Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Elective Breakout Sessions for 2016 BMAA National Meeting Announced

Six breakout sessions have been announced for the 2016 BMAA National Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The elective breakouts are provided as opportunities for practical ministry training and resourcing. The following slate of topics and speakers will address a wide array of relevant issues facing pastors and churches today:

The Importance of Women in Ministry - Jerene Reddin

Women have a valuable place in kingdom work. From the Old Testament through the New Testament, and from the early church through today, God has used faithful ladies to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Join Jerene Reddin for a celebration of ministry from a female perspective. As an active ministry leader, Jerene has a unique perspective that will be an inspiration and encouragement. She and her husband, George Reddin, serve faithfully at Denver Street Baptist Church in Greenwood, Arkansas.

How to Resolve Conflict within the Church - Dr. Mike Smith

Conflict can wreak havoc on a congregation, but God has not left us to work out our problems alone. Instead, he has given us clear strategies for peacekeeping in his Word and promised the presence of his Spirit to work through our conflicts.

Dr. Mike Smith is President of Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas. His book, Conflict: Causes and Cures, draws on wisdom from working with over 3,000 conflict cases throughout his ministry.

How to Protect Your Church from a Lawsuit - Kurt Hetherington

Today, more than ever, churches are under attack. The demand for homosexual weddings, claims of unlawful discrimination and accusations of hate-speech are only the beginning. Is your church prepared to defend itself?

Kurt Hetherington is the president of James Greene and Associates in Sherwood, Arkansas. The agency is one of America's largest insurers of churches and related ministries. Kurt has over twenty years of insurance and risk management experience. He is also a CRM (Certified Risk Manager) and has held this designation for almost ten years. His specialized training and experience with church insurance and lawsuits provide him with insight to help pastors protect their congregations.

Small Churches Can Make a Big Difference - Paul Bearfield

Who said that only big churches can make an impact? The fact of the matter is that the majority of churches in America are small. The bulk of ministry in America happens in congregations of less than seventy people.

Paul Bearfield is the pastor of Worden Baptist Church in Bald Knob, Arkansas. This small congregation is reaching a multi-ethnic, multi-generational farming community through outreach and discipleship. Paul's experience in both large and small churches gives him a unique perspective on the advantages small churches have in reaching communities for Christ.

How to Deliver Transformational Teaching - Mark Livingston

It is possible to share information without seeing transformation. What is it that sets apart powerful teaching and preaching from a mere lecture? Whether you are a first-time Sunday school teacher or a seasoned pastor, this session will provide practical tips you can put into action this Sunday.

Dr. Mark Livingston is the pastor of Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. His background in radio broadcasting, coupled with doctoral studies in preaching, has helped Mark hone his communication skills. In addition to pastoring, Mark also teaches at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, and serves as managing editor of Compass Adult Bible Studies.

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April - May 2016
State Missions Emphasis

National BMA Meeting
April 25-27
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

North Mississippi Senior Conference
May 10th - Fulton, MS

Haitian Pastor Killed

by the editor

One of the Haitian pastors that we were working with has been killed in a robbery attempt. Information provided by Bro. Mike Poirier and Bro. James Sprayberry says that Bro. Genus Similien was killed on March 29 by an armed robber. Similien has just left a bank with funds he had withdrawn to be used for home repairs when he was confronted by the robber and killed. His funeral service will be April 5 in Petit Goave, Haiti.

Bro. Genus Similien

Speaking with Brethren Poirier and Sprayberry it was learned that the family does not have adequate funds for the expense of the funeral. Some money has been sent, but more is needed. The cost will be around $2,500.00. Anyone wishing to help with this should send funds to First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, P.O. Box O, Bay Springs, MS 39422.

Prayers for this young man's family, his church and the work in Haiti is appreciated.

BMA Directors Reports On-line

In preparation for the 2016 BMA National Meeting, the executive directors of each national department and agency have recorded a detailed video report of their yearly activities. In addition to the annual reports given to the messengers at the National Meeting in Gatlinburg, these video reports are an attempt to give everyone an opportunity to know as much as possible about the ministry of each department. Each director encourages all messengers and church members to watch their reports and to contact them with any questions, concerns or comments.

Director reports can be found at the following websites:

Dr. John David Smith, BMA Missions - bmamissions.org

Dr. Steve Crawley, Lifeword Media Ministries - lifeword.org

Dr. Charlie Holmes, BMA Theological Seminary - bmats.edu/about-us/annual-report/

Dr. Scott Attebery, DiscipleGuide – discipleguide.org

Dr. John Adams, BMA Moral Action- vimeo.com/158914970

Charles Attebery, BMA Foundation – bmaamerica.org/bmafoundation

Larry Geraldson
Director

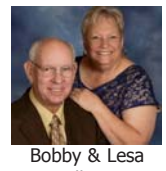
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund

State Missionaries and Wives

Bob & Edie Burch

Kenneth & Carole Pollock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Danny & Brenda Bartlett

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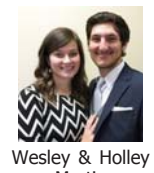
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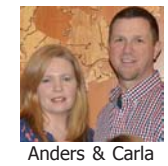
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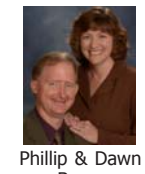
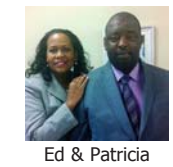

Phillip & Dawn Burns

Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin

Elvis & Wendy Garcia


Ed & Patricia DuVall

601.428.8616 www.bmams.org

New Revolving Loan Fund Manager Selected

On March 21, 2016 the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees gave a unanimous vote of confidence in support of this Director's selection of Bro. Vernon Newman to fill the position of Revolving Loan Fund Manager. The Manager position became vacant after the retirement of Bro. Lavell Lee in June 2015. During the regularly scheduled Revolving Loan Fund meeting, held at the Missions Office, I informed the Trustees that I had been discussing the position with Bro. Newman for the past year and that he had agreed to accept the position. I shared with them a complete Biography of Bro. Newman's background and qualification, which is very extensive, but here is an excerpt:

Vernon & Tammie Newman

Vernon L. Newman was born December 23, 1960 in Grenada, Mississippi. He graduated from West Jones High School in Laurel, Mississippi, in 1978. He later attended Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, Mississippi with an emphasis on business. He graduated in 1994 from William Carey University, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, with a BGS in (Business) and went on to acquire his MBA in Business in 1998 from William Carey University.

He and his wife, Tammie, married 34 years, have two grown children, Michael and Morgan.

He was saved when he was 6 years old, re-affirmed that salvation in 1981 and was baptized at Big Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi.

He has served in various positions in his church and local and state associations including service as a Trustee and Clerk of the Revolving Loan Fund. In 2010 he was ordained as deacon at Big Creek Missionary Baptist Church and has served in an active capacity uninterrupted to the present.

Vernon Newman is presently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Mississippi National Guard with over 26 years of commissioned service. He will be retiring in August of 2016, which is when he will officially begin serving as the RLF Manager.

During his years of service, LTC Newman participated in numerous deployments including Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War from Nov '90-April '91; and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kuwait from Dec '04-Jan '06; and again as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom station at Taji, Iraq from May '09-March '10.

He was awarded with the following awards in recognition for his military service: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (w/ two (2) Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (w/ one (1), Silver Oak Leaf Cluster & two (2) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (w/ one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal (w/ three (3) Bronze Service Stars), Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/ one (1) Bronze Service Star), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (w/ Silver "X") (w/ "M" Device) (w/ "3"), Army Service Ribbon Overseas Service Ribbon (w/ "3"), Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon (w/ "3"), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Mississippi Magnolia Medal (w/ three (3) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Mississippi War Medal (w/ two (2) Bronze Service Stars), Mississippi Emergency Service Medal (w/one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Mississippi Service School Medal, Mississippi Longevity Medal (6th Award)

His background and training, as well as, his understanding of our associated work, the Revolving Loan Fund and Missions will serve to make him a tremendous asset to this department and the entire BMA of Mississippi.

Lifeword Media Leadership Training

One part of Lifeword's three-pronged vision is media and leadership training patterned after the ministry of Jesus and his disciples and Paul's ministry and his discipleship of Timothy and Titus. Central America, Ghana and the Philippines have established this training process. The formula, outlined in Exponential by Dave Ferguson and John Ferguson, looks something like this:

1. I do. You watch. We talk.
2. I do. You help. We talk.
3. You do. I help. We talk.
4. You do. I watch. We talk.
5. You do. Someone else watches. You talk.
6. Repeat the process with someone else.

Steps one and two of the process began in Central America when Lifeword Programming Director Luis Ortega trained BMA Honduras Leader Denis Lopez seven years ago while he watched, then helped install Lifeword Community Radio in Honduras and Guatemala.

Steps three and four were realized when Bro. Denis Lopez became Central America's visionary leader, training others in media and leadership including Luis Gonzalez, a young Garifuna living in the remote village of Batalla (Honduras). Gonzalez was trained at Tela, Honduras, one of Lifeword's Community Radio training bases where he was led by other Garifuna brethren and Lopez. Assisted by Bro. Denis Lopez, Gonzales helped with the installation of Lifeword Community Radio in three areas/dialects: Garifuna villages, Kekchi villages of Guatemala and in Diria, Nicaragua.

Wyatt team members make part of their journey to La Concepcion by boat.

A mission team from Wyatt Baptist Church, in El Dorado, Arkansas, along with Nicaragua Missionary Oscar Gaitan, were able to get a close-up look at step five of media and leadership training on their yearly Spring Break mission trip. After two days of travel from Honduras, Bro. Luis Gonzalez met Wyatt pastor Adam Thomas, the Wyatt team and BMA leader Bro. Oscar Gaitan on an assignment to set up Lifeword Community Radio in the remote village of La Concepcion in Nicaragua

After nineteen hours of travel by bus, a two-hour boat ride and another two hours by mule and on foot, the teams arrived at La Concepcion. With tears of joy, Bro. Gonzalez exclaimed, "Words cannot describe the feeling of being able to serve these beautiful people. The spiritual and physical needs are many, but to be able to partner with other BMA

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National Missions Director to hold on-line Town Hall

On April 19 at 7 p.m., Dr. John David Smith, executive director of BMA Missions, will host an online town hall meeting in order to update our churches on the current financial status of the Department of Missions. A brief update will be offered, then the audience will have the opportunity to interact with questions. You may log in to the meeting by clicking on the following link: bmalife.com/tv.

Lifeword Media

from page 2

people to meet both physical and spiritual needs was and is the highlight of my life. The greatest joy was passing on to them the knowledge and training I have received both in regards to the gospel and media to make disciples. Like the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:3, I can say that 'I delivered unto [them] all that which I also received.'

Bro. Adam Thomas said, "It was awesome to see this radio ministry get off the ground. I was even more amazed when I realized that a lot of the people in the area had phones with FM receivers in them. This could have a huge impact on this young church! Thanks for all y'all do at Lifeword. Also, the young man who installed it (Gonzalez) was an excellent representative of Lifeword. Loved having him on our trip."

Lifeword Community Radio trainee Bro. Baldemar watches, helps and learns from Bro. Luis Gonzalez on the La Concepcion installation in March.

Two days after the trip, BMA Nicaragua leader Bro. Oscar Gaitan said, "This is perfect and practical for this village! This has already proven to be one of the best tools for them. We are rejoicing over the first fruits this radio has already produced along with the other efforts! You cannot imagine the joy this is bringing to all. A neighboring village has already caught wind of what is happening in La Concepcion, and they are requesting we come to their village too."

Step six will be completed when Bro. Luis Gonzalez will request someone like Bro. Baldemar (pictured with Gonzalez) or any of the others he trained in Concepcion to assist him in the next Nicaraguan village. This process of developing apprentices and leaders is one of three ways Lifeword helps BMA churches around the world spread the gospel and develop disciples in their communities.

Breakout Sessions

from page 1

How to Recruit and Keep Volunteers - Bryan Atwood

Do you find yourself scrambling each week to fill teaching positions? Is it hard to keep nursery workers? Do you have to replace greeters more often than you'd like?

Every church runs on volunteers. No matter how big the congregation's budget or attendance, the majority of workers within any given church are volunteers.

Bryan Atwood, pastor of Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi, possesses years of experience organizing volunteers for both a church and a campground. In this breakout, he will share helpful ideas for identifying, training, and keeping volunteers in your church.

For more information on the 2016 BMAA national meeting, including schedules, maps, and lodging, go to bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting.

BMA America Recognized by Best Christian Workplace Institute

Best Christian Workplace Institute (BCWI) has recognized the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America Global Ministry Center (GMC) as a Certified Best Christian Workplace for 2016. Four BMA departments and agencies are housed at the GMC in Conway, Arkansas: BMA Foundation, BMA Missions, DiscipleGuide and Lifeword. The Certified status reflects a "healthy-to-flourishing" culture, meeting predetermined standards of excellence through a formal employee engagement survey. The detailed, fifty-question survey model measures eight essential factors of a thriving, healthy culture including Life-Giving Work, Outstanding Talent, Uplifting Growth and Development, Rewarding Compensation, Inspirational Leadership, Fantastic Teams, Sustainable Strategy, and Healthy Communication. "Attaining BCWI Certification is not easy," said BCWI President Al Lopus. "About half of the organizations we survey achieve Certification, and many organizations survey multiple years before receiving this distinction." The leadership team at the GMC uses the results of the annual survey to gain valuable input from employees to aid in their quest to model servant leadership and to strive for continuous improvement in the organizational culture. To see the institute's complete list, use this link: http://www.bcwinstitute.org/bcwlists.html.

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Commission On *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Kenneth Flynt
Director

A Great Day For Seniors - More To Come

Heaven came down and glory filled our souls as the South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference met in the sanctuary of Big Creek Baptist Church. Once again the house was filled with extra chairs being brought in. The host church again provided every need for this conference. We can never express enough gratitude for the way the host churches take care of all the details.

2016 South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

East Fulton will once again do the same thing on Tuesday, May 10th when the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference meets with Pastor John Lewis and East Fulton Baptist Church. The Dorsey Friendship Fire department will cater the noon meal with all the catfish you can eat and with all the trimmings. The ladies of the host churches always provide an abundance of desserts and etc..

We ask once again for those attending to call in the number attending from each church, the numbers to call are 662-862-3963 or 903-701-2659. This is not a must but it will help. Thank you for your cooperation. Cost of this conference is still $15.00 per person.

Let's look forward to a great day with Pastor John Lewis and East Fulton Baptist Church on May 10th. I want to express my appreciation to the pastors of North Mississippi for helping promote this event.

Big Creek Association Sets Revival

The Big Creek Association will hold its annual Association Wide Revival April 10-13. The speaker will be Bro. David Watkins. Bro. Watkins is former pastor of First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas and former president of the BMA of America.

The revival will be held at the following churches: Sunday, April 10 Temple Baptist, Laurel 6:00 pm; Monday, April 11 First Baptist, Bay Springs 7:00 pm; Tuesday, April 12 Parkview Baptist, Laurel 7:00 pm; and Wednesday, April 13 Big Creek Baptist, Soso 7:00 pm.

An Association wide choir, led by Bro. Brandon Wilson, will also perform.

Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page
www.msbaptist.org
Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Don Brown - Editor

A Wonderful, Eye-opening, Blessed Experience

In April 2015 at the national BMA of America meeting Bonnie and I happened to end up at breakfast at the same time as Doug and Diane Lee, self-support missionaries to the Philippines.

Our discussion turned toward their ministry in the Philippines and I shared the desire to visit there some day. The Philippine mission ministry is one that is well connected to the state of Mississippi. Doyle and Linda Moore, Rayburn and Faye Freeman, Doug and Diane Lee, Danny and Rita Ballard, Alisha Ramshur Samson, and now Sam and Dawn Freeman, are all native Mississippians. Not all of our missionaries in the Philippines are from Mississippi,

We enjoyed the fellowship of our missionaries. Left to right - Don Brown, Doug Kiper, Danny Ballard, Doug Lee and seated is Doyle Moore.

visit, and with a little coaxing by Diane, Bonnie agreed to the trip. I was invited to be the commencement speaker at the Philippine Bible College graduation for 2016. Of course an invitation like that is hard to turn down.

The Lord blessed and we were able to make the trip this past March. We were gone for two weeks and had a wonderfully blessed time. The Filipino people welcomed us warmly and we were blessed to visit at least 6 of our churches. I was invited to preach at 3 different churches as well as speak at the graduation. We also attended the wedding of a young pastor who graduated from the Bible College. His bride was also a graduate. What a privilege it was to be able to see God's work in the Philippines and the results of dedicated missionaries and God's blessings.

Magalona Baptist Church and below a photo with the members

but looking at the list of names above, it is clear Mississippi is well represented on this field.

Doug and Diane encouraged us to

Doug & Diane Lee sang a special before I brought the message at Tangub Church

I finally was blessed to meet Bro. Pete Etabag and his wife. He pastors the Tangub Baptist Church as well as being the LifeWord Ministries director in the Philippines. Bro. Pete performed the wedding we attended and I discovered that he is quite a character - and I mean that in the best way possible.

I preached at the E.B. Magalona Baptist Church the first Sunday we were there. We were received warmly by Bro. Jomel Samson and his wife 'Tootsie', who is also dean at the college.

We attended and led a Bible study on Tuesday evening at the home of Doyle and Linda Moore. They host this weekly study and reach a diverse group of individuals. There was a British citizen, a German and an American present, as well as native Filipinos.

On Wednesday of our first week I preached at Mandalagan Baptist Church where Bro. Steve Albalos and his wife Ofelia minister. The next Sunday I spoke at Tangub Baptist Church, pastored by Bro. Pete Etabag. This church was organized by Bro. Ray Freeman during his ministry there.

Bro. Doug Kiper, second from left, sharing the work at Fabrica. Below is their church and education space.

We attended the baccalaureate service for the graduates at Living Water Baptist Church as well as a Monday evening prayer service at the Moore's home for the college graduates.

Native Mississippian Alisha Ramshur Samson has completed 3 years of medical school and continues her quest to become an MD. Pray for her as she completes her studies.

Doug and Diane Lee were gracious in allowing us to stay in their home for the two weeks we were there. They were gracious hosts and wonderful tour guides during our trip. The Lee's are doing a good work in the music ministry at the Bible college as well as in other areas. Doug is vice-president of the college and he and Diane both wear a number of hats.

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Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
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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
601-729-2613

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

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

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Don J. Brown, Editor
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Philippine Trip

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We were blessed to fellowship with Bro. Doug and Myra Kiper and their church at Fabrica. They are preparing to move to the church site to be able to better minister to their people.

The people of Mandalagan Baptist Church and Pastor Steve Albalos and his wife Ofelia.

Sam Freeman and worker with new printing press. This press is the latest technology and allows the Publication ministry to produce quality literature in a short period of time. What a blessing to all who contributed to its purchase.

Bro. Doyle Moore was in Vietnam for most of the time we were there, but did return in time for graduation. He has a heavy load, but is doing a good job in helping the work to reach out in the

Bro. P{ete Etabag giving us a tour of the Philippine LifeWord facilities.

Asia-Pacific area. We enjoyed our time fellowshipping with he and Linda. Linda also served as a tour guide and took us to some areas of interest.

The work in the Philippines is going

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Since 1806
BMA
OF
MISSISSIPPI

Special Emphasis For State Missions

Our Goal:

← Carthage, MS 71.15% of households unreached

Oxford, MS → 70.72% of households unreached

Jackson, MS → 71.51% of households unreached

Help us raise $25,000.00 to plant churches in Mississippi…

Facts:

- Approximately 1.4 - 2 million people are unreached
- 67% of households do not have even one born again believer

← Ridgeland, MS 72.14% of households unreached

Starkville, MS → 73.75% of households unreached

April – May 2016

← Edwards, MS 71.27% of households unreached

ACTIVATE: Mobilizing BMA Churches Across the Nation

by Todd West

Activate is a church revitalization ministry that is mobilizing BMA churches across the nation. Approximately forty churches are now participating in this three-year experience. Here are the testimonies of two BMA leaders:

"Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church is starting the Activate experience. We are hoping to achieve several goals. One is to get a thorough checkup on our church. We want to see the areas where we are doing good so that we can move on to great and the areas where we aren't doing so good so we can improve them as well! We want to be a healthy church! Another goal is to help us see what we need to do to grow. Like so many other BMA churches, we're showing a lot of gray! We need to focus on our community and reach the families and young people. Hopefully this ministry will show us areas that we need to improve in order to reach out! A third goal is to be healthy enough to reproduce."

Gene Hankins, Pastor , Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, McAlester, Oklahoma

"Activate has brought pastors and state missionaries to the table together, and they have so much to offer each other. Every Texas Pastor's Huddle (area meeting for pastors involved in Activate) has a missionary in the mix. Our missionaries have already been exposed to all of the material in Activate. What makes Activate so attractive for the missionary is that the material is given out and worked through slowly over a three-year period. Our churches and missionaries are being given the tools to evaluate their health and to make adjustments step by step. I couldn't be more excited about the potential of the Activate ministry".

Heith Mitchell, Director of Missions, BMA of Texas

In the fall of 2016, DiscipleGuide will sponsor an event called Activate Orientation for any pastors, staff or key leaders who would like to know more about the Activate experience. Activate Orientation will also give clear instructions for how your church could possibly begin the Activate journey starting in 2017. Registration for Activate Orientation will begin later this summer. I ask that you pray for the churches and their leaders currently in Activate.

WMA & GMA Reports

President Urges Support For Project

by Linda Smith

Spring is upon us, and as we enjoy the beauty of God's world we notice that the temperatures are rising, especially in south Mississippi!) On these warm afternoons, how would we feel if the only thing we had to drink was river water or stagnant pond water? These are the choices that face many people in our world. I would like to take this opportunity to turn our thoughts to our state WMA project for 2015-2016...Water for Christ. This is a wonderful ministry that has opened many doors for the spread of the gospel.

It reminds me of the quote from Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Water, water, everywhere....Nor any drop to drink." Just because there is water does not mean it is fit to drink. We are so blessed that it is hard for us to comprehend not being able to get a drink of water when we are thirsty. Water for Christ's mission is to drill water wells in communities to provide clean drinking water combined with giving the same community the opportunity to hear and receive living water found in the living Christ.

W4C is also involved in other ministries in Ghana: facilitating a women's bread factory, providing sewing machines for the Women's Ministry, school ministries, and Crusade Ministries. I encourage you to visit their website http://www.waterforchrist.com/ to see what all they are involved in and how we as the Mississippi State WMA can help. The Donna Lawrence Memorial Well has already been dug thanks to funds designated by the Mississippi State WMA.

I look forward to hearing about ways your WMA group is raising funds for the project. I know our historian would love to have some photos, too! Please feel free to email me with any ideas, photos, etc. My email address is lsmith_55@yahoo.com.

Ten Mile WMA report

by Maria Ochoa

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on January 11, at Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston. At this meeting we held our Sunbeam and GMA Coronation

Jessica Kirkland inspired us with words of wisdom, encouraged everyone to be Missionaries, go where God sends you and be an Ambassador. The devotional was presented by Paula Prickett. We had prayer request and circle prayer for all in need.

Our project for this quarter is Missionary Brother Danny and Brenda Bartlett. Our next meeting will be on April 11, 2016 at 7 PM with Temple Baptist Church in Biloxi.

Mississippi State GMA Treasurer's Report

March 31, 2016

Contributions to the Mississippi State GMA Project

1. Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton ..... $ 500.00
2. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso 100.00
3. Buffalo Baptist Church, McLain 500.00
4. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs 20.00
5. First Baptist Church, Mantachie 25.00
6. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel 100.00
7. Mildred Sumrall, Temple, Laurel 100.00
8. Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale 180.00
9. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere 120.00
10. Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston . 123.00
11. Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive 300.00
12. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl 327.00
13. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale 350.00

Funds Raised at GMA Retreat:

14. Silent Auction 677.75
15. Snack Shop (one-half proceeds went to the Galileans) ... 400.19
16. Craft Sales 234.75
17. Officers' Competition 44.82
18. Candy Grams 30.50
19. T-Shirts Profits 655.46

Total Received for GMA Project $4,788.47

Total Funds Received for the Project:

75% for Southeastern Baptist College $3,591.33
25% + Designated Offerings for the General Fund 1,197.14

Total Received for the Project ..... $ 4,788.47

GMA Project for 2016-2017:

75 % Water 4 Christ - 25 % General Fund

The GMA goal is to raise enough money to drill a well in Ghana, Africa, and name it the MS State GMA Water 4 Christ Well. That will cost at least $5,000.00. Begin now to pray and give to this project. Send all offerings to Shirlene Smith; 730 Highway 533; Laurel, MS 39443. Thank you for all that you do for Christ through the GMA work; God help us to do more in the coming year than we have ever done!

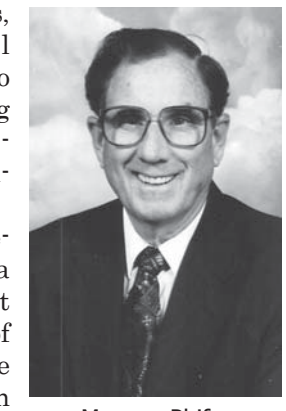
BMA National Meeting

Gatlinburg, Tenneessee
April 25-27, 2016

Gatlinburg Convention Center

BMA Minister Mavous Phifer Passes Away

James Mavous Phifer, 91, of Cairo, died Sunday, March 6, 2016, at Tishomingo Manor Nursing Home. Bro. Phifer was a member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church and also U.S. Army veteran. He was a Baptist minister for 54 years, and he served at several churches in Tishomingo County. He was also a lifelong carpenter, and he enjoyed visiting with his church members.



Mavous Phifer

In 1956 Bro. Mavous received the call to become a preacher. He surrendered that day and preached his first of many sermons at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Tishomingo County. Following God's leadership, Bro. Mavous went on to pastor at four churches: Roland Mills 1959 - 1961, Temple Baptist 1961 - 1984, Jackson Camp Baptist 1984 - 2002, and ending his pastoral years where he had begun 50 years earlier at Shady Grove from 2002 - 2008. He also attended Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Bro. Phifer was a faithful worker and served in many Associational capacities during his ministry.

Funeral services were held March 8 at Forked Oak Baptist Church officiated by Bro. Mike Smith and Bro. Rick Johnson. Interment was in Forked Oak Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Geraline Phifer of Cairo; a sister-in-law, Juanita Phifer of Clinton; special family friends, Tony and Cindy Strickland of Cairo; two special nieces, Anita Parker of Clinton and Janice Cole of Cairo; and several other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents, Bob and Dosha Parsons Phifer; and a brother, Melvin Phifer. Memorials may be made to the Forked Oak Cemetery Fund by calling Cindy Strickland at 662-462-5605.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Ungrateful Old Heifer!

Through the years my boys have had cows from time to time. While they are not considered cattle barons, they have had some interesting adventures.

One that I recall one of the boys telling about was this old cow that was meaner than a junk-yard dog. Butting his truck, intimidating the other cows, chasing anybody who happened to be in the pasture.

Well, she went missing and in looking for her, they found her buried in an old pond that was nearly dry but the mud was deep enough to cover her except for her head. As this son rode by, he is thinking, "Well, that's her final resting place." But then she blinked. So he decided he pull her out onto firm ground. This was accomplished through much effort, a tractor, ropes, chains, etc.

When they got her on firm ground and took off the ropes and chains, the first thing she did was to take off chasing her rescuer across the pasture.

Ungrateful old heifer!

Unthankfulness is somewhat frowned upon. Read II Timothy 3:1-6

58th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference

May 6, 2016

Sponsored by: The Baptist Missionary Associaiton of Mississippi Missions Department

Hosted by: South Forrest Baptist Mission
760 Church Well Rd., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
(Lunch Will Be Provided)

Speical Music, Reports by State Missionaries

Messages by
Larry Geraldson, Dennis Knight, Blake McCain,
John Lewis, Chad Cummins, James Sprayberry
Music by Jeff & Rosalind Dixon &
Special Music by Harold Floyd

More Information In Our Next Issue

Positions Available

Ark. Church Seeks Youth Director

The Park Avenue Baptist Church of Searcy, Arkansas, is seeking a Youth Director. Anyone who is interested may send a resume addressed to the attention of Pastor Keith Lunceford at the Park Avenue Baptist Church, 211 E. Park Avenue in Searcy, Arkansas 72143. All resumes will be handled privately and discreetly. Please include a photograph. Information may also be sent via email to keith@vuewireless.com.

Church Seeks Music Director

Lebanon Baptist Church is in need of a part-time music director. This person would be over leading worship service Sunday morning and night, as well as doing cantatas and other special music. We are looking for someone who is able to incorporate both hymnals and contemporary style music. All interested persons who have questions or would like to send their resume may do so by emailing Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com.

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - President

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

Danny Pitts

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

Support Vital

When would be a good time for you to make a special offering to Southeastern Baptist College? The answer is "Right now!" Our needs are constant, however. We are entering into the longest time of the year without a major source of income. The majority of students pay their part for their education in January and August. The last of the Pell Grant funds come in after the tenth week of school. From April until registration begins in August, the only substantial sources of funding the ministry are churches and individual contributors. The situation is always tight financially, but this year's needs are being felt early. Does God want YOU to be a blessing to us?

Graduation

This year's Graduation Services will be at 7:30 on Thursday evening, May 12th. Everyone is encouraged to make their plans to be present at Southeastern Baptist College to honor the students for their accomplishment. Among the other graduates, four preachers will receive their Bachelor of Science degree in Church Ministries. They will have completed at least 129 college hours. This is equivalent to 43 courses in which the student met for three hours during 16 weeks. During the first two years these students took the Core Curriculum classes which all schools teach for a well rounded education, as well a number of Bible related courses. During the last two years they studied subjects such as Evangelism, Christian Teaching, Counseling, Homiletics (Preaching), and Worship. Surely so much time focusing on the field of ministry increases the possibilities of service to the Lord. Does God want you to be growing in your knowledge of the Lord as a student at Southeastern?

Online Courses Available

Two online courses will be offered this summer at Southeastern. One is Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations. The other is OT-435 Poetic Books of the Old Testament, which are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. A survey will be made of the types and characteristics of Hebrew Poetry, giving attention to each book in relation to the overall revelation of God. The historical background, the authorship, and the major teaching and applications of the respective books will be noted. Three hours of college credit may be earned during June and July by taking one class and six hours credit by taking both. Dr. Aaron Parker will be the teacher of these classes. Call and register now. Pell Grants and V.A. Benefits may offset the costs for qualified students.

Tombigbee Missions Report

by Matt Hudson, Reporter

The Tombigbee Association met with South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo on March 10. The ladies of the Way, Truth, Life Hispanic mission and South Green served a delicious meal before the meeting.

The meeting opened with the band from the Hispanic church leading the congregation in music. Pastor Guyton Hinds introduced Bro. Humberto Regalado, pastor of Hispanic mission, for the message.

There were several workers to give reports for their respective areas of ministry. Bro. Kenneth Pollock gave a report on his work at the mission near Batesville. Work is needed on the building and visitation is going well with the mission. Their average attendance has been 18.

Bro. Elvis Garcia reported on the Hispanic work over the state. Other areas in Mississippi are being looked at for possible Hispanic mission work. Pastors from Ripley, Oxford, and Tupelo gave their reports for their mission work. We were blessed from hearing what God is doing with these young men reaching their people with the gospel. We need to pray and support them in this great work.

Next month's mission meeting will be April 7 at Ballardsville Baptist Church.

Available For Service

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

Zechariah Rogers

Zechariah Rogers is available for preaching opportunities or pastoral work as the Lord leads. He is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College working on a Bachelors in Christian Ministries. His home phone is 769-301-5004 and cell phone is 662-372-5730.

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 - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

The Cynical Deception of the Muslim Religion

On the bumpers of many vehicles today, we see the Co-exist sign - white letters, blue background trying to say that all these religions can get along. These signs, especially meaningful of the Islamic faith, want Americans to believe that Muslims and Christians can coexist. The coexist symbol is "c" for a crescent moon of Islam, the letter "x" for the Star of David representing Judaism, and the "t" for the Christian cross, the "o" for the pagan Wiccan, the "e" for the male/female sign, and the "s" for the Chinese ying-yang symbol. It is impossible for any two of them to agree totally because of their divergent image of God himself.

John Adams

In taking a closer look at the Muslim beliefs, our desire is to expose this deceitful religion. I thank the following for their helpful writings: Dr. Adrian Rogers, Dr. David Jeremiah, Glen Beck, Karen Armstrong, and Joel C. Rosenberg.

Islamic extremists have declared war on America. The sad day of 9-11 created a powerful shift in the United States. Although Muslim leaders across the globe were quick to repudiate the actions of this fringe group, Islamophobia brought the chaos of war to our American soil. We will never be the same again!

According to think-tanks in America, Americans viewed Islam as a monolithic religion that (1) preaches Holy war on non-Muslims, (2) that it shares very few of America's values, (3) that its religion is very aggressive, and sexist, (4) that it does support terrorism, and (5) that Islam wants to destroy the American/Christian way of life.

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States (1825-1829) wrote of Islam, "In the 7th century of the Christian era, a wandering Arab of the lineage of Hagar had Mohammad the Egyptian, combining the powers of transcendent genius, with the energy of a fanatic, the spirit of an imposter and proclaimed himself as a messenger from Heaven". The Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville said of Islam, "I studied the Quran a great deal and I came away from that study with the conviction that by and large there have been few religions in the world as deadly to men as that of Mohammed."

Let's review a list of lies/falsehoods that present themselves about the Muslim faith:

Lie #1....Islam is much like Christianity and Judaism.

Glen Beck wrote:

"Proponents of the hand-holding, drum-circle view of world religions often point to the common origin of the three monotheistic, all-encompassing way of life, inseparable from politics and law. All authority in the Islamic faith flows from God. There is no separation of church and state in the Sunni Islamic tradition. The caliph was a religious and political leader in one." There is a great difference.

Lie #2....Islam is a Great Religion of Peace.

President Barack Obama, a pro-Arab President, stated, "Islam is a religion that preaches peace." Numerous places in the Quran calls for violence and murder: Sura 9:29:

"Fight against those who (1) believe not in Allah, (2) nor in the Last Day, (3) nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger (4) and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth, Islam, among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the Jizyah (tax) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

The implications are clear. Failing to submit to Islam puts you at war with God and true believers, and those believers are instructed to fight you until you submit. In that sense, perhaps Islam could indeed be called a "religion of peace" – with peace coming only through submission.

Lie #3....Jihad is Peaceful.

On September 11, 2001, Jihad had come to America. Osama bin Laden relied heavily on Quran 5:33, which reads: "The recompense of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and do mischief in the land is only that they shall be killed or crucified or their hands and their feet be cut off on the opposite sides, or be exiled from the land.

That is their disgrace in this world, and a great torment is theirs in the Hereafter."

Lie #4....America Is Safe from Sharia Law.

Abdur Rahman Doi, a Malaysian scholar of Islamic law, explains that the Quran mandates that Sharia rule over all Muslims everywhere, for all time: "The entire Muslim Ummah [community] lives under the Shari'ah to which every member has to submit, with sovereignty belonging to Allah alone....Shari'ah was not revealed for limited application or for a specific age. It will suit every age and time."

Imran Ahsan Khan Nyazee, a Pakistani law professor, contends that only sharia can properly govern Muslims: "Any other legal system, howsoever attractive it may appear on the surface, is alien for Muslims and is not likely to succeed in the solution of their problems...."

Islam is a deceitful religion that should be exposed in these latter days. The Word of God in Amos 3:3 declares "Can two walk together, except they are agreed?" We should not and cannot accept such a wretched religion. Our Bible, which is the true Word of God, declares in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." We thank God the Father for His true Son, Jesus Christ!

Recommended reading to continue this subject is "Inside the Revolution" by Joel Rosenberg, "It Is about Islam" by Glenn Beck, and "Jihad in the Quran" by Louay Fatoohi.

May God bless the U.S.A. and His great churches of America.

Philippine Trip

continued from page 5

well, but just as the case with every missionary and mission work, the need is great. There are a number of projects that individuals, churches, and groups could help with.

Above - your editor bringing the commencement address at the BMA Philippine Bible College. Below- the prayer service at the home of Doyle and Linda Moore for the graduates.

One area of discussion that was highlighted by Bro. Lee is the possibility of retired individuals using their skills on the mission field. Short term mission trips could be a real blessing.

The Lees are home for the next two months and the Ballards will be returning in June. They are available to visit your church and share the ministry needs and blessings from the field of the Philippines. I encourage you to invite them and to financially support their efforts. The need is great and the time is short.

I took the photo above from the pulpit at Tangub Baptist Church before I preached. Below is the "deaf" minitry that Tangub church has for the hearing impaired. This church also has a Christian acadamy and a wonderful growing ministry in Bacolod.

I have included several photos of our trip. They hold precious memories for both Bonnie and I. I think they will give you a small sample of the blessing we enjoyed on this trip.

We will never forget our trip nor the old and new friends we met. God is continuing to bless the BMA of the Philippines and the faithful workers who have given their lives so that the name of Jesus can be proclaimed around the world.

P.S.

Jet Lag is REAL! I am still not sure what time of the day it is even after over a week at home. It is getting better though, I am now able to stay up past 9:00 in the evening and no longer awake at 4 or 5 in the morning. I am sure that will continue to change. A 14 hour time zone difference has a way of messing up your inner clock!