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2013 Annual Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma

Major recommendations to be considered at the BMA of America Annual Session

The Recommendations Booklet has been delivered to the churches of the BMA of America in preparation for the 2013 meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. Three major recommendations are presented here.

It is important that each church take advantage of their right to be represented at this meeting. Each church is allowed 3 messengers to be present to care for business.

Joint-Recommendations Regarding Integration Missionary Advisory Committee and the Lifeworld Board of Directors

The Missionary Advisory Committee and the Lifeworld Board of Directors offer the following recommendations to the churches of the BMAA regarding the integration of the BMA Department of Missions and Lifeworld Media Ministries:

1. That each department remains distinctive and autonomous, be led by separate executive directors, and be governed by separate boards, with neither director nor board having jurisdiction over the other.

2. That the executive directors lead the departments with a common vision and operate with a cohesive ministry plan that increases the effectiveness of both organizations.

3. That the two departments both work from the existing Lifeworld facility in Conway, Arkansas.

4. That the Department of Missions and Lifeworld Media Ministries seek professional legal counsel to arrange the most prudent structure for joint-ownership of the property.

5. That the existing Lifeworld facilities be modified to accommodate the integration. Specifically we recommend that we:

- Redesign the front architecture of the building and add approximately 4,400 square feet for additional offices and meeting rooms.
- Modify existing offices to maximize the use of interior space.
- Remove the wing on the north side of the white building on Lifeworld's campus to enhance the aesthetics of the remodeled property.
- Redesign the parking lot and landscaping to accentuate the aesthetics of the new facility.
- Authorize the production team to develop a logo for the BMA of America and place it on the outside of the building.
- Place the logo of each department in the foyer of the facility.
- Share the operational costs for maintaining the facility based upon cost drivers recommended by the accounting team and approved by the respective boards.

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National Department Directors Discuss Integration Process



Left to Right in Photo - Public Relations Director David Watkins, DiscipleGuide Director Scott Attebery, Missions Director Dr. John David Smith, LifeWord Director Steve Crawley and Production Team Director Donny Parrish.

by Editor Don Brown

BMA of America Department Directors met with interested pastors and others at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, on March 27. During this meeting they presented the various aspects of the ongoing integration process between DiscipleGuide, National Missions and LifeWord. Directors John David Smith, Steve Crawley, and Scott Attebery were present along with Donny Parrish and Public Relations Director David Watkins.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the plans of the directors toward a more cohesive direction of purpose and to facilitate cooperation between the participating ministries. The goal of sharing one campus and some services to reduce the overall cost of operation was presented.

Changes have been made in the funding of new missionaries with the 65/35 plan. New missionaries are responsible for raising 65 percent of their support with 35 percent funded by the general missions operating fund. Dr. Smith

stressed that this has allowed the adding of more missionary families which affords entering more fields of service. He said that 11 new families will be recommended at the annual meeting in Norman, Oklahoma.

Crawley stressed that one goal is to be better stewards of the resources available. Moving Missions to the Conway Campus of LifeWord is one of the major recommendations. This would mean selling the Missions property in Little Rock.

DiscipleGuide has already reduced staff and some of the art and production work that DiscipleGuide requires is now being provided by the production staff at LifeWord.

The integration of certain areas of work will necessitate a reduction in the overall number of staff. It was shared that much of the reduction would be through attrition and retirement.

DiscipleGuide is reviewing the feasibility of locating on the LifeWord cam-

continued on page 4

CONSIDER THIS

I am not always
what I think I am,

But I am
what I think.

2013 Recommendations

from page 1

Note: If approved, donors are in place to fund the modifications and additions to the Conway site, allowing completion without the use of the church's budget offerings or the use of debt.

6. That the departments centralize the following services and that the associated costs for each function be allocated using Activity Based Costing methodology, which would ensure that each department is charged only for the applicable activities related to that organization:

- a. Accounting
- b. Human Resource Services
- c. Information Technology
- d. Production / Creative Services
- e. Development

7. That the Executive Directors share in the leadership and day-to-day management of the centralized service teams.

8. That the Executive Directors and the accounting team ensure that there is no

comingling of funds between the departments and that each department continues to be audited separately on an annual basis.

9. That the Association authorize the Missions Advisory Committee and the Executive Director of Missions to negotiate the liquidation of the Little Rock office and property at the highest possible price.

10. That the Association endorse the name change of the Lifeword Foundation to BMAA Foundation (the name change was approved by the Lifeword Foundation board and the Lifeword board).

Note: Although the Foundation has functioned to serve only Lifeword since its inception in 1998, its purpose, as defined within its Articles of Incorporation, allows it to serve any department of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

11. That the boards of directors for other BMA entities also consider future feasibility studies

to determine how all departments and agencies within the association may work together to enhance the stewardship of the church's resources.

Committee on Arrangements

After considering all suggested locations for the 2016 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, the Committee on Arrangements recommends the following:

1. That the 2016 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America be held April 25-27 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and that the Glenstone Hotel be designated as the primary hotel.

2. We further recommend that effective with our 2017 meeting, we begin rotating our meetings between the following three areas contingent upon the availability of suitable facilities and that a wildcard location be chosen every fourth year. The three areas are Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, Central or Northwest Arkansas, and Jackson, Mississippi.

*Respectively submitted,
Charles Attebery
Leon Carmical
James Ray Raines*

Proposed Amendment Statement of Principles of Cooperation

ARTICLE XV—COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS/PRODUCTION

Section 1. Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: President, 1st Vice-president, 2nd Vice-president; Director of Discipleguide Conference Division; three members of Committee on Arrangements.

Section 2. Duties of this committee are:

- A. Review facility recommendation from Committee on Arrangements.
- B. Plan the production of the national meeting (schedule, special guests, etc.)
- C. Plan budget for national meeting, including the authorization of payments for the national meeting expenses from the Minute and Meeting Expense Fund.
- D. Promote the national meeting.
- E. To develop and maintain written requirements for acceptable meeting places and arrangements.
- F. Report their work to the association each year, including all invitations, and the committee recommendation as to the acceptable meeting place

at least two (2) years in advance.

G. A quorum for this committee shall be four (4).

Section 3. Committee on Arrangements shall serve as a sub-committee of the Committee on Arrangements/Production.

A. This sub-committee shall consist of three (3) members elected to three (3) year terms on a staggered basis, shall be elected annually by the association.

B. To receive invitations for the annual meeting place at least six (6) months in advance of the meeting date in which invitations are to be considered.

C. To determine first through correspondence and second through personal inspection by at least two (2) members of the sub-committee that the proposed sites meet the requirements for an acceptable meeting place.

D. To be responsible for negotiating and signing all contracts for meeting site and facilities after review, and approval, of Committee on Arrangements/Production.

E. To determine exhibitors, allot display space, and assign committee meeting rooms.

VOWS

(For what they're worth)

I had just returned home from working out of state somewhere around the age of nineteen or twenty. Age is important in this story because the quality of stupidity increases with age and obviously at this age a person should be less stupid. In my case, I'm thinking my stupidity increased exponentially.

Anyway, my brothers (accomplices in the stupid caper) were both married at the time and should have guided their little brother with greater wisdom. Since I was home for a few days, they decided we should go camp out on the river. Although every other time we had tried this it had ended in disaster, it seemed like a great idea.

The morning started off alright in its attempt to lure us into a false sense of security.

We waded the river and fished all day, taking time out to swim a little here and there when the water was too deep to wade or when one or the other pushed me off the bank into the river.

It was great. Later, we built a small fire on the sand bar and cooked up some Viennasausage and pork and beans. Fish would have been a nice meal to have, but we were only able to save one small red-belly and it fell off the stick into the fire while we were cooking it. Then night came.

Normal people would take this time to sleep, but my brothers thought it would be good to stay up all night. Another genius idea! We found a rope tied to a limb and started jumping off this home made swing. Soon, we started having competition dives and one thing led to another and dares began to be made. Somewhere around

the thirtieth hour without sleep, someone suggested we all promise to go to my sister's when it got morning and...get this...SHAVE OUR HEADS! Cool.

About noon the next day, with the sun bright overhead we went to my sister's to see if we could bum some lunch. I had forgotten the shaved head oath and succumbed to a little nap in the recliner. When I woke up (brothers pouring water on me), my glazed eyes were staring at two cue balls smiling down at me saying it was my turn. After a little scuffle, I was tied to a chair and their evil accomplice (my sister), with a malicious grin, informed me that 'this would just take a second'. A second later, I was bald!

Looking back, I'm glad I didn't break my word. Too many people today stand before God and take oaths that they never intend to keep. Many make excuses why they can't keep their word, but the fact remains, they promised and failed. Take a little advice from someone who is now just naturally going bald. If you promise to shave your head, shave your head.

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

South Forrest Mission Dedicates Building

South Forrest Mission held a dedication service on March 23. The wish to express their appreciation for everyone attending and everyone's prayers and support.



A good crowd of workers, members and well wishers were present to help dedicate the new building



Missionary Pastor Sidney Farmer greeting guests on special day

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

College Day

Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel will be holding their annual college day Tuesday, April 16. Prospective students and friends of Southeastern are invited to attend for food, fun, fellowship and facts about SBC. Activities begin at 9:30 in the morning. If bringing a group, we ask you to please RSVP, but it is not necessary.

For more info, contact Charlie McNeil at 601-452-0099, or by emailing him at cmcneil@southeasternbaptist.edu, plus check out our web site at www.southeasternbaptist.edu.

Laurel Knight Hawks Capture State Title

Southeastern is proud to host the Laurel Knight Hawks, the local basketball team of the Laurel Christian Home Educators Association. We have not had a college team since the 1980's, but for the past three years the gym at SBC has been

the home court for the Knight Hawks. The games and practices bring traffic on campus from around the state and this affords the opportunity to advertise and recruit. Several home educated graduates already attend SBC and this is another effort of outreach. We are proud of the Knight Hawks for their victory the past two years. The following is an excerpt from a press release that recently went out to newspapers:



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

"The Laurel Knight Hawks Varsity Boys captured the Mississippi Christian Home Educators (MCHE) state basketball championship for the second consecutive year. The Knight Hawks came into the state tournament seeded #1 with a 25-4 overall record, 9-1



Laurel Knight Hawks

in MCHE league play. The Knight Hawks went undefeated in the double-elimination tournament, which took place Jan 31 – Feb 2 in Hattiesburg, MS. In round #1, the Knight Hawks defeated #4 seed Meridian Flyers 67-32. Next, they defeated #3 seed PCA Lions (Slidell, LA) 65-55. In the finals, they defeated #2 seed Jackson Victors 57-36.

The Knight Hawks Varsity Boys, who play their home games at Southeastern Baptist College, finished the 2012-2013 season with a 28-4 record. The Knight Hawks played area MAIS A and AA private schools as well as schools in the GCC Conference and other independent and homeschool teams from Mississippi and Louisiana. Their only defeats came to Simpson Academy

(MAIS AA, 2 losses), PCA Lions (Homeschool team from Slidell, LA), and Jackson Royal Ambassadors (independent team from Jackson, MS).

The Knight Hawks Jr. High Boys brought home second place in the state tournament. They defeated the #1 seed Jackson Victors in the championship round, forcing a rematch game that Jackson won. The Knight Hawks Jr. High Boys finished the 2012-2013 season with a 19-8 record.

The Lady Hawks Varsity Girls made it to the third round, defeating the Vicksburg Warriors, before losing to the Jackson Victors (the eventual champions) and the Hattiesburg Forerunners. Lady Hawk players Christen Leggett and Elisabeth Scott were selected to the All-Tournament team."

CHURCH NEWS



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Church to host Wild Horse Ministries

Berean Baptist Church, Soso, will host Wild Horse Ministries with Paul Daily on Sunday, April 21 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Paul's presentation relates horse training with God based on Trust, Faith, Obedience and Love. For more information contact Pastor Bryson Hayden at 662-251-0443. Berean is located on Highway 29 in Soso.

Calvary, Purvis Sets Revival Services

Calvary Baptist Church of Purvis, Mississippi will hold revival services beginning April 21 and continuing through April 26. Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Anderson will be our speaker. Sunday services begin at 10:00 a.m. We will have lunch and then an afternoon service at 1:00. Service Monday through Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Washington Association Report

The Washington Baptist Association met March 15th at Midway Baptist Church.

Wow, Praise the Lord, we had 13 of our 17 churches represented. Bro. Frank Panzrino read the minutes from the February meeting. Bro. Milford Magers handed out the treasurer's report. Reports were given by Bro. Fulton Lindsay and Bro. Donald Brown. Bro. Justin Cameron introduced our speaker, Bro. Larry Geraldson. Bro. & Mrs. Geraldson then sang a special. Bro. Larry brought a touching message about how we fit in to the plan that God has for all of us.

Thanks to the people of Midway for the wonderful meal prepared for us.

Our next meeting will be April 19 at Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.

Moderator, B.J. Hudson

Establish A Ministry Mind-Set in Your Children – Part One

Life can sure be hectic when you are raising your kids in today's society. For many parents you have to run from sports practices to the actual games. You may have kids that are involved in music lessons, band/orchestra, and a multitude of school events that they participate in and finally there is the unending running around to do fun stuff on the weekend and holidays. Man, it could leave a family exhausted. Many are. As a Christian family, we must always find time to carve into our busy schedules a life devoted to following Christ.

We are different than other families if we take our high calling from Christ seriously. Romans 12:2. We recognize that we have more important things to do than to provide constant, unending entertainment for our kids. Christian parents have to realize that providing a life of meaning and substance involves more than sports and academics. Our purpose for us to even be alive

on this earth is to glorify God. Revelation 4:11. I Corinthians 10:31 states, "Whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

It is important, yea, it is absolutely essential, that parents



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

provide opportunities for their kids to find meaning in their pursuit of a life devoted to Christ. They are followers of Christ. What does that mean to the average kid? It is your job as parents to instruct them in the ways of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4. Deuteronomy 6:7. It should be a burning passion of yours to help them understand that they are not average children, but they have

been given a "HIGH" calling by God. Philippians 3:14. They need to be instructed by you that while they are not better than others, they are sure different. They are part of a royal priesthood and will be "weird" or peculiar to the ways of others in their age group. I Peter 2:9. If our kids look like all the other kids in town, I am afraid we are failing them in their walk with Christ.

Start making it a priority in your home for each individual child to have a ministry. We are not saved to sit, but saved to serve. Matthew 25:40. Serving Christ and His work is not something reserved for adults only. If you don't want your kids to be selfish, self-centered adults who never lift a finger to help others, then that has to be taught. You have to teach them to embrace service. Teach them scriptures in your devotion time the commands to serve and help others. The command to bear other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:2. Kids are humans. Our human nature will be selfish. It is our job as parents to teach our children to think of others and help others. This will never come about by just hoping that it somehow

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Calvary Baptist Church, Purvis Fundraiser

Saturday - April 13, 2013
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fishplates \$10.00

Also Silent Auction and

Gospel Singing

Featuring *Crossbridge, The Faithwalkers* and many more local singers.

All proceeds will go to the completion of our Life Center.

Contact Persons:
Robert Hedgepeth
601-270-1308 or
David Parker
601-810-3783

**Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Baptist Children's Home

118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440 - 601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440
601-729-3198

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

What Is Next?

Like the proverbial 'frog in the pot of boiling water', our society and nation has slowly been altered to accept those things that if thrown at us all at once, we would have rejected outright.

Abortion is tolerated, if not accepted outright, by the majority of Americans. Homosexuality has moved down the same road and is also tolerated, if not accepted, by society at large.



Don Brown
Editor

Those who have attempted to change the minds of the majority to accept standards and actions that are morally repulsive and against the very nature of man, not to mention the commandments of almighty God, have been remarkably successful in changing the 'tolerance level' of individuals who are personally against abortion, homosexuality and so-called same-sex marriage.

No one honestly can challenge that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. God instituted marriage and the very nature of mankind validates its makeup.

Even as the majority of states have passed laws making same-sex unions unlawful, the United States Supreme Court is hearing a challenge to the historical, biblical and natural estate of marriage. Our president and his justice department have refused to enforce the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. How far have we fallen!

The burden, I feel, falls on the church, the preacher, and all true Bible believing Christians to repent and begin anew to preach the whole counsel of God. If God's people do not stand, who will?

BMALife.com

The departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of America have begun an integration process to make better use of available funds and to better coordinate the mission efforts of the Association. One of the notable projects to come from this effort is the new BMALife.com website. Members are urged to make this part of their regular internet browsing.

The site provides up to date efforts of each BMA department along with news from around the churches of the Association.

**AVAILABLE
FOR SERVICE**

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

Kenny Mitchell

Bro. Kenny Mitchell is available for service as the Lord may lead. He has been in the ministry since June of 1993 and has pastored churches in Mississippi and one church in Louisiana. He is married to Robin and they will celebrate 38 years of marriage on April 12, 2013. They have two children, Leon, age 31 and Kathy, 36. They also have 7 grandchildren. Bro. Kenny may be reached at 601-798-7273 or by cell at: 601-569-1896. He may also be contacted through email at saigebrush@gmail.com.

Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He can be contacted by calling 228-623-5466 or 228-249-3731.

**National
Directors
Meeting**

from page 1

pus in the future. It was noted that some of the current DiscipleGuide employees could do their work by long distance or working from their home.

The various departments have much in common when it comes to procedure and needs, but the ministries also have many different aspects of operation. The directors covered most of the areas that each department encompasses. The presentation and plans were comprehensive in scope and direction.

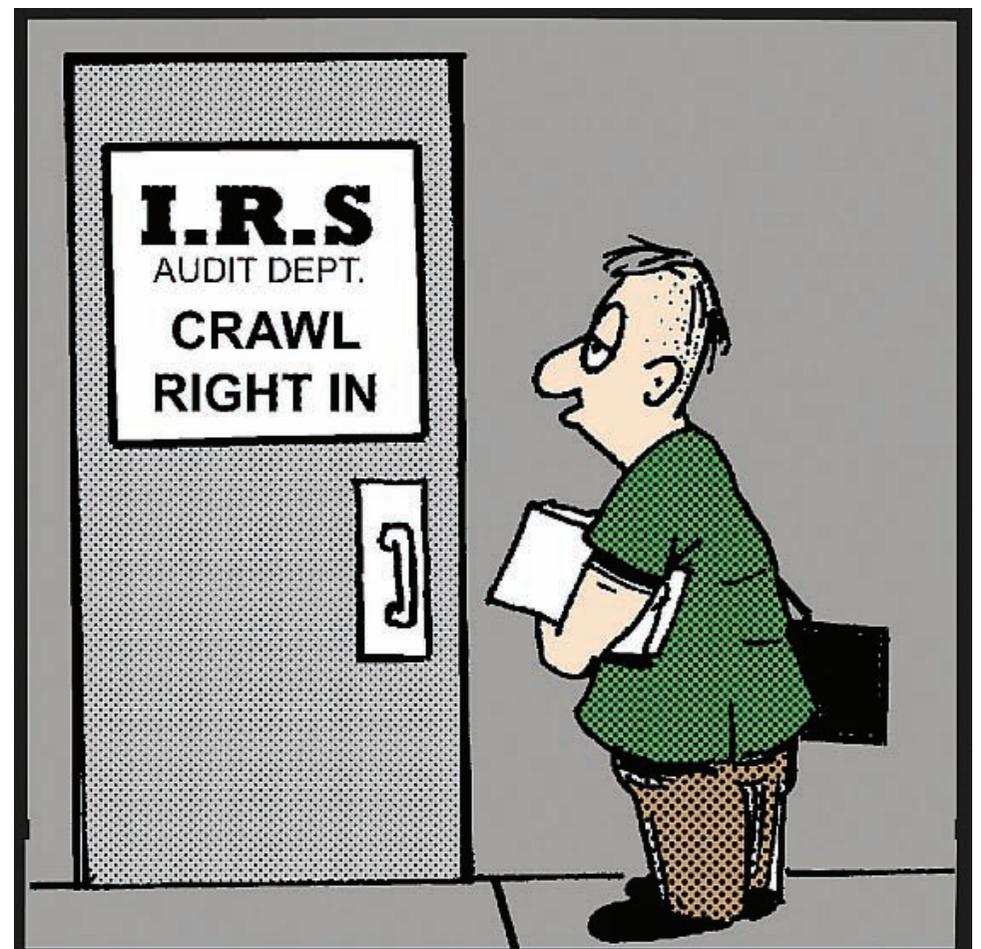
A question and answer period followed the presentation. As the directors noted, there surely will be some concern by the plans to be presented. They answered all questions put to them at this meeting and seemed to have given consideration to all aspects of the overall operation of the ministries in which they serve.

This year's meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, will be interesting and should produce much discussion.

Joint Recommendation

The Association will be presented with a joint recommendation from the Missionary Advisory committee and the LifeWord Board of Directors concerning the integration process. This recommendation is printed in this issue.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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Larry Geraldson
Director

Baptist Missionary Association
of
Mississippi
Department of Missions/RLF

Missions
Special Emphasis
April - May 2013

Church Planters



Bob & Edie Burch



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Justin & Christie Rhodes



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Ray & JoAnn Boone



Kelby & Jessie Johnson

Missions Coordinators



Estuardo & Yasmin
Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall



www.bmams.org

Special Emphasis on State Missions

Our main goal is to encourage each of our churches to pray for our missions effort in the State of Mississippi. We are asking that each week in the months of April and May, you make your special emphasis on prayer. Please pray for the start of 5 new missions projects in the State of Mississippi in 2013. Pray that 5 new missionaries will step forward and 5 mother churches will commit to stand with them. This is, by far, our greatest need. Pray that 12 new churches will commit to take the first step in reproducing themselves. Also, we desire your prayers for the strength and sustainment of the 12 mission projects that are ongoing. Pray for the lost to be saved and the unchurched to be reached. We need your prayers for our missionaries and their families.

We are including reproducible bulletin inserts in every packet and hope that every church will use a different one each Sunday during April and May. Please prayerfully pray about and adopt a church goal for Special Emphasis. Then, mark this goal on the posters we mailed to each church, and challenge your church to reach this goal. We have included in our budget, a projection of \$25,000.00 from Special Emphasis. Therefore, we need to reach at least this amount to meet our needs for the year. Our hope is that we will do much better than this. Please remember that I am available to visit your church and provide a report and/or preach. You can contact me at the Missions' office at 601-428-8616.

Special Memorial Offering Received

I want to express my appreciation to the Mississippi State GMA's for their special offering to State Missions in memory of Bro. Arthur Smith. Bro. Arthur, himself a former State Missionary, passed to his family and to all of

us a rich heritage filled with passion for missions. This offering serves to increase the legacy of a Godly man whose memory continues to serve as ministry to others.

Special Day at South Forrest

What a wonderful day at the building dedication at South Forrest mission! Bro. Sidney Farmer shared his vision and passion and appreciation to all who attended. The meeting commemorated the contribution of time, money, and effort of so many, to help provide this new mission with a first unit building. We praise God for all He has done and is continuing to do at South Forrest.

Special Day at Shady Grove

I had the opportunity to attend the 125th year celebration at Shady Grove recently. What a rich heritage this church has! We enjoyed a great message from Bro. Grover Laird, former pastor, and wonderful music and fellowship. Bro. Laird said that his message was aimed at the future and not the past. How appropriate his message was as Shady Grove is one of 12 churches that have begun the process of reproducing herself by taking the "First Step". People in this church have visited one of the 35 target locations we identified, and brought back information to the church and the church has spent time in the altar praying over this. This will continue over the course of the first year. Praise God! Thank you... Shady Grove for proving that Churches can still conceive...even in their old age.

Special Thanks

I want to express again, my appreciation to all of our churches for the opportunity to serve you as State Missions Director. I can't tell you how much I rejoice, daily, for this privilege.

DiscipleWay

Scott Attebery, Executive Director
 Email: scott@discipleguide.org
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/scott.attebery](https://www.facebook.com/scott.attebery)
 Twitter: @scottattebery



Scott Attebery

Ministry Mind-Set

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soaks in from watching TV. You have to set time aside and make a concerted effort in this arena of human endeavors. Make a plan.

Have a special family meeting night. All the members of the family can contemplate what they are able to do at their age level. They need to be told some of their strengths for ministry (what they do well) by the parents. Then you may have to wait a day or two while you pray and seek God's direction. Then you can be assured it was leading by the Lord and not done under fleshly desires. Seek God and make this a serious matter to your kids. Instruct them that this is going to be a regular part of your lives together as a Christian family. It builds family bonding and closeness if you all have one ministry that you do once a month together. But I would strongly encourage you to have each child develop a personal ministry. We can do things together with the church body, but instill in them the important sense of personal ministry.

Some of your children will be well-motivated and will take on several ministries. Be sure they strike a balance and manage their time well. While we do want to serve the Lord, it can never be used as a sense of self-esteem building. Our joy is serving the Lord, but not doing things so that we get praise from others and feed our egos.

Other kids will have absolutely no desire to do this. Don't fret. You are not a failure and neither is your kid. They are just cut from a different personality cloth. But you must insist that they do a ministry. These kids will need to be prodded and pushed. Some kids will need to be held accountable. You may have to force them to do it at times. Make them do it. I am always surprised at the number of parents who will not force their kids to go to church or do a ministry. Yet, those same parents will force their kids to go to school, take their yucky tasting medicine, and exhaust themselves and push themselves in sports.

Serving Jesus is something that should be mandated for our kids because it is more important than anything else.

John the Baptist: Disciple-Maker

A great example of how human discipleship should work is provided in the story of John the Baptist. Several of the apostles were first disciples of John, who, in the words of Isaiah, came as a forerunner to Jesus, the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" (John 1:23).

Scripture describes two kinds of discipleship: Discipleship between believers (Col. 1:28) and discipleship between a believer and Christ (Eph. 5:27). John the Baptist demonstrated how the former is a means to support the latter.

In John 1:29-42, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Messiah to his disciples. In verse 35, it becomes apparent that John and his disciples were together day after day as he baptized those who were coming. Discipleship is built on relationships. Paul describes this kind of strategic relationship when he instructs the Corinthians to "Imitate me as I imitate Christ," (I Cor. 11:1) and when he writes, "To Timothy, my true child in the faith..." (I Timothy 1:2).

Disciple-makers can start the process of helping another believer mature by having an open door policy for the disciple to spend time at their home in unplanned moments, whether watching television, eating dinner, shopping or coaching little league. Use every opportunity to point them to Jesus.

In verse 36, John does exactly this. The day after he identifies Jesus as the Messiah to his disciples, he points them to Christ again, saying, "Look, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples who were with him immediately became followers of Christ.

Human discipleship should always point disciples to divine discipleship in Christ. Opportunities to point a disciple to Jesus can arise through acts of sacrificial love for friends (John 15:13), assisting a needy person (Matt. 25:40), or the disciple-maker's treatment of his own wife (as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her).

Finally, John released his disciples to grow in Christ. He didn't mind them leaving to follow Jesus, although others complained about it. In John 3:29-30, he compares himself to a friend who attends the bridegroom and states his attitude: "He must increase; I must decrease." That is the attitude of a biblical disciple-maker.

Disciple-makers are temporary, like a scaffold, and Christ is the structure. All disciple-makers should ask themselves this question: "Is my discipleship causing my disciple to depend more upon me or upon Christ?" Potted plants will eventually outgrow their pot and die if they aren't replanted into something bigger. Plant them in Christ and encourage them to nurture other seedlings.

John the Baptist understood this model of discipleship, and so he provided an excellent example of how a human disciple-maker can present their disciple "mature in Christ" and prepared for more learning under the Master.

2013 North Senior Adult Conference

Friday, May 10, 2013

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*

Mississippi W.M.A.

President - Jessica Hayden

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

Email: blhaden@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

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 601-729-5638

2013 Ladies Retreat "Joy- N-Rejoicing"

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice"
 Philippians 4:4

The 2013 Ladies Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at East Fulton Baptist Church.

The speaker will be Mrs. Barbara White, author of the column, "Sofilthy's Attic." The cost of the retreat is \$20 and includes lunch. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast being served.

The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m.

There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to support Mission trip for "4 moms & A Matt" to Uganda.

For more information, contact Stacy Smith at 662-322-6975.



FW

Scenes From 125th Anniversary of First Baptist of Shady Grove, Laurel





Kelby Johnson
Director

Pastor and wife celebrate 50th anniversary

On March 2, 2013, Bobby Joe (BJ) and Beatrice (Gibson) Hudson celebrated fifty years of marriage. They were married in the home of Earl and Mary Hudson March 2, 1963. BJ was 21 and Beatrice was 17.



B.J. & Beatrice Hudson

BJ and Bea have four children, Joanna Crosby of Moselle, MS; Barbara Case of Indianapolis, IN; Robert Hudson of Lucedale, MS and Scott Hudson of Wicksburg, AL.

Their children and Temple Baptist Church of Lucedale, held a reception on March 30, 2013 at the church to help them celebrate their marriage. Hudson pastors Temple Church, Lucedale.

BMA minister family loses son

Michael Scott "Scotty" Clark, 36, of Laurel, MS was born May 20, 1976 and went home to be with the Lord on March 25th, 2013. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 27 at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home



Michael Scott "Scotty" Clark

of Laurel. Interment was in First Baptist Church of Calhoun Cemetery. Rev. Harold Floyd, Rev. Bryson Haden and Rev. Steve Pouncey

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Hallelujah He Arose

Do we really realize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? The resurrection declares that Jesus is God. The resurrection confirms that the work of salvation is complete. The resurrection leaves no doubt that death has been conquered. The gospel message includes the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as well as his death on the cross. 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4. It is the risen Christ who gives us the power as believers to live a life of service for the Lord on a daily basis.

After the resurrection our Lord ascended to Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, which is the place of exaltation. Today we as believers are seated with Christ in the heavenlies and through Him we are able to reign in life. Through Christ we have an advocate. Jesus is preparing a place for us and will one day come to receive us to Himself.

Praise the Lord He has risen!



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Association Rally for Home

On February 21, we were with the Gulf Baptist Association for their annual rally for the Home. This meeting was with the North Gautier Baptist Church and Pastor Johnny Williams. We want to express our appreciation to each individual and church who gave to this rally.

Galilean Recognition

Two of the boys at the Home were recognized for their progress they have made on their steps as a Galilean in the Sunday evening services of our home church recently. We would like to thank Bro. Roger Jefcoat for his dedication as a Galilean leader.

Academic Recognition

Our girls and boys continue to do well in their academics at school. It is good to report that one student was on the Principal's List and other students were either on the Honor Roll or very close to being on the Honor Roll by a point or two. We rejoice to see them doing well in their studies and we trust that they will continue to do well throughout the remainder of this school year.

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your prayers.

South most Bible-minded

NASHVILLE (BP) -- The South is home to the top 10 most "Bible-minded" cities in the United States, according to new Barna Group research.

Defining Bible-minded as a person who reads the Bible in a typical week and strongly asserts the accuracy of its teaching, researchers determined that Knoxville, Tenn., is the most Bible-minded city in the United States, with 52 percent of the city's population fitting that category.

Other cities in the top five are Shreveport, La., with 52 percent of its population deemed Bible-minded; Chattanooga, Tenn., 52 percent; Birmingham, Ala., 50 percent; and Jackson, Miss., 50 percent.



I would like to thank everyone for your support for our leadership conference. Sharpen 2013 was a success as leaders from some of our churches gathered at Big Creek Baptist (Soso) on Saturday, March 23 and Bethel Baptist (Fulton) on Saturday, March 30 for encouragement and training. We had a great time of preaching, singing, and discussion regarding the Word of God in life and ministry. We hope to provide similar events in the future.

I need to call your attention to our Summer Camps. We really need some of our churches to sign up for these camps. Please read the information below and consider attending. It will be a blessing to your church.

BMA of Mississippi SUMMER CAMPS 2013

I am very excited to invite you to Junior Camp and Senior Camp for 2013. We have decided to go back to Waukaway Springs this year for both camps. Many of our churches have enjoyed this retreat center in the past. Waukaway offers a great camp environment including solid facilities, amazing food, exciting fun in the water, and helpful counselors. It is located in Vossburg, which is off I-59 between Laurel and Meridian. For more, see www.waukawaysprings.com.

JUNIOR CAMP: May 27-29 (Monday - Wednesday)

Junior Camp is for children from grades 1 through 6. We have had younger children attend in the past and this is acceptable as long as there is a parent present. The speaker for Junior Camp 13 will be Bro. Rick Clark. Bro. Rick is the Pastor at Lone Oak Baptist Church in West Point. Bro. Kelby Johnson will be the worship leader.

SENIOR CAMP: July 29-31 (Monday - Wednesday)

Senior Camp is for students from 7th grade to college. The speaker for Senior Camp 13 will be Bro. Dwight Lindsey. Bro.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BMA of America Norman, Oklahoma	April 22-24, 2013
Missions & Evangelistic Conference First Baptist, Bay Springs	May 3, 2012
North Senior Adult Conference Mt. Pleasant Church, Fulton	May 10, 2013
BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting East Fulton Church, Fulton	May 20-21, 2013

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America
 Dr. John M. Adams, Director
 P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
 Email - fbcjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Morally, We "Must" Not Compromise

Compromise might be appropriate in Washington, D.C. politics, but not in Christian morality. Paul said in Philippians 4:12, "I am instructed..." God never changes, so His word implies, "I'm not going to change when the road gets rough, and I'm not going to change when it is a smooth road. Good or bad, I'm in it until the end!"

We MUST stand our ground in our twenty-first (21st) century. Christian morality is still as pertinent today as it was in Bible times. America MUST turn back to God. Change MUST come from the inside out.

Getting A New Vision

The 61st National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2, 2013. This is a day that we call on all people in the United States to pray for our nation and its leaders. The NDP's Motto is: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," Psalms 33:12. Go to the website at: www.nationaldayofprayer.org and order literature now for your congregations. Get involved.

Pray for Ms. Adams and I as we participate in the Watchmen On The Wall Conference, in Washington, D.C. in May, 2013. We request special prayer as we take the "Prayer Walk in the Halls of Congress."

Get a vision with us! Consider contributing to this agency during our July "Freedom Offering." Since July 4, 2013, will occur on a Thursday, consider your donations on Sunday, June 30 or Sunday, July 7, 2013. Large or small donations will be appreciated.

Sounding A New Voice

We were privileged to participate in several "God and Country" rallies around our BMA states. In 2012-13, I spoke in Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Michigan and Texas. Feel free to contact me and, if possible, schedule a one night associational or church rally for your area. 662-231-3863.

Showing A New Video

Appreciation is expressed to Lifeword Directors, Dr. Steve Crawley, Bro. Donny Parrish and the Production Crew for a job well done in the production of a five minute promotional video for this agency. Thanks to Pastors Vernon Lee of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, TX and Collin Jones of Fairview Baptist Church,

Blytheville, AR. The video was mailed to all churches in March, 2013. We ask for this video to be presented to your congregation, WMA and Brotherhoods.

Respect for our 2013 Moralism Award

Your Moral Action Director and our nine (9) trustees voted unanimously to present to the late Dr. Roy McLaughlin and his wife, Neva, our 2013 "Moralism Award." Ms. Adams and I traveled to Swartz Creek, MI and presented this award to Ms. Neva McLaughlin and posthumously to Dr. Roy McLaughlin. Their contributions to this ministry are innumerable. Thanks to Pastor Chris Yeager and the Cornerstone Baptist Church for their graciousness.

Moral Action Suggestions:

We welcome your comments and suggestions. You may contact us by Telephone 662-231-3863, Email fbcjmaj@yahoo.com, Website www.macbma.net, Mailing address P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855.

2013 South Senior Adult Conference

A great day of preaching, fellowship, celebration, worship and singing.

Over 360 Senior Adults gathered at Big Creek Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 26 for the 2013 South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference. Participants were Hispanic Missionary Bro. and Mrs. Estuardo Marraquin, Bro. Larry Geraldson, Bryson Haden, and others. Commission on Senior Adults Director Kenneth Flynt and the trustees planned a wonderful program.

Bro. Milford Magers was recognized for 50 years of ministry, special "Gaither Style" singing led by Bro. Bryson Haden was the hit of the day. Another wonderful celebration for those dedicated Senior Adults.

