

The Baptist

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Without The Tomb



The Garden Tomb near Gordon's Calvary in Jerusalem

by The Editor

A number of years ago I was privileged to make a trip to the Holy Land. It was an eye-opening and spiritually uplifting experience.

Each preacher in our group got to bring a message at various sites on our tour. I chose the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. We visited the traditional burial site of Jesus and the traditional crucifixion site, but to me, neither of them compared to Gordon's Calvary and the Garden Tomb.

While these may not be the actual sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus (and they may be) they certainly have an atmosphere about them that impressed me and those on our trip.

We were able to enter this tomb and see the one spot carved out for one body.

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.
Matthew 27:59-60

The scripture tells us that it was a new tomb that was used. This particular spot was never finished and has only one place for a body.

My message at the Garden Tomb was "Without The Tomb". Without the empty tomb, we would have no living Savior. Without the empty tomb we would have no hope. Jesus was later found without (outside) the tomb and because of that fact we know the resurrection is real, our Savior is alive and we are secure in

our faith! Amen!

As we celebrate this Easter season let us remember that Without The Tomb there would be no hope, no salvation and no living Savior. Hallelujah, He is "without the tomb!"

Saluting Our Soldiers With the Gospel

by Scott Attebery
DiscipleGuide Executive Director

I have never served in the military. However, I have the utmost respect and gratitude for those who put their lives on the line for our nation's freedom. We owe a great debt to our veterans and active-duty servicemen

Brandon, my best friend growing up, is one example. After the attacks on September 11, 2001, he chose to serve in our armed forces. As a college

graduate, Brandon could have chosen another path, yet he volunteered to serve our country. Today, he still chooses to serve. I cannot thank him enough.

Recently, Brandon and I had the opportunity to eat lunch together. In the course of our conversation, he shared an idea for ministering to our veterans and



active-duty personnel. Unfortunately, he explained, these men and women often have difficulty transitioning back into life at home. For months or years, he explained, they have lived in a military culture with a different language, routine, structure, and practice. Those who

have experienced live combat have been exposed to horrors that the rest of us will never encounter. Many live the rest of their lives with unresolved questions and uncomfortable situations. Many feel as though they will never completely fit in when they return home. Worse, they feel isolated and alone in the struggle.

As a former pastor, I was thankful that he brought up the subject. I shared

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Senior Adult's Gather In Soso



Around 400 senior adults gathered at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, for the annual South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference.

Bro. Bo Bankston brought the morning message and called for revival for our nation, our churches and each individual. Lunch was again catered by Mac's Catfish of Hattiesburg.

Afternoon Gaither Style singing was led by Bryson Haden after a morning concert by Bryan Wilson. Door prizes were awarded during the day and great fellowship was enjoyed by God's Senior Saints.

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held May 5 at Unity Church, Guntown, Mississippi.



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund





State Missionaries and Wives



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Missions Matters

In Matthew 9:35-38 the scripture says, “...Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

The simplest definition I know for the word “missions” is to be sent. The English word comes to us from the Latin *mittere* which means to send. In the mid 16th century its use denoted the sending of the Holy Spirit into the world. The Latin noun is *missio* which is where we get the English word mission.

Missions matters to us because it mattered to Jesus. Verse 36 says that He was, “...moved with compassion...” so in chapter 10 and verse 1 He calls His disciples together and in chapter 10, verse 5 He sent them forth. This is missions! As Missionary Baptists, missions matters to us because it mattered to Jesus. What moved Him moves us. We are enjoined to the same sympathies that Jesus had for the multitudes. His mission is our mission. It is a co-mission, which means that this mission is something we are

committed to. We have it in common and we are in this together.

The Lord will later order our objectives in Matthew 28:19-21 as explained by Dr. D.N. Jackson in his book, “What You Need To Know About The Church” pg 27, “The Great Commission, given to the church...enjoins upon His churches to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them as He taught His disciples. Jesus promised, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’”

The priority of missions in Matthew 9:35-38 is clearly spiritual and not just humanitarian. Notice delineation made by the use of the conjunction “but”, after Matthew gives us a list of the other ministry activities in which Jesus was personally and functionally engaged i.e. teaching, preaching, and healing, etc., he says, “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them...”

The priority we place on Missions is a great Missionary Baptist distinctive. Others do missions as a ministry; we live missions as a way of life. While others find a place to fit missions into their plans, programs and budgets, we find ways to fit our plans, programs and budget into the work of missions.

Sadly, for many, this understanding of missions has changed and the passion and priority for missions has waned. The obvious result is bewilderment,

a sense of losing one’s identity, a struggle to understand one’s purpose. Missions becomes just another one of those things we do.

My prayer is that God will restore, in the hearts of our people, a deliberate and determinant conviction that Missions Matters.

Special Emphasis for State Missions

State Missions Special Emphasis is **April – May**. We have set our **goal of \$25,000.00** based on specific needs. We have already spent \$22,060.00 in unexpected expenditures this year. These expenditures were 100% in support of missionaries and 0% spent for overhead. We did our best to anticipate, through our budgeting process, all of the expenditures but God has blessed, and the activity has been more than we expected. These expenditures are for things such as, rent and deposit of temporary facilities, chairs, materials, training, and promotion, etc., all of it necessary, and all of it due to strong missionary activity. Our hope is that you will help us recapture these funds through a strong Special Emphasis for State Missions. Please pray and give to help us do the work of missions.

We have mailed some promotional material to each church. If you did not receive your material or if you would like additional material, please give us a call at 601-426-8616. Thank you for all that you do.

Master’s Builders Minister In Mississippi

by Nelda Malone
Master’s Builders Reporter

The Master's Builders began work at Midway Baptist Church, McClain, Mississippi, on March 2nd. This was the 3rd time that the Builders were to work at Midway. In 1999, The Master's Builders helped in the building of the sanctuary and again in 2006 they helped on the interior of the Family Life Center. This was cut short by a hurricane. But in March 2015, we were asked to come back and work on the Family Life Center. Thankfully the work was all inside!

There were 13 RVs parked around the church and one couple stayed at a motel while they were there. We were blessed to have a "first time" couple work with us on this job. Billy and Virginia Taber, of Hooks, Texas, fit right in with our fun group! Thank you Father, for sending them our way!



We all enjoyed sweet fellowship with Midway Church. Pastor Justin Cameron, his wife Felicia, and son Chance, were such a blessing. Chance had



recently surrendered to the ministry and we were privileged to get to be there for his first message. He is a senior and plans to attend Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. This family also SINGS!! Yea!! We were given mini concerts and so enjoyed this!

It is hard to find words to describe their demonstration of love and appreciation to us. But one word is FOOD!! They kept feeding us and feeding us! They were ready to help us in any way needed. There were men of the church there everyday to work along side our men. Rick Pugh kept materials there for the work to keep moving forward. Diane Holton and Myrtle Sheto organized the meals and all the ladies kept us well fed during our two weeks there. But a special thank you goes to Fred and Jason Green! What a blessing it was to spend time with you! I think of all of

the names and faces of our new family there and I miss you. Midway has many young couples and young children and there is a bright future for them. May God continue to bless you.

It was so good to get to get here with our Master's Builders family again! I began to wonder; just what did these men do for their vocation before The Master's Builders? As I began to ask, I'm still not sure just what they did..., but thought I would share with you all. We had 4 military, 3 telephone men, 1 truck driver, 1 tool & die maker, 1 welder, 1 teacher, 1 pastor (still preaching), 1 owns an insulation business (still working), 1 pipe fitter, 1 metal construction, 1 industrial mechanic, 1 owned a furniture store and others. Oh yes, and 1 CHURCH BUILDER!! Thank you Lord for Bro. Eddie Sikes! So, come on! YOU will fit right in!

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



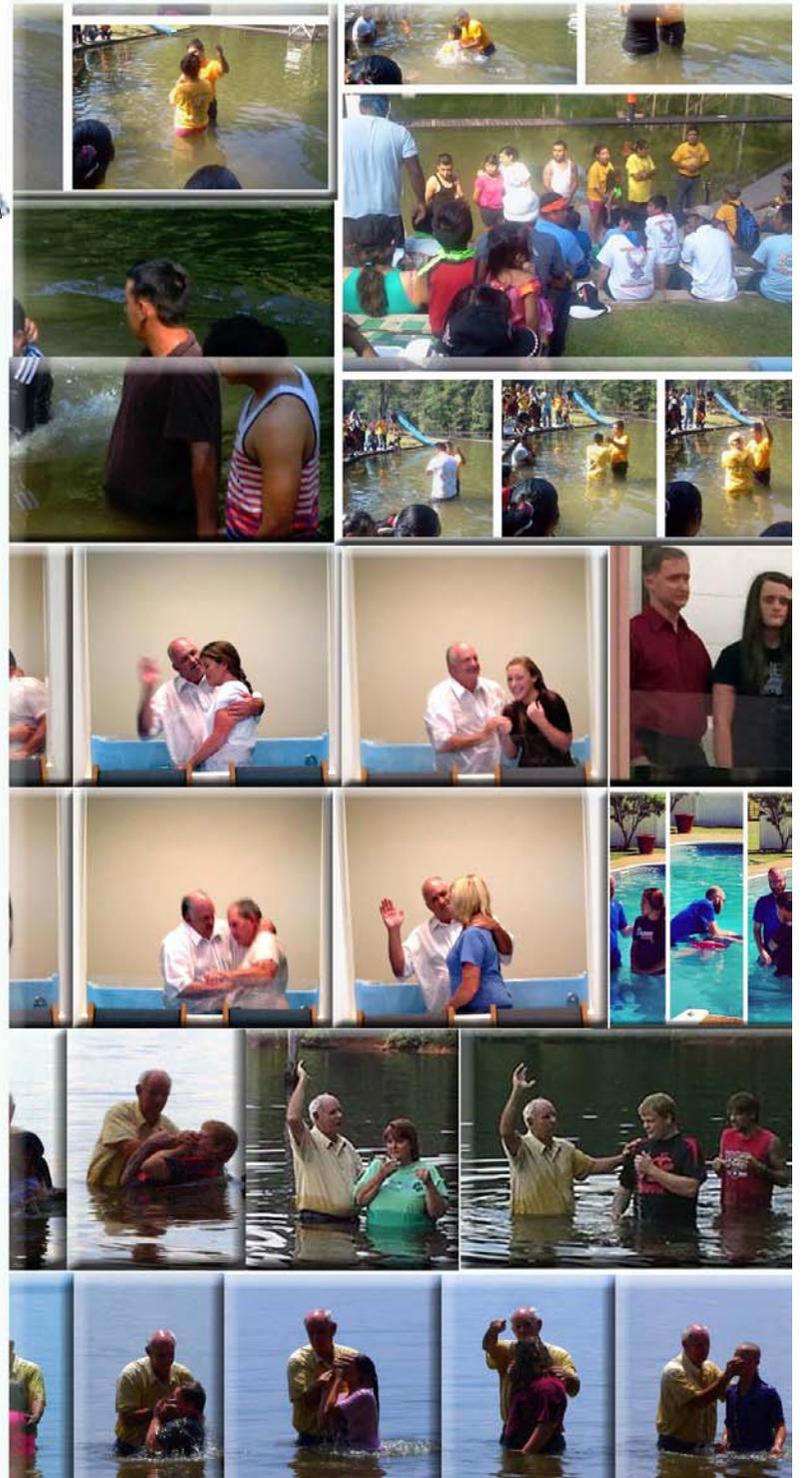


*Our Goal:
\$25,000.00*



Special

Emphasis



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

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

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Annual Meeting Draws Near

The BMA of America will gather in Springfield, Missouri, on April 20, for its annual meeting. That trip is not a long one for most of us in

Mississippi and we encourage every church to make an effort to have messengers in attendance.

The annual meeting is a time of fellowship, worship and of course caring for the business of the various ministries supported around the world.

The schedule for the 2015 meeting is somewhat different from previous years and offers opportunities not normally available.

Annual meetings are important. They keep us united as a group and continue to strengthen the bond that holds us together. They are always informative and productive.

This year's meeting is no different and there is important business to care for. One item of concern is a potential change to our doctrinal statement concerning scriptural marriage. This was presented in a previous issue of this publication and can be seen at our website at www.ms baptist.org. We encourage each church to be familiar with this item of business.

How pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield.

Texas Editor's Father Passes Away

It is with sadness that we report that Gerald Fulton, the father of Bro. Jerry Fulton, editor of the Baptist Progress of the BMA of Texas, passed away recently. It has not been too long since Bro. Jerry lost his mother. Jerry's father was a deacon and Sunday school teacher and was enjoying retired life.

Our sympathies to Bro. Fulton and his family. Memorials may be made to one of the ministries led by Rev. Jerry Fulton—Baptist Progress, P.O. Box 2085, Waxahachie, Texas 75168 or Anthony Drive Baptist Church Improvement Fund, P.O. Box 9, Ennis, Texas 75120.



Gerald Fulton

CHURCH NEWS

Picayune Church Seeks Pastor

Mt. Calvary Church in Picayune is seeking the Lord's man to serve as pastor. If you are interested and feel led of the Lord you may send a resume to Bro. Richard Cudd, 2701 Nina Drive, Picayune, MS 39466 or phone 601-798-5039.

Saving Grace Concert Set

Saving Grace will be in concert at Pine Grove Church on Sunday, April 12 at 1:30 pm. A love offering will be taken.

Rocky Branch Revival

Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall will hold Spring Revival services April 12-14. Our speaker will be Bro. Grover Laird. For more information contact Pastor Robert Arinder at 601-517-1551.

Oak Grove Report

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met with Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on Thursday evening, March 12. The service was opened with a devotional by Bro. Sidney Farmer.

Bro. Phillip Burns gave a report on his work in Sumrall and Bro. Sidney Farmer on his work with the South Forrest missions. Our Moderator, Bro. Ted Quinby, also serves as our National Missions Ambassador and he shared news concerning our National and State Missions work. A written report from Alicia Ramshur sharing news on her medical mission work in the Philippines and thanking the Association for the monthly support she receives was provided for each church.

The evening message was brought by Bro. Dick Dickens, a member of Magnolia. A wonderful time of food and fellowship was provided by the church at the conclusion of the service. The next meeting will be with Midway First Baptist Church on May 14.

Broadmoor Church Events

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5312 Highway 39 North, Meridian, will have Holy Week Services beginning on Monday, March 30, 2015 through Friday, April 3, 2015. The services will begin at 6:00 p.m. each night. Everyone is in-

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CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH

by Thom Tapp



"Can you believe it? Brother Eli bought some bird seed, and is telling everyone he now has a twitter feed!"

Seminary to Offer DiscipleWay Training Summer 2015

by Dr. Philip Attebery, Dean
Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

Since 2000, the BMA Seminary has offered intensive week-long studies each summer that focus upon various areas of religious education. The 2015 summer schedule includes a unique opportunity for individuals to gain certification for DiscipleWay. Non-degree seeking students may enroll as auditors in Theology of Disciple Making (PM 517). Auditors should sign up for the course prior to May 22, 2015.

PM 517 includes an introduction to the biblical, educational, and philosophical principles that undergird DiscipleWay curriculum, exposes individuals to each DiscipleWay discipline, and gives particular attention to the disciplines of Bible study and witnessing. DiscipleWay's goal is to teach individuals how to perform disciplines without the help of a teacher while also developing the ability for those same individuals to teach others without the help of a teacher. The course is scheduled to meet June 8-11.

The 2015 schedule also consists of three online courses: Oral Communica-

tion, Old Testament Theology, and Greek Appreciation held May 25-July 17, 2015. On campus courses include Church Administration on July 20-22, Sermon Preparation on July 22-24, Theology of Disciple Making for credit-seeking students held June 8-12, and advanced levels of DiscipleWay held June 8-12, 2015.

Individuals interested in enrolling in courses for credit must register before April 24, 2015 by contacting the seminary dean's office for more information. Courses require the completion of research and writing assignments prior to their scheduled meetings on campus. Individuals interested in auditing the DiscipleWay training should also contact the seminary dean's office for registration information.

*Baptist Missionary Association
Theological Seminary
1530 East Pine St / P.O. Box 670,
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Phone: 903-586-2501
Web: bmats.edu*

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President
4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Summer Schedule

Online Summer School classes will be from June 1 to June 25. The abbreviated schedule will be packed with work for the student, but the possibility of receiving three hours credit for each one completed makes it worth the effort. The courses available are Worship, Revelation, Minor Prophets, and Bible Geography. Those interested are encouraged to call Southeastern and talk to Dr. Aaron Parker. The total cost for a class including fees is \$710. Pell Grants for one class are available. Those who already have a Bachelor's Degree will not qualify.

Ronnie Kitchens can usually tell a person very quickly what the student will receive in the grant. Some people get enough to take care of the entire tuition. The cost for auditing a class is \$200 but is not covered by the Pell Grants. Spread the word to your friends and in your churches about the availability of these opportunities.

Graduation

Graduation will be on May 14th at the Southeastern Baptist College Gymnasium. Shane Singleton will be the speaker. He is a graduate of our school

and is a well known leader in our state. He serves as pastor of Parkview Baptist Church.

Loyal Trustees

As Interim President, I want to recognize the Trustees of Southeastern. Their sacrificial efforts during the past few years have not been known by many. The longstanding tradition was for the school to reimburse the trustees for their trips to Laurel. Because of the financial conditions at the college, almost no one has even accepted expense money when traveling to the Trustee meetings. Those who lived at the ends of the state had to start very early in the morning to make the meetings.

Did you know that our Constitution and Bylaws allow for trustees from Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida? Some past and present members of the Board have provided lunch for all the others. In addition to all of this, they have faced the pressures of some difficult financial and enrollment situations which had no easy answers.

As you pray for the ministries at Southeastern, do not forget to ask the Lord for wisdom and grace on the Board of Trustees.

DiscipleGuide Offers New Book

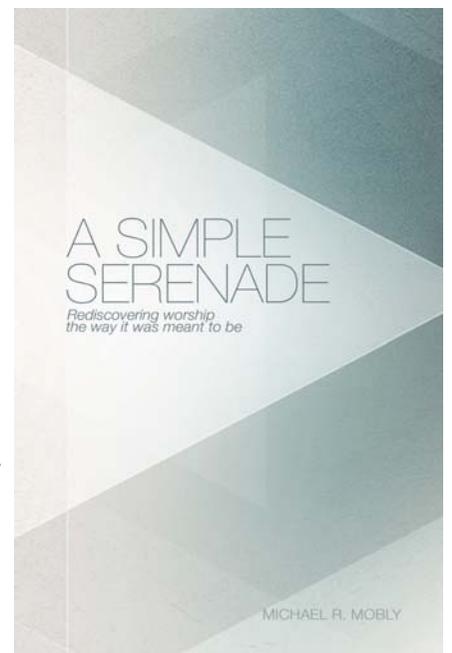
DiscipleGuide is pleased to offer a new book from BMA author Michael Mobly, *A Simple Serenade*.

Today's church has been told that worship of God is all about an experience. Did I feel something I've never felt before? Was I "moved?" But true worship, according to Mobly, is not about a feeling. It cannot be based on the moment, the music, or the motivator. It is based upon a relationship with Christ. The believer seeking that kind of worship, the kind that exalts the Father, must develop a relationship with Him.

Mobly writes, "Step into His throne room, kneel before the God of the universe. Bow your head in humility, and allow Him to gently lift your face and gaze lovingly into His eyes. And with all that is in you, let your voice soar, as you serenade the Creator of everything, and the Savior of everyone who will hear his voice. It really isn't very difficult to understand or to do. Just sing!"

Michael Mobly has served on staff at Southgate Baptist Church in Moore, Oklahoma, for more than 20 years. Michael held the position of Student Pastor for many years and currently serves as the Pastor of Teaching and Church Ministry. He has written numerous Biblical studies. Michael's passion is teaching and helping others discover the truths of God's Word. It is his hope that this book will guide you to a deeper, more satisfying worship experience.

To purchase *A Simple Serenade* you can visit discipleguide.org or call 800-333-1442.



"It's Heaven's Jubilee"

North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

Unity Baptist Church
Guntown, Mississippi

May 5, 2015
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Food & Fellowship

News

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vited to come and attend these services. For more information, please call Chris Floyd at 601-323-4400.

Prophecy Roundtable Classes Set

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5312 Highway 39 North, Meridian, will have Prophecy Roundtable classes each Wednesday night in April beginning April 8, 2015 through April 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. These discussions will be led

by Joseph Harris of Laurel, former Interim President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information, call Pastor Chris Floyd at 601-323-4400.

AVAILABLE

Scott Downs

Bro. Scott Downs is available for pulpit supply, revivals or pastoral work. He may be reached at 601-749-0951 or 601-916-0486.

The Importance of Grandparenting

Precious memories! How they linger. If you grew up having a good relationship with your grandparents; then those memories are some of the best memories in life. Holidays at the grandparents' house were very special times. Going fishing with your grandfather or eating favorite foods your grandmother baked are some sweet memories. More than precious memories, grandparents afford many benefits in a child's well-being. Grandparents can enhance mental, emotional and spiritual well-being into the grandchild's life.

All humans need to receive and know unconditional love and acceptance. God, as our creator, made all humans with an innate need for love and acceptance. While He is the only one who can fulfill this need; He uses our relationships with others to achieve this sense of His love for us. Children will be mentally healthier and emotionally more stable having grandparents that show them unconditional love and acceptance. The more people in a child's life that can offer this to a child; the better the child will develop.

Family Ark Ministries

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



ers to achieve this sense of His love for us. Children will be mentally healthier and emotionally

Parents are charged with the enormous job of teaching, disciplining, and shaping a child for the better and for God's glory. Grandparents just get to play with them, love them and act silly with them. Kids need this. Someone they can count on to accept them just as they are. The grandparent is someone who is always ready to tell them how special they are. While parents can do this also, there is a bonus effect when it comes from someone besides the parents.

Spiritually, grandparents pass on a legacy. Grandparents should understand that their grandkids will not remember all the toys they bought them for their birthday or Christmas. Today's kids get so much. But your grandchildren will never, ever forget that you prayed with them or read or told Bible stories to them. God does not allow them to ever forget this. Grandchildren may grow up and reject God and everything about the way they were raised. However, they will never be able to erase out of their minds staying in the home of grandparents that had a deep and abiding faith in Christ.

Kids will always remember after the grandparents have gone to heaven that you prayed for them or took them to church or read the Bible to them. What kind of legacy, what kind of holy heritage are you leaving to this future generation? What are

you passing on of your faith in Jesus? Rich grandparents invest heavily in their grandchildren's faith journey.



An inheritance passed on of a deep and abiding faith is far greater than any financial inheritance you could ever leave them.

Grandparents offer a sense of security to children. It is derived from a sense of belonging. Grandparents offer continuity in life. It let's kids know 'this is where I came from'. That is why it is perfectly okay for grand-

parents. Parents should hold their children accountable to go to their grandparent's house from time to time and spend time during the holidays with them. More importantly, they should teach their children to have the right attitude. Do not whine about being there. Do not complain that it is boring or smells funny in their house. If grandparents have us all go to bed early, then it won't kill you to go to bed early while visiting them over the Christmas holidays. This teaches children respect and honor of others.

Sure it is more fun to go with friends skiing over Christmas break. I know selfishly that the teens will want to stay home and play video games. It is more important to teach your kids to have relationships with family. There will be time for skiing later on. Parents should also insist that their kids not take their electronic media and spend all of their time plugged in to that, while disconnecting from their grandparents while in their home. There has to be a balance. There is nothing wrong with letting your children play a game on their phone or texting a friend. But it must have boundaries established. The kids should have down time where they are not on any device, but are sitting with the grandparents talking, visiting, and fellowshiping.

We are losing the art of communication and multi-generational interaction. Humanity will suffer because of that. Family love and family bonds are created through interaction one on one. You can't text your way to a close relationship with your family. Teach your kids to shut it off, put it down, and look others in the eye and visit.

There are many problems in families today. Just remember grandparents, adult kids or in-laws may have trouble with each other. But your kids don't. If there has been no abuse, then while you may be mad at your relatives, don't rob your children of this great joy in life. Interacting with grandparents. And for grandparents, adult kids and grandkids; it is never too late to start. We can't go back and make a brand new start; but we can all start today to make a brand new ending. Never give up.

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Proverbs 17:6

parents to share old stories. I videotaped my grandparents talking about their life as kids to preserve that oral history for my own kids and now their kids. And parents should insist that their children and teens listen to stories told by their grandparents. It is a learning, and growing experience. Chances are excellent that your kids will actually learn from this oral history something they can draw on later in their adult life to benefit them or their own family.

Children should be taught that honoring one's parents also transcends to honoring one's grand-

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

President

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

Oak Grove WMA

The Oak Grove District WMA will meet at Pine Grove Church on Friday, April 3, at 7:00 pm. We invite ANY ladies who would like to come. Mrs. Amy Barrett will be our speaker. We will be serving Mexican food and door prizes will be given. Call 601-596-3417 for more information.

Northeast Mississippi WMA Retreat Traveling – God's Path for Me

May 2, 2015

9:00 a.m. – until

Hopewell Baptist Church
1975 Hopewell Keys Rd.
Fulton, MS (Dorsey Community)

Speakers:

Anita Akers

East Amory Baptist Church
Amory, MS

Sabrina Clayton

Bethel Baptist Church
Fulton, MS

A registration fee of \$10.00 (non-refundable), is due by April 24th, includes a catered lunch and a continental breakfast that will be served from 8:30 – 8:55. For more information: (662-231-8066; 662-862-

Upcoming Events

Missions & Evangelism Conference

Hillcrest Baptist Church
Yazoo City
May 1, 2015

Senior Adult Conferences

North - Unity Church, Guntown
May 5, 2015

BMAA Annual Meeting

April 20-22, 2015
Springfield, Missouri

State Mid-year Meeting

May 19, 2015
Campground Church, Gulfport
Blake McCain, speaker

Junior Camp

Waukaway Springs
June 1-3, 2015
Speaker - Dr. John David Smith

COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

South Conference a Big Success

The South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference was held Tuesday, March 24th before a packed house at Big Creek Baptist Church. It was a day of worship and praise. Our seniors heard a great message on revival needed for our nation, our churches and personal revival. Thanks to all who attended. The host church made ample preparation for a smooth flowing day of blessings.

North Conference Next

Now its on to the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference to be held Tuesday, May 5th at Unity Baptist Church, Guntown. We are expecting a full house of seniors for this special day among North Mississippi seniors.

The Commission on Senior Adults continues to provide much enjoyment for our senior members and encourage them as they continue to worship and serve in our churches.

2015 South Senior Adult Conference



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Jesus Has Conquered Death

Isn't it wonderful to have the assurance that our resurrected and glorified Savior is alive? The Apostle John heard Jesus say to him, *"Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."* Revelation 1:18. The song says:

*Death could not keep her prey,
Jesus my Saviour;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord.*

The future for the child of God is one that is full of hope because of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. The words that Peter wrote to Christians who were going through difficulty and persecution are an encouragement to us today. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* 1 Peter 1:3.

It is good to know that the grave is not a dead-end street. Rather, it is the highway to heaven. *"Because I live,"* said Jesus, *"ye shall live also."* John

14:19. Jesus also said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."* John 11:25.

For a moment, just think about the awesome power that is available to us, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The power that conquered death itself and makes it possible so that you and I can shout: *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* 1 Corinthians 15:55.

Youth of Spencer Memorial

Recently the Gulf Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home. The children and young people of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church in Pascagoula were personally involved in



Youth of Spencer Memorial Church

helping raise funds for this rally by collecting love offerings from the congregation throughout the year. We want to express our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

Progress Reports for Students

Well, there is just one more nine week period of school left in this school year. Our boys and girls continue to do well in their studies. There was one on the Principal's List (all A's), two on the Honor Roll (B's or better), and our kindergarten boy was also proficient in his studies, as far as our elementary students are concerned. Our middle school and high school students are doing well also, with one receiving all A's.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verses

Continue to remember the girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* Proverbs 3:5,6.

A Closer Look At The Lord's Supper - Part I

by Danny Pitts, pastor
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove
Laurel, Mississippi

I Corinthians 11:23 *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of*



that bread, and drink of that cup.

The observance of the Lord's Supper can be an extremely moving experience by believers. The fulfillment of the commands of Jesus in the Biblical way is a critical issue. The Catholic view is called Transubstantiation. They teach that the ingredients of the bread and wine literally changes into the body and blood of Christ. Their emphasis is upon the presence of Jesus through the ceremony. They state that what happens is a mystery. The result of their position is that grace is imparted to those who participate.

This became one of the sacraments through which a relationship with the Lord begins and is maintained.

Other groups such as the Lutherans hold a view that many called Consubstantiation. They do not believe that the ingredients of the bread and wine are literally changed into the body and blood of Christ. They do believe that He is

present in a supernatural way. Some of their scholars resist the view that this is a mystical union. In fairness, we have difficulty understanding how some of them teach that Jesus is received by the mouth.

The Biblical position which is held by most Protestants is that the observance of the Lord's Supper is not the means of receiving grace. The bread and fruit of the vine are strictly symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus. The broken bread pictures Jesus' body being broken on

the cross. The fruit of the vine represents the blood which Jesus shed in His death for us. Because of the instructions by our Lord, we are to do the observance as a memorial of Jesus and His sacrifice for us. No Saving Grace is imparted through the Lord's Supper. Instead it pictures the price which He paid for us as our substitute. We go through the steps to celebrate Him and our salvation. Although it does not save us, it is important that we obey the Lord and participate in the service.

Benefit Concert for Missionary

Brothers in Harmony has come together again for "A Night of Gospel Music". This event will be hosted by Life Church, Laurel, MS on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Brothers In Harmony is a Contemporary Gospel Trio that traveled extensively throughout the southeast of the United States and overseas between 1999 and 2006 sharing the love of God through music and testimony. The group's members are David Freeman, Sam Freeman and Grant Staples. The group has not performed together since 2006 when their ministries took them in separate directions, so this night will be a memorable moment for them and those who supported their ministry all those years ago.

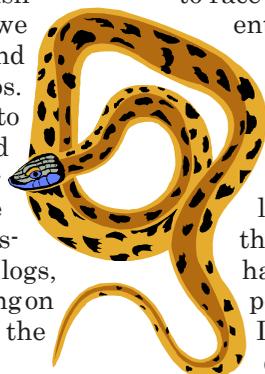
Sam Freeman, the group's tenor and his family will be moving to the Philippines later this year to work as missionaries and this concert is to benefit their ministry. Admission is free to the concert... but a love offering will be taken with all proceeds going towards Sam Freeman's Philippine Missions Ministry.

For further information please call David at 601-498-4698 or Life Church Office at 601-428-5433.

For additional information regarding the Sam Freeman Family missions endeavor, check them out on FB at <https://www.facebook.com/freemansinthephilippines>

SNNA AAAAKKEE!!!

Tromping through the woods of South Louisiana as a young boy, I've encountered my share of snakes in the wild. We've never gotten along very well, the snakes and I. It could stem from the fact that I would try to bash their heads in every time we showed up at the same time and place in the woods and swamps. Just for that, they seemed to distrust my intentions and spent countless hours thinking of how they could scare the bejeebers out of me while crossing streams, stepping over logs, and occasionally while sunning on my well worn paths through the woods.



Even then, I had never been super scared of snakes. At least I had never been scared until I looked down the white throat of the devil while easing along a bluff deer hunting one afternoon. As I stalked along my well worn path, pausing every step or two to look down into the holler (that's hollow for you city folk), I heard a rattling of the leaves at my feet. For some reason, a giant cottonmouth took exception to the fact that I was about to step on him and had coiled up with his head back and his mouth wide open with evil intentions on his mind. He blinked, which gave me time to jump back about eight feet. I got in a little cardio exercise by running in place and screaming at the top of my lungs, which seemed to aggravate Mr. Snake even more. Years later, I still have nightmares of our encounter.

A few years passed and I was finally able to quit shaking. That is, until I

was visiting my sister one day. I decided to walk to the pond and see if I could catch a few fish. As I passed by her shed, another demon snake decided that would be the appropriate moment to race out from under the shed and entangle itself between my legs and feet. I have no idea what it was thinking, unless it hadn't filled its quota of excitement for the morning. Now I have never performed live on stage as a dancer, but I think if any talent agents would have seen me that day, it's a possibility that I would be on Dancing With the Stars to this day. When the music stopped, my dancing partner was apparently unimpressed with my performance and lit out to find someone with a better sense of rhythm. Snakes can be fickle.

Being a lover of turkey hunting, I now have a dilemma. Turkey hunting coincides with snakes coming out in droves after a cold winter. Should I give up turkey hunting or simply face my fear of snakes head on? I guess I will chance the woods. Besides, being a Baptist, this is the only time I get to dance.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



Saluting Our Soldiers With the Gospel

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with Brandon an experience I had Sunday after Sunday when a veteran in our church would approach me with tears and say, "One day I need to come up and visit with you about some things." I knew he was referring to his military experiences in war. And to be honest, the thought of that conversation scared me to death. Why? Because I didn't have any common experiences to refer-

ence. Sadly, many pastors feel the same way and this has led to a "wall of silence" between veterans and pastors when it comes to the difficulties they endure on our behalf. The unfortunate irony is the fact that as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the message we proclaim holds the only power over the difficulties that plague the souls of our veterans and active personnel.

Sadly, the veteran in our church passed away before we ever had a conversation. At his funeral, I couldn't stop thinking about how many decades he had wrestled with issues that only Christ could resolve. While their willingness to put their lives on the line for our freedom reflects the gospel to us, we often do a poor job reflecting the gospel to them.

As ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can do better. Our churches are full of these silent soldiers. Recognizing them during services on holiday weekends, although a good idea, simply isn't enough. Something more needs to

be done – and it is long overdue. Our veterans are worth the investment. Brandon's idea prompted several other conversations with friends who serve as chaplains, counselors, and VA social workers. Each of them has expressed similar concerns and a desire to change the culture of our churches.

Recently, I gathered some of these folks together and we began to discuss ways that we can help churches become "Military Friendly Congregations." After all, military families may be the most overlooked group of hurting people in the church today.

I am seeking your feedback. Whether you are a pastor, veteran, active-duty service man or woman, or a family member of someone who has served our country, would you please send me feedback to help us gather ideas? Perhaps you can share more of the struggles veterans and military personnel face. Maybe you can share examples of how other churches and ministries are helping. Or, perhaps you could just let me know if you agree that this is a legitimate need in our churches.

DiscipleGuide

Scott Attebery
Executive Director
scott@discipleguide.org



Attebery