry at Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. The service will begin at 2pm.

July 10, 2021, *El Camino Baptist Mission of Hattiesburg*, meeting at the Westover Baptist Church, will organize as a New Testament Church. El



Geraldson

Camino Baptist Church in Laurel is the mother church. The service will begin at 2pm.

Praying for New Missionaries

We have one person who is filling out an application, but we are praying that God will give us additional men to go and plant churches. Please join us in praying about this. We have 35 locations where we could be planting churches, if we had the men and the resources to do so. May God help us with this task.

Continues on Page 3

Lessons From Covid and Losing the Sense of Taste

by Melody Turner
from Lifeword

There's nothing better than a hot cup of coffee in the morning.

The smell, the smooth taste, and the feeling that your brain is slowly waking up all contribute towards the start of a good day.

Without coffee . . . a day can be miserable.

It's harder to think, and for a caffeine-aholic like me, headaches can ensue. If I had to choose a day without food or a day without coffee - I'd choose food.

When COVID-19 arrived on my doorstep, the most tragic symptom for me was the loss of taste.

Coffee didn't taste the same. Coffee didn't even taste delightful.

For a month, I'd try a cup of coffee every few days hoping for it to taste normal again.

It was a long month. I substituted coffee for hot peppermint tea, but it wasn't the same. It wasn't as effective.

On the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave a similar metaphor

- he compared his followers to salt.

He said, "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."

Back in the day, salt was a valuable commodity. It was worth its weight in gold as sometimes Roman soldiers were paid for their services with it - if they were worth their salt.

So Christ followers are a valuable commodity. But what happens if we lose our saltiness?

The same thing that happens to the coffee that is tasteless because of COVID-19: It's worthless and ineffective.

Without being seasoned in salt or exuding the character traits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, and faithfulness), we are not effective in sharing the gospel.

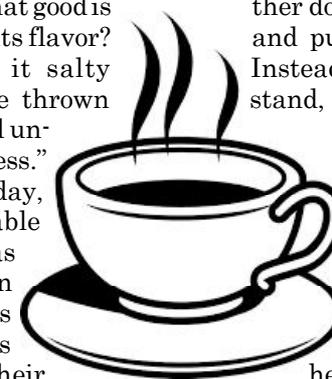
Jesus continued, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Every time I read that verse; I think of the song "This Little Light of Mine":

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel - no! I'm gonna let it shine. Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"

When we have accepted the payment of sin from our Lord Jesus Christ and have committed

see LESSONS on page 2



Mississippi Baptist

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Our Empathizing High Priest

by Corbey Jones
Assistant Editor

Webster defines sympathy as an affinity, association, or relationship between persons or things wherein whatever affects one similarly affects the other. Webster defines empathy as the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present - also, the capacity for this. Consequently almost anyone has the capacity to sympathize with the suffering of their fellow man, except those whose conscience has been seared over, but it requires the

same or similar past experience to empathize with a person.

The writer of Hebrews, chapter four and verse fifteen says; "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Jesus doesn't just sympathize with your pain, he is able to empathize with you, whatever you are going through because he has faced it himself. What's truly amazing is that he can suffer with you and celebrate



Corbey Jones
Asst. Editor

with another of his children, a thousand miles away, at the same time. We sometimes can't suffer or celebrate without it turning into sin and rebellion but for him it never does.

Mother's Day this year will mark forty years in the ministry for me. I pastored twelve years before I was truly able to empathize with those who lost close family members. I officiated multiple funerals during that time and each time it broke my heart to see people that I loved and cared about suffer the loss of a close loved one. Yet it wasn't until 1993, when my grandmother died that I could really feel and understand what it was to lose someone who was

that close to my heart. Since then I have lost my dad in 2000, my mom's parents in 2004, my father-in-law in 2016, and the hardest of all, my son Andrew on January first of this year, two and a half months ago. Cindy and I know so many of you have been praying for us and our family and we thank you and ask that you don't stop. Until '93' I could only feel sympathy for those families but now I truly join them in their pain.

It makes me think of Jesus in John chapter eleven. He was walking with Mary and Martha and the Bethany townsfolk, who loved Lazarus to the grave. He saw their tears, heard their cries, and deeply felt their grief. Jesus wept, not for Lazarus, whom the scripture says he

loved, but for his sisters and friends because he empathized with them. He knew he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, showing the glory of the Son of God. He shed tears because their broken hearts broke his heart, but he rejoiced with them at their loved ones resurrection.

I am learning something more and more every day. My savior understands my grief and feels it even more strongly than I do. He knew what it was to lose an earthly family member, (Joseph and John the Baptist) but he feels deeply our pain as he does our joy. Our high priest can empathize with all who are his children. This encourages us to seek every avenue to turn to God in times of grief and joy.

In buckle of Bible Belt, church called 'high-risk' activity

OneNewsNow - A public policy analyst has something to say about new COVID-19-related guidance in Mississippi for worship services and faith-based gatherings.

"I was a little surprised to see this guidance put out by the Mississippi Department of Health which calls singing in church 'high-risk' activity," says Walker

Wildmon, vice president of American Family Association. "The guidance goes on to say that even people who are fully vaccinated against corona virus should still be wearing a mask at all times in churches and social distancing."

For months now, Wildmon points out, people have falsely viewed going to church and gathering for religious purposes as somehow more risky and more dangerous than going to Walmart.

That, he says, is simply not the case. "The government, even the Mississippi Department of Health, has been pitching the vaccine as the way out of the pandemic. But the problem is they are pushing the vaccine as a way out of the pandemic, which I think we can all agree it is the way out of the pandemic, but then at the same time they're telling people who are fully vaccinated that you have to social distance, you have to wear a mask,"

says Wildmon. "And they're even recommending that you not have church services indoors."

"You can't tout the vaccine as the path out of this pandemic yet turn around and tell fully vaccinated people to put their masks on, stay six feet apart, and not sing at church," he writes in the op-ed. "I recommend picking the vaccine as the path out of this pandemic as opposed to more guidelines and rules."

Position Openings

Gulfport Church Seeks Pastor

Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, is seeking a qualified pastor. Our congregation has a desire to serve with and follow a shepherd led by God. If you feel God is calling you to serve at Campground please send a resume

to southernirrigation@att.net and the pastor search committee will prayerfully reach out to you in confidence.

Our goal at Campground is to serve God and follow his will. We pray for God's blessings on you.

Laurel Church Seeking Pastor

First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those wishing to inquire concerning the church and this position please contact Chairman Paul Welborn at 601-319-6353 or 601-729-8397.

Big Creek Meetings

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA will meet on May 3rd, 2021 at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel at 7:00 p.m.
C.S. Piper

Lessons

from page 1

ted our lives to Him as King over all - He is the light within us.

If we hide our light, no one can see it! How will people find the light or be able to see the truth if we don't shine the light of Jesus in our lives?

Stumbling around in the dark can be dangerous. You can stub a toe, trip, and fall, or not be able to find their way. With light, one can move around a lot more effectively.

So just like that cup of delicious coffee, let's pray that our lives are seasoned with salt and we shine the light of Jesus for all to see.

In love and truth,
Melody

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/
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

Moral Moms

We sense and seek to understand the challenges of mothers. The extra energy, the needed wisdom that all moms need, to guide, to sew, to wash, to cook, to work, to go and go, to love, to teach and train and train. Yes even to feel overlooked, to be frustrated, to be a woman, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a sister, a niece, and etc., etc.!

How many mothers love? Adopted mothers, mothers to be, some with many children, some with no children, and yet mothers to the church children and neighborhood kids are moral and Christian. God sees you and has listened to every heart beat, seen every tear, heard every sigh, and knows your desires as a Christian lady to lift, to care, to help and to be helped.

What do you truly need to be a moral mom?

1. You need to be "born again, "first and foremost."
2. You must have a local church and live for Him there.
3. You have to carry a Bible in hand and heart.



Dr. Adams

Cornerstone Concert

Parkview Baptist Church is excited to welcome Cornerstone, the choir of Southeastern Baptist College, on Sunday, April 25th, at



5:45 p.m. Cornerstone is under the direction of Dr. Meredith Johnson and will be presenting a wonderful concert of traditional, gospel, and contemporary songs of worship in our evening service. We invite you to join us for this special time of worship in song on April 25th at 5:45 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

State Missionaries, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Johnny & Neta
Williams



Scott and Susan
Brocius



Chris & DeeDee
Yager



Daniel & Sherri
Allen



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Continued From Front Page



Promotional Video ready for download at
www.bmams

Sidney Farmer, Sr. Missionary Coach/ Trainer

"The missionary coaching team is continuing the work of training/coaching. Some missionaries have already completed or are nearing completion of the different areas of training. The coaches realize that training and coaching are two separate things which complement each other. We are seeing growth in our church planters as a result of the missionary coaches investing themselves into these guys. Please continue to pray for the entire missionary team as we seek to accomplish the Father's will in our efforts."

Redemption Baptist Mission, Diamondhead, Mississippi

"Greetings from Diamondhead. I hope you are all doing well. There are so many great things going on at the mission. It is an exciting time. We have continued to have great attendance while meeting new families regularly. Recently, the Lord has blessed several of our families with babies. The nursery is now full every week. In light of this, we had a dedication service where seven families dedicated their newborns to the Lord. It was a great day with friends and family. We also were able to have our first Easter service in the



Baby Dedication at Redemption Missions

building. Last year would have been the first, but we were online at the time. It was wonderful to celebrate the resurrection together in the new building.

All these services have proven one thing. We need more room. Week after week our sanctuary is full. I am thankful for all God is doing. We are making plans for a building expansion soon and hope to be able to tell you more in the coming months. In the meantime, we were able to get the brick redone on the front of the building that was damaged from the storm.

Our organization service is scheduled for April 24th at 2pm. We look forward to that day. After we organize into a New Testament church, we will join the ranks of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. I am so thankful for all the churches who have blessed us and prayed for us over the years. It would not have been possible without you. I want to say I sincerely thank you for everything. - Wesley Martin, Missionary Pastor

Daniel Allen, Association Missionary at Redemption Baptist Missions in Diamondhead

I also want to send my greetings to you from Redemption Mission. We are excited to see what God has been doing in and through the mission. As we continue to grow, things have started to get busy around the mission. We had a record day for our Baby Dedication on the 28th of March. Ninety-eight people were in attendance with seven new babies being dedicated. This is the second one that we have done in just a little over a year. Our children's church numbers continue to grow, also. We have established our Grow ministry and our Youth ministry, and they are meeting on a regular basis. We have finalized our Constitution and By-laws in anticipation of our organization date of April 24th. We have been striving to get to this point. I have had the privilege to work with Brother Wesley during this process. I have been meeting with Brother Sidney Farmer over several months for discipleship training and we are reaching the end. I have also started on my next part of training: meeting with Brother Jason Howard for Church Doctrine training. I have also been going and preaching at different churches, when given the opportunity. I have had the opportunity of filling the pulpit at Helton Road Baptist Church in Theodore, AL for the entire month of April. Helton Road is currently without a pastor and is looking for a pastor. Thanks for your continued

support and prayers."

Midway Baptist Mission, Batesville, Mississippi

"Greetings in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. The rewarding work at Midway Baptist Mission continues with enthusiasm. We are finally experiencing an increase in attendance, post-Covid, and spiritual growth is increasingly evident in our people. With renewed vision for the future, members have come to realize that growth in number will only happen if they personally reach out to family, friends, and others in our area.

They are reaching out and we are benefiting from that outreach, giving us great expectations for the coming months. Wednesday evening services have resumed with prayer services and training in the areas of Church Doctrine, Discipleship, and Church Polity. Our folks are eager to learn and are looking forward to organizing as an autonomous New Testament Church. We have not set a date for organization but it will probably be later this year.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. May God bless you in your labors of love and support for Kingdom work and the spread of the Gospel of Christ." - Dr. Kenneth Pollock, D Min Missionary Pastor

Living Hope Baptist Mission, Meridian, Mississippi

"Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." These verses echo the heartfelt thanks that we at Living Hope have for our Association of Churches. Thank you for your willingness to work by faith in the Lord's service



Core Group at Living Hope Baptist Mission in Meridian

with us, and for your patience of hope toward us that you faithfully display as we labor in the field. Your giving, praying, encouraging, and help ministers to me in more ways than I could write. Thank you again for being co-laborers with us in Meridian. The Lord has blessed us greatly /over these past six months.

In March, we opened up membership for the first time, and the Lord brought together a core group of nine families who joined the mission as members. He has also blessed us with another four separate individuals that are attending Living Hope. Over these past two months, we have continued to connect with our community, passing out hundreds and hundreds of flyers, making direct connections with individuals, and continually building relationships. We are presenting Christ and the gospel any time we get a chance but continue to pray that the Lord will give us souls for the harvest.

Our greatest desire is to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Please pray that the Lord will bless as we plant and water with a harvest of souls. Within the mission, the Lord is blessing our discipleship efforts. The majority of our families is committed to discipleship and is excited about going deeper in their faith. Please continue to pray that we will be able to see each attender of Living Hope disciplined to teach others.

We are so blessed to serve the Lord with you! Thank you again for your dedication to seeing this mission planted for the glory of God. We do pray for you, and we are honored to be partnered with you!" - Bro. Chris Yager, Missionary Pastor

Salt Light Baptist Mission, Waveland, Mississippi

"March and April have been really good months so far at Salt Light Baptist Mission. Our attendance has been up above average and we've seen an increase in first time visitors and repeat visitors.

The Lord has also heard our prayers for a piano player who has been a tremendous help and blessing.

Several weeks ago, we were able to do some outreach ministry before the St. Patrick's day Parade in Waveland that was just a couple blocks from the Church property. We had a couple of families stay at the Mission with a table and tent set up letting people park on our property. Each one received a bag with a Bible and tracks,

continues on page 6

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

For this Spring Semester chapel program, I set a message theme for all our visiting guest speakers. The theme is "A Christian World View". It is found in the first line of the Southeastern Baptist College mission statement which reads, "Our mission as a biblical higher education provider is to glorify God by providing quality post-secondary education from a biblical worldview in a Christian atmosphere."

The Lord led me to set this theme after observing a growing anti-biblical movement that has been developing throughout the western world over several decades. The movement has gained great strength in recent years in our beloved homeland of the United States. I have concluded that all things biblical are under direct satanic attack and these attacks are now in full public view and even being perpetrated by many of America's media companies.

The Bible and Christians, who believe in the God inspired and inerrant scriptures, are being portrayed as backward, ignorant, and bigoted

people. Sins that are clearly defined by God Himself, are being redefined as "normal" behavior and anyone who says otherwise is labeled bigoted. This is an insidious worldview that is outside of God's perfect design for the human race and is based upon the teachings of Darwin wherein society's opinion is the highest moral foundation that supersedes even the Word of God. Believers can refer to it as the "Darwinian World View" or the "Secular World View".

Topics I have assigned to guest speakers included:

- Jesus is the One and Only



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Lord

- The Holy and Inspired Word of God

- God's Truth is not Relative but Eternal

- Racism: There is Only One Race, the Human Race Created by God

- Only 2 Genders Created by God

- The Sin of All Forms of Fornication

- Cursing and the Christian

- Honesty and Integrity

- Evolution and the Darwinian World View

- The Importance of Church Attendance

- The Sanctity of Human Life and the Sin of Abortion

- The Christian Work Ethic

As we moved through the semester I wondered how these messages would impact our student body. Although each student must write their personal testimony and secure statements from their pastor and other spiritual leaders before attending SBC, it has become

clear that most of our incoming students lack the very basics of Bible knowledge, but are thoroughly indoctrinated by the Darwinian World View. I know these chapel topics must have sparked intense discussions among our students after each

these comments, we were elated that the Lord is using us to have an eternal impact upon our students! We are all so blessed with having this ministry here at SBC. What a tremendous privilege it is for the Lord to bring into our college family young

"I look forward to the chapel services each week and learning more about a biblical worldview on certain topics of today."

chapel program.

Every semester we are required to distribute a questionnaire that asks students to comment and evaluate each class they participated in. Chapel is one of the classes evaluated as attendance so it is required. Here are some sample student comments regarding chapel for this semester:

"I look forward to the chapel services each week and learning more about a biblical worldview on certain topics of today."

"I loved seeing the different aspects of speakers in chapel. I like that we can talk about things that aren't easy to talk about. Chapel is a good fellowship of young believers."

"The speakers at chapel this semester were phenomenal."

As the staff and I reviewed

people with whom we can share the eternal truth of God's Word, and help them grow in their knowledge and walk with the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the faculty, staff, and students of SBC. We are in need of an immediate housing solution before next semester. We have more students wanting to be part of our school than we have housing. We are actively looking for homes we can purchase or rent near the college to put students in until we can build a new dorm which will have to be in the next couple of years. It's a good problem, but it's still a problem! We know God has the solution. Might He be moving you to help us?

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

After cancelling last year's event due to COVID 19, the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held in the SBC gym. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Leander Bridges, an SBC alumnus and Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, Mississippi, will be this year's guest speaker. See the adjacent notice for more information.

Fast Track Summer Session

SBC will offer a full semester of courses in a shortened format this summer, and at a significantly discounted rate of \$450 per class. That is half price! Dorms are available. Courses are both in classroom and online. You may preregister NOW! Call 601-426-6346 or stop by the college Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes offered are:

- New Testament Survey
- Old Testament Survey
- Evangelism
- Art Appreciation
- Accounting Principles I
- Accounting Principles II
- English Composition I
- World Literature I
- History of the U.S. I
- College Algebra

Equipment Trailer

SBC is in need of a small enclosed trailer for hauling sports equipment and luggage for our athletes during out of town games. Perhaps a church or an individual has a trailer that hasn't been used for a while that can be quickly fixed up and donated to SBC for this need. Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you have a solution for us.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level 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. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon Smile! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC. Be sure to choose Southeastern Baptist College and NOT the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Be sure to choose the correct "Southeastern Baptist College" because numerous organizations have "Southeastern" in their name.

Library Donations

Although we have a continuing need for the purchase of new library books, and we do receive and purchase new books, sometimes we have donors asking to give us a personal library that has been acquired over many years. We greatly appreciate the gesture, however, our library is nearly at full capacity and the receiving of older references can no longer be accepted at this time. Thank you for understanding.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

Thank you Salem Baptist Church of Bay Springs for recently providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach

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

Chargers Baseball

Come out and support the first year of Chargers baseball. They are playing on Wooten-Legion Field, 1215 West Drive in Laurel. Please double check before leaving for the field, the schedule often changes due to weather or Covid 19 issues. There are only two scheduled game-days left in this semester and both are doubleheaders.

- Tuesday, April 20, Chargers v University of Mobile, 2 p.m. immediately followed by second game.

- Saturday, April 24, Chargers v Xavier University, 2 p.m. immediately followed by second game.



Charger baseball players celebrate a win over Tugaloo College

More Southeastern News on Page 5

HELP FOR THE
CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

THE TEACHER'S CORNER

Teaching Tips

by Ricky Williams
Professor of Church Ministries, BMATS

Do you remember the subject of last week's Sunday school lesson? I think it is safe to say that if we cannot remember a lesson, then we probably will not be applying its truths in our lives. What can teachers do to help learners remember their lessons? According to Dr. Duane Elmer, there are three stages of memory: short-term memory, working memory, and long-term memory.

Short-term memory lasts from a few minutes to, at most, a day.

Working memory describes material that is being processed by the learner. This occurs when you disagree with the content, or you summarize, discuss, debate, or apply it.

Long-term memory occurs when the student acts upon the material taught. Applying truths moves them into the long-term memory realm. This realm is where values, beliefs, and foundational truths reside in the brain.

One author indicates that teachers can help learners move information into long-term memory by asking them to respond to two questions. First, "Can you summarize what I just said?" This helps teachers determine if learners understand what has been taught. Second, "Could you give an example of how this information might be useful?" This helps teachers determine if learners understand the relevance of the lesson. These questions also move students from the stages of memory.

Hopefully, these two questions cement the contents of the lesson being taught in the working memory part of the student's brain. Try it. Can you summarize what I just said?



Williams is a former missionary to the country of Mexico and currently a Professor of Church Ministries at BMA Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas

2021 National Day of Prayer Breakfast

May 6, 2021 - FREE! - 7:30 a.m.

Southeastern Baptist College Gym

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Leander Bridges

Senior Pastor
Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

RSVP how many are coming in your party
By **TEXTING** 601-498-8832 by April 26
(but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)



A full house as the Jones County Realty Board meets on campus

Happening on the Campus of Southeastern Baptist College



Bro. Jason Goodwin, pastor of 1st Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, brings a powerful message in chapel on the Sacredness of Human Life.



Academic Dean Walker working with staff on new degree opportunities that we hope to offer students in coming years



Softball Coach Ulmer signs Alyssa Mazingo of Choctaw High School, Gilbertown, AL



Softball Coach Ulmer signs Jasmine Hutchins of West Jones High School, Laurel MS



SBC Board of Trustees having lunch in the Lighthouse Café after a full morning's work



SBC's Cornerstone performs at the Jones County Board of Realtors' meeting

Missions

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cup, pens, and bracelet/face mask all with Salt Light Baptist Church on them. They gave out and met 30 families at the Mission. The rest of us went out to the parade route about 3 hours ahead of time and passed out over 125 of the same bags! We met a lot of families and planted a lot of seeds. We had our biggest crowd of the year on Easter morning and we had 3 first time visitors and several repeat visitors in the Worship service with us. Some of them were folks we had met at the parade. Praise the Lord!



Salt Light Baptist Mission working the St. Patricks Day Parade

Our Wednesday fellowship and Bible study is really becoming a great thing for us at Salt Light. We have been studying on prayer and the Lord has truly blessed us with His presence. I am really enjoying the fellowship time we have together. This morning, Sunday the 11th of April, I showed the Mission the video about special emphasis on State Missions and at the close of the service they decided to give \$500.00

What a privilege to Pastor people who understand the importance of what we are trying to accomplish for the Kingdom of God!

As always, without the help us the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, it would be so much harder. Together we can accomplish much for the Lord! May God bless you!" – Bro. Johnny Williams, Missionary Pastor

Canaan Land Baptist Mission, Buckatunna, Mississippi

"Hello, to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. As I write the update on Canaan Land Baptist Mission, I cannot help but think about the churches that make up our state association and how faithful they have been to help the work.



Core Group at Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna

The faithfulness of your monetary support allows our family to serve as we labor to plant a Bible believing, Bible teaching, Baptist church in Buckatunna. It has also helped reduce the debt accumulated from the purchase of the building. I thank God for allowing us to labor in such a great association. We surely would not be where we are, without your help. Also,

the encouragement and the prayer support that comes from you all, as well, is such a blessing. We are truly thankful for each and every one of you!

We have had a lot going on at Canaan



Singing at Canaan Land Baptist Mission

Land since our last update. Things are continuing to go well at this mission work. We have had to opportunity to have a couple of outreaches. The first was a Chick-Fil-A outreach where the members of the mission were able to serve 90 people in the local community with sandwich bags and drinks. Every bag was equipped with the Gospel message and a church invitation.

Please do pray for the seeds that have been planted. This outreach opened the door to have several meaningful conversations with people in our local community. Also, on March the 6th, Canaan Land was able to host a Gospel sing, with a very impressive turn out. There were several churches from our local association in attendance, as well as, local people from our area. It was such an encouragement to see the building full, that many have labored on and prayed for.

We have also been able to reach out in the community to help one of our visitors do some yard work. It is our desire to start a community projects outreach in helping local people who are unable to do some upkeep on their houses and/or yards. It is our desire to be a blessing to those who may be unable. With that being said, if you know someone local to our area that may benefit from this kind of outreach, please contact me. We have been continuing to have good church services and growing in the Lord. We have also had several returning visitors who have talked with me about membership. Pray God's will be done in this area. Also, we have had a couple of first-time visitors recently. God is building His church!

Thank you all once more for all that you do. We could not do this without you. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. It is a blessing to serve you and be one of your state missionaries to the area of Buckatunna and Waynesboro." Bro. Scott Brocius, Missionary Pastor

Jason Howard, Missionary Coach/Trainer

"I am thankful and blessed to be able to serve as a Missions Coach, as well as, a church planter. Since my last report, I have begun training and coaching Bro. Daniel Allen, Associate Missionary at Redemption Baptist Church. Bro. Wesley Martin is also joining us as we consider church doctrine. Serving as Missions Coach has given me the opportunity to form long term relationships with the other Missionaries serving the churches of Mississippi. I was able to attend Easter Services at Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna and preach for them. This

was a great blessing.

Sadly, it appears the bible study I was leading at Bayou La Batre, AL has been discontinued, indefinitely. I remain in contact with some of the people in hopes that at some point I can resume that work. However, as one door closes another has opened. I will be beginning a new Bible study Thursday, April 15th. Will you pray that God will allow me to use the Bible studies as a means to present Christ to the lost, present basic Bible/Baptist doctrine, and possibly lead to a new church plant."

Refuge Baptist Mission, Kiln, Mississippi

"Greetings to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. I pray that this report finds each of you well and blessed. To begin with, Refuge Baptist Mission would like to extend warmest thanks to all the churches who support our missions department and a special thanks to the churches and associations that support us directly. We know that we would not be where we are without our Lord Jesus of course, but also the faithfulness of His churches.

Refuge is doing well. We have had an increase in average attendance and offering during the first quarter of this year. Some have become more faithful in attendance and giving while also desiring more information on church membership. It seems that as people realize that this mission is not leaving and is investing in the community, they are coming around more to the idea of joining in. We have been able to see a few of our younger attendees make professions of faith, as well as, a couple of adults. We will be planning a baptism service again hopefully around the end of May.

We were able to have our first service on the church property for Resurrection Sunday. We had an early service at 9:30am and had an incredible 235 people attend. The people of Refuge were truly blown away and humbled by this. We also see this as a possible glimpse of the people in our area that could potentially be a part of this ministry in the future. It was a major boost!

We plan to continue meeting in the Kiln Storm Shelter as long as we are permitted and use it also for Sunday evening youth and children's ministries. The Wednesday night small group home studies are going well, also. We have around 30 that attend these in two different homes. We hope to have an extra home group later in the year. Some of our ladies will also be attending a women's conference in Florida this month. Work is happening, ministry is taking place, relationships are building, and Jesus is being preached.

At the time of typing this report, we also want to report that we have finalized on a building plan for the property and



Easter Service on Refuge Baptist Mission Property with 235 people in attendance

hope to move forward in that process. Please pray for us that the process can work smoothly and that all things go accordingly. Many are anxious to see this start, but we know that things are slow right now in the building world. Pray that God will keep our minds focused on the work of the ministry and sharing the gospel much more than the physical work of a building. We truly are excited to see the things unfold as God reveals more details each step of the way. May God bless you all! Decreasing for HIS Increase!" - Bro Josh Daniels, Missionary Pastor

Hispanic Missions Report, Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager

"We are thankful with our Lord for every opportunity to continue to serve in



Bro. Estuardo Marroquin baptizing folks at El Camino in Hattiesburg

the Hispanic missions. Every Hispanic field in the state has been blessed and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preaching. Here is some news from our fields in the last weeks:

Hispanic Mission, Canton - Bro. Lucas Gomez reports new people have been contacted in the last weeks giving the opportunity to share the gospel and three people accepted Christ as personal Savior. Bro. Lucas has continued to disciple the new believers and asks prayers that these people soon will be baptized. The Sunday attendance increased in the last weeks and they are praying to get a building for the Hispanic missions meetings.

Hispanic Mission, Hattiesburg - Bro. Leo Adan reports good news from this field. The Hispanic congregation remains very faithful to the Sunday services and witnessing to others, sharing the gospel. New people have begun to attend the church's meetings and four people were baptized. Other great news from this field is Bro. Leo's ordination to the ministry. The ordination service will be at Westover Baptist Church on Saturday, May 1st, at 2:00 pm.

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In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



How Great Thou Art

Music speaks to my innermost being, which sounds as if it should come from a great musician or singer. The truth is I can't sing other than "making a joyful noise." That I can do.

But I can still hear my daddy ask, "Why can't my daughters sing?" That family tradition is still carried on down through the generations. I was probably the only person at my church that the music director didn't want in the choir.

I want you to know, though, that I sing beautifully in the car along with greats like the Cathedrals, Danny Funderburk, the Gaither Trio, and the like. Soon after my husband died, my pastor told me that JB could now sing better than George Younce. What a day that will be for me when I can sing!

Did you know that one of our great hymns sang often at funerals was written as a poem after a storm when tranquility greeted Carl Boberg? The poem had to have been Godsent down through time and events and other people to become the popular hymn of today.

Hearing the song recently at the funeral of a dear friend reminded me of a special moment years ago. That cruise that my sister encouraged me to go on led to an experience that has been unforgettable.

The highlight of the day occurred with the breathtaking view of Glacier Bay.

That morning as the ship was pulling into the bay, we were dressed in as much as we could wear to stay warm. Drinking cocoa and sipping hot pea soup (if you were as cold as I was, you would drink pea soup, too), we saw that beautiful glacier directly in front of the ship.

As we saw the



Carolyn Hagler



Glacier Bay, Alaska

glacier, we stood in awe. Then we heard the calving when those large ice chunks break from the edge of the glacier and crash into the water. We stood still in amazement of God's creation.

Then we heard Dr. Charles Stanley reading the account of creation from Genesis. Although I had read and heard the account of creation many times, that morning it came alive. I saw God's majestic power in this spectacular place.

And God created it all.

When I thought it could get no better, Jason Waldrup of Greater Vision started singing, "How Great Thou Art" over the pa system. Chills raced down my spine. The awesomeness of creation pales in comparison to the Creator. He is worthy!

Another extra special moment in witnessing God's creation was one Easter morning at sunrise. JB, No. 1 sister,

and I were sitting together as the sun rose for the service overlooking Lake Tahoe. Seeing the beauty created by God Himself and worshipping His willingness to give His Son so that we can have eternal life are a memory carved in my mind. The beauty was overwhelming as a background to the Easter prom-



Lake Tahoe

ise.

Along with that memory, I also remember JB explaining to me that Lake Tahoe straddled the state line between California and Nevada. As we were eating at the Cal Neva Lodge, he carefully pointed out that we were sitting in California eating, but across the room was Nevada with the gamblers. Obviously, you could tell what state you were in by the activity.

I wish you could have seen JB rolling his eyes as we were leaving Lake Tahoe and I told him, "Oh, that's what the name Cal Neva means: California and Nevada." Not my finest moment.

You say you've never seen a glacier. You say you've never been on a cruise. You say you've never seen Lake Tahoe. You say you've never been out of the state.

But the sight of a newborn baby is even more precious than a mighty glacier. The sight of one being born again is even more precious than all the sights of a cruise. The sight of a baptism service in a creek or a cattle trough is even more precious than Lake Tahoe.

This Resurrection morning, I'm sitting here in my favorite rocking chair looking west, watching the sky turn from dark to light, hearing the songs of the birds. My thoughts turn to another Easter Sunday at church sitting beside my brother-in-law, who was hostile toward churches since I first knew him. Yet that Easter, we were worshipping God together. What I thought was impossible, God said, "...with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26..

Until then, I remain in His grip.

Missions

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Bro. Leo Adan introduces those who will be baptized at El Camino in Hattiesburg

El Camino Church, Laurel - The church continues going steps forward on the field. They are having good services in the last weeks and new people have been contacted. The evangelism team did a great job in the last month sharing the gospel with over 15 people and eight accepted Christ as personal Savior. Some of these have begun to attend the church. On March 20th, El Camino hosted a Hispanic Missions Conference. Over 100 People from Canton, Hattiesburg and Laurel attended this great activity! At the end of the conference, everyone prayed for new laborers and new fields in the



El Camino's Outreach Team gets ready to go knock on doors

state with the goal to start new Hispanic missions. We are grateful for all your prayers and support to the Hispanic missions, in Christ."

Restoration Jail Ministry, Dr. Paul Spurlin

"Bro. Gil Odom and Bro. Brody McCool have been a blessing to Restoration as they have consistently been helping serve with our ministry in the Jones County Adult Detention Center and the Jones County Juvenile Detention Center, respectively. On March 5, Bro. Gil preached about the seriousness of sin to me and a group of about eight men in the adult facility. The group all lived in one housing unit within the jail, and I was happy to hear that they had requested the opportunity to attend a worship service when it was available to them and that they regularly have Bible study and prayer time within their housing unit. On March 19, Bro. Brody taught on the subject of effectively dealing with storms in life, as he spoke to me, five male occupants, and one jailer in the juvenile detention center. We were also able to give Bibles to four of the teens. One had already been given one, on one of our previous trips. We encouraged them to read the book of John, such that they would continue to believe or come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God in order to be saved by their belief in Him.

I was able to personally teach in the youth facility on March 5. Six juvenile detainees were present. We discussed some of the content in chapter 5 of Ephesians, and they asked some pointed

questions about purity and seemed shocked at the concept of adultery in the heart as discussed by Jesus in Matthew, chapter 5. Several of the young men were convinced of their personal sin but did not seem to grasp the seriousness of that condition nor the remedy through salvation in Jesus. Please pray that God will bring them to effective understanding of the Gospel.

On March 19, I preached to about eight men in the Jones County Adult Detention Center and was touched by the care that the jailer, who helped me, had for the souls of the men he brought to the worship service that night. The men in attendance were all facing very serious charges, such as, rape, murder, and armed robbery. It was quite a purifying experience to preach to someone that you recognize and who you know in all likelihood is guilty of rape and murder. It helps us more clearly understand that our job is to preach the Gospel to every creature, regardless of where they have been or what they have done, so that God may change them in salvation. Any sin, no matter how significant or insignificant we think it to be, condemns us to God's wrath apart from salvation through Jesus Christ. We must trust the same Gospel that is the Power of God unto salvation, when preached in the pulpit of a Sunday morning worship service, to be the same power, when preached anywhere and to anyone.

Pastors in Jones County, please join us as we continue ministering in your local jail; you will not be disappointed. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Restoration through the BMA of Mississippi Missions office."

Midyear Meeting
BMA of Mississippi
on the campus of
Southeastern Baptist College
Laurel, Mississippi

May 18, 2021

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

THE POWER OF A PREMISE

A mind poisoned by a premise is a terrible enemy to the truth of God's Word. And we all, who claim the Bible as the only complete volume of perfect truth, unadulterated truth, and unmolested truth; the only perfect rule of faith, practice and source of doctrine; as sincere as we may be in believing we are beholden to the eternal certitudes of God's Word and the truth of any particular doctrinal subject, it is emphatic if we are to see and embrace truth, we must recognize the power of a premise and a presupposition. We must recognize the power of the persuasion of personalities, preachers, etc. We must recognize our own fallibility; our own inherent depravity. We must recognize our desire at times to want to be right, and to be right so badly and desperately, that our depravity seems to forbid us to see truth, and pride forbids us to embrace it if and when we see it.

Then there is the problem of becoming invested in something before a person leans to God's

Spirit for understanding. We all have people, possibly parents or a pastor, we love and hold in the highest regard. And, if they love you, they will never desire to lead you away from truth; they would never desire to poison minds with false premises and presuppositions. However, they like us, are fallible. We want desperately for what they tell, teach or instruct us in to be right. And because we cherish their contribution to our lives, their tireless devotion to our welfare, whether spiritually, physically, emotionally or otherwise, it becomes hard for us to imagine they too could be wrong! But sometimes they are. Sometimes, therefore, we become deeply invested into a doctrine sooner than we should be, and yet for all the wrong reasons. I call these hand-me-down convictions! Becoming invested in a truth is right, and we should become invested in them, but for all the right reasons and in the right time. In fact, a person will never see truth until he invests himself to the source of that truth – the Word of God! But I am speaking about specific truths found in God's Word.

By invested I mean that much time, energy and effort has been put forth to propagate a truth, before much time was put forth in investigating a truth. A person's reputation, credibility, sensibility, etc., pride tells him, is on the line. Therefore, he finds it very difficult to see the error in a doctrine he once held, and even more so to back away from all that time, energy and effort which was invested in error. Pride and arrogance binds him to the error he embraced, shackles him to the premise now proven to be false. How can a preacher, who has stood and preached something to be true, if the Lord has been pleased to show him he was in error; how can a preacher, after which he has taught others something to be true and now realizes by the power of the Holy Ghost it was error, how can he break through the truth hating pride of his arrogant heart and embrace wholly what God has revealed to him? I rather think the question should be, how can he not!

The above statements, of course, focus on the inherent difficulty all men face. If anyone denies he faces this, he is simply in denial! Left to ourselves, truth would be indiscernible. Left to ourselves, truth would be undiscoverable. Left to ourselves, truth



Jason Howard
Director

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi www.bmaofmississippi.com

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BMA of Mississippi

Missions Department Special Emphasis

April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Judges 6.13 "...Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of?"

Gideon asked the angel of the Lord a relevant question for his day regarding the state of his nation—even his own family. The Midianites were so oppressive that Gideon was hiding his threshed wheat in a winepress to keep it from the enemy. Perhaps his question might be: "Why is this happening to us, after all we are God's people?" It seemed all Gideon and his people could do was live in fear and exist in dread.

The angel did not go over the ins and outs of the current situation; rather he focused Gideon on what to do about it. The angel told Gideon the solution for this tyrannical situation was to "...go in the strength you have and deliver Israel from the grasp of Midian. I am sending you (verse 14)." You know the rest of the story. Gideon did go in the strength of the Lord and the enemy was defeated.

O, Dear Pastor of a dwindling congregation! O, Dear Worker on a struggling income! O, Good Christian in a family that is breaking apart! God's guidance

would be undesirable. Left to ourselves, truth will always be rejected. But God's children, the truly regenerate, those who have been brought from spiritual death to spiritual life by the quickening power of God's Spirit are not left to themselves. We are given the Spirit of God! We are His children! And thus, we are enabled to discern, discover, desire, and accept the eternal truths of God's Book.

But make no mistake about it. That old nature is still in you child of God! That arrogant, selfish nature; that pride to be right is still there. And if we are not

today is the same as in Gideon's day for any of us who want to follow His Name. We must go in the strength the Lord gives us. We must go as He sends us.

Judges 21.25 "In those days



Tony Cleaver

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

there was no king in Israel; every man that which was right in his own eyes"

This last verse of the book of Judges is the conclusion to the episodic behavior of the nation under the judges. It could also serve as an introduction for the book to preview the cyclical pattern of the nation's conduct toward God. This book is not only historical, but it is also a blistering indictment of our country right now.

Many old ways of thinking and especially behaving are dressed up in new clothes when it comes to social, ethical, political, even religious conduct. Old philosophies are living and thriving in our land. Cynics openly revile those who conform to accepted social standards; they hold ethics up to the same ridicule.

careful to crucify that flesh, to abhor its tendencies, to acknowledge its power, we are bound to fail at truth. Look deep inside, look into the mirror of God's Word, dig deep into the treasure of His truth, seek God as the Psalmist did, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law," and humble yourself and beg God to give us all grace to see truth, accept truth and embrace it, even if it means walking away from a lifetime of investment in error.

Spurgeon said, "Lay aside your prejudices; listen calmly, listen dispassionately: hear what the

Skeptics tell us there is no truth binding to all people, for truth grows from personal experience alone.

Stoics want us to believe there is no purpose, only an impersonal cosmic order that we need to follow in our own way to live in the world. Yes, we do see the "big three" philosophies dominating our land today.

However, New and Old Testament facts oppose all three of these ways of life. The Bible tells us there is a God who created and gave order to His universe. Scriptures plainly reveal man is created in the image of God and is accountable to Him. The Gospels detail how Christ died for our sins to bring us to God. God is near to us through Christ. All humanity is precious to God, for we are His unique creation. There is no chance or happenstance in His world as we relate to Him.

Good Reader, are you doing only what is right in your own eyes? Prayerfully and pleadingly I ask you to choose the path of the Lord God who loves you and gave Himself for you. Even though "everyone is doing it," you do not have to join the everyone group.

scripture says; and when you receive the truth, if God should be pleased to reveal and manifest it to your souls, do not be ashamed to confess it. To confess you were wrong yesterday, in only to acknowledge that you are a little wiser today; and instead of being a reflection upon yourself, it is an honor to your judgment, and shows that you are improving in the knowledge of truth. Do not be ashamed to learn, and to cast aside your old doctrines and views, but take up that which you may more plainly see to be in the Word of God."