

# The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 1, 2018

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 72 No. 7

## Blessed to be a Blessing

by Toya Aultman

What can show a child the love of Jesus? A simple shoe box.

You know those things that are collecting dust in the top of our overcrowded closets? Fill them with a washcloth, a toothbrush, a bar of soap, maybe some socks, a jump rope, a coloring book and some crayons, and perhaps a small doll or a Hot

Wheels car and you have made a child's day, week, year! of our missionaries in Honduras and were able to pass some of these shoe boxes out. We didn't go in with the feeling of "let us bless you with a shoe box", but rather with an abundance of gratefulness that God was allowing us to be a small part of His plan in letting these children know that He loves them!



Last week my daughter and I had the amazing blessing of being part of the team from Baptist Missionary Association of America that joined with a few

My daughter has traveled quite a bit in her 13 years, but to places like Disney World, New York City, Washington, D.C., the Bahamas, the Grand Canyon, San Antonio, etc. To say "her eyes were opened more in the 7 days in Honduras than in all of her other trips combined" would be an understatement. To watch her love on children, even though she couldn't speak their language, filled my heart with joy.

To hear her declare, "Mama, I love it here! I'm never going

home!" made me begin praying for God to begin working in her heart to grow into the woman He wants her to be. Will that be a missionary? Perhaps so. What-



ever it will be, He has placed a love for little children within her that, as I saw last week, goes beyond the walls of our own church, beyond the little ones in her own little world. It reaches beyond borders and beyond language barriers.

For my child who finds school a struggle, isn't Miss Popularity, and like many teen girls, struggles daily with feelings of inadequacy and insecurity, found a passion within her own self last week: In a shoe box. In a country she had only heard about and now loves. In little children who wrapped her around their little fingers. In a God that will supply her with everything she will need to fulfill His good and perfect will for her life.

And these children who receive these shoe boxes?

These children, didn't choose where or when they would be born, but God did. God also chose you and me to do our part. This year, will you pack a few? This year Everlasting Smiles' shoeboxes will be heading to Peru! #blessedtobeablessing

Resumes Sought For New Director

## Scott Attebery Leaves DiscipleGuide

The board of trustees for DiscipleGuide Church Resources announces that Dr. Scott Attebery has submitted his resignation, effective May 1, 2018. Dr. Attebery has served faithfully as our Executive Director for the past 5 1/2 years with a deep conviction that we are to connect small churches with big resources to equip them in making disciples. Our board appreciates the creativity and vision he has brought to the department during his tenure and we have no doubt that God will bless him in his new adventure.



Attebery

Bro. Scott commented on his departure, saying, "It has been an honor to serve local BMA churches through the ministry of DiscipleGuide. I am confident that God will provide the right person to lead the ministry into the future. I am looking forward to spending more time writing and enjoying time with my son."

DiscipleGuide remains committed to resourcing the local church with innovative tools for discipleship. We are in the process of searching for a new Executive Director. Resumes may be submitted to DiscipleGuide Search Committee, C/O Aaron Middleton, 2709 Chaffin Ln, Magnolia, AR 71753

## Changes Coming To Ministers Resource Services

by Steve Crawley, Ph.D. – Executive Director Elect

Article 1 of 3

### Why Are We Changing?

With the impending retirement of Bro. Ron Chesser and his staff, Ministers Resource Services (MRS) will be undergoing a number of significant changes. Leading up to the national meeting, we will release a series of three articles addressing why we are changing, what we are changing, and how we are changing. This first article addresses the "why" question.

The existing 401(a) plan of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) has served a valuable purpose and has helped establish a solid savings foundation for many. We are most grateful to Bro. Chesser and his staff for the stability they have

brought to MRS over the past 18 years. Yet, we do not want to rest on our laurels and become satisfied where we are. We want to build on this foundation and take advantage of new options now available.

The first reason we are changing is to enhance benefits. The new 403(b)(9) plan will offer provisions for ministers that are unique to any other type of re-



Steve Crawley

continued on page 8

## 2018 God & Country Rally to Kick Off Annual Meeting

by Dr. John M. Adams  
Executive Director Moral Action

A special welcome to all our churches, pastors, Christian workers, and messengers to be a part of this special American event. Your presence will declare our need to pray for and joy in our great nation, the United States of America.



Jackson, Mississippi Convention Center  
Monday Night, April 16 - 7:00 P.M.

## 2019 Church Leaders Cruise Family Ministry Track to Help People Live in the Reality of God

During the 2018 Church Leaders Cruise, men and women from across the BMA gathered to rest, relax, and recharge while sailing on the sunny Caribbean. They participated in ministry tracks, which included the Inspiration track, Leadership Skills track, and Family Ministry track.



Next year, from January 19–24, 2019, the Church Leaders Cruise will set sail again, equipping leaders to minister well in their churches. In the Family Ministry track specifically, pastor and author Champ Thornton will help equip leaders to minister to students and family.

“For the Family Ministry track, I will teach on ‘Helping the Next Generation Live in the Reality of God,’” explained Thornton. “Despite the overwhelming number of parenting books and approaches available today, it’s clarifying to consider how the person of God himself shapes our ministry to the next generation. Living in the reality of God as Father, Judge, Creator, and Redeemer will radically shape our own lives, and, through us, the families and children God has entrusted to us.”

On the 2018 Church Leaders Cruise, the Family Ministry track was conducted by Dr. Timothy Paul Jones, who spoke on “Family and Children Through the Lenses of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation.” Next year’s conference will build on this topic, by encouraging parents and children’s ministers to help the next generation live in the reality of God as Father, Judge, Creator, and Redeemer.

“In a world which excels at spinning and selling lies of every shade and kind, we have, as parents and ministers, a responsibility to help our children live in the true reality of God himself,” concluded Thornton. “Helping our children live in sync with this reality is a straightforward and life-changing way to prepare the next generation.”

Registration is now open for the 2019 Church Leaders Cruise, which will sail from January 19-24. The Carnival Triumph will depart from New Orleans, Louisiana, with ports-of-call at Progreso, Yucatan and Cozumel, Mexico. For more information visit [discipleguide.org/cruise](http://discipleguide.org/cruise).

# Missions Special Emphasis Drive April & May 2018

# MISSISSIPPI

## 1.4 Million Unsaved or Unchurched

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# Southeastern Baptist College

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

## President's Perspective

*"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"* 1 Peter 5:6

A few years back, Linda and I were stationed in Belgium. We think this may have been our favorite assignment in Europe, having been assigned to six different bases over a period of nine years. We also had the privilege to live in an eighteenth century chateau... but that's another story.

While in Belgium, we had the opportunity to travel to nearby sites like Paris, Normandy, Amsterdam, and England. We had several friends visit us and we took them on tours to many famous places. One place was a city called Bruges, in Belgium. It is often called the Venice of Northern Europe. It's a beautiful tourists destination. Michael Angelo's magnificent stature of Madonna and Child is located there in the main cathedral. Perhaps you remember it from the movie "The Monuments Men".

One particularly cold winter day, we took friends to Bruges along with their teenaged sons. We strolled the ancient streets and took in the sites. The ladies went off to shop for the city's famous chocolates while we men were left on our own. After a while we relocated near our wives who were in yet another chocolate shop, so we loitered near a street corner waiting for them to wrap up their shopping. After a few minutes a shop keeper stormed out of her store and yelled at us in English to remove ourselves from the front of her shop. She shouted that we were blocking the view of her store's windows and impeding others from being attracted to her wares on display. Then, she went back into her store.

I shared with my visitors that this has never happened before to us in any European city, and they stated the same. As we began to formulate our plan to relocate, the lady came out of her store once more, but this time with a bucket of water! She took aim and tossed the water toward the teenaged boys! They successfully avoided getting wet and then the lady, with a huff, scampered back into her shop.

Needless to say, we were beside ourselves at her behavior. We began to evaluate the situation. There was a good possibility that our spouses would see her shop as we stood there and want to purchase items from her. Had she not

thought of that?

We began scheming how we might get even with this horrid lady. We thought that since she didn't know who our wives were, we would send them into her shop, they would select many expensive items, spend much time having her assist them, and then at the register walk away without buying anything!

However! We decided not to execute the plan. Why? It was not the Christian thing to do. We were all followers of Jesus and Jesus would not have done such a thing. We also needed to set the adult example for the teenaged boys. We did



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

the right thing and walked away from this lady's shop wondering what pressures might be upon her that triggered such vile actions.

There is an American idiom that can be said of us, "We took the high road". We were tempted to do otherwise, but each of us were convicted by the Holy Spirit to follow our Lord's teachings by avoiding a vengeful attitude.

How about you? Have you been tempted to spout off in retaliation at someone? Has there been a moment of friction where you almost "lost your religion"? How about now? Is there someone that needs your "two cents worth"?

The Bible is filled with guidance for God's children to take the moral high ground when tempted to do otherwise:

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him

water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee." Proverbs 25:21-22

"Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it." Psalm 37:34

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also." Matthew 5:36-40

And my favorite: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:15-18

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson

## Accrediting Agency Visit

They are here! Our accrediting agency team from the Association for Biblical Higher Education in on campus and



The Association for Biblical Higher Education accreditation team meets with SBC Board of Trustees during their ten year review of the college's records and procedures.

actively conducting their ten year review of our records, academic and business practices. The next step after they depart is for the team to provide us with observations and recommendations that we will address over the next year. I thank the Lord for their spirit of cooperation. Thank you to all who helped us meet the monetary requirements for this important visit and for all who voluntarily participated in the team's interviews. See photos showing the ABHE team in action.

## Girls Missionary Association and Galileans

Dr. Carson was privileged to present the 2018 Miss GMA and Mr. Galilean of Mississippi with tuition grants to Southeastern Baptist College at their annual camp on March 16, 2018 in Clinton, MS. See photos of the presentation.

## Fall 2018 Basketball!

The Lord is doing great things at SBC! We intend to restart the school's basketball program this Fall Semester. We are actively seeking men and women for Southeastern Baptist College basketball! Do you know of any students wanting to

join the Chargers teams? Point them our way. Sports scholarships are available. Contact Coach Brad Phillips at 601-426-6346.

## Dorm Renovation

Our new recruiter intends to fill our dorms with new students! Because many of the rooms and common areas have been unoccupied for a while, there is great need to bring them back to acceptable standards.

Can you be of help? Do you have materials, or talent, or monetary donations to designate toward this project? Give us a call at 601-426-6346 or send Justin Rhodes a note at pastorjustinrhodes@gmail.com.

## Free Tuition?

Yes! And if I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift of a college education at one of the finest Christian institutions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Summer or Fall? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside that are available for you! Our recruiter, Brad Phillips, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Ginny Singleton regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

## Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the



President Dr. Scott Carson presented tuition grants to Mr. Galilean of Mississippi, Matthew Wheeler (above) and to Miss GMA of Mississippi, Ashleigh Daugherty (below) at the closing ceremonies of their annual camp in Clinton, MS, March 16, 2018



opportunity to "enlist" with their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We

continued on page 4

## Have Bible, Will Travel

"Preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:2. I am ready to fill your pulpit! If you are in need of a guest preacher or request a personal report on the college, contact me at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Important Meetings & Activities

The BMA of America Annual meeting will be held at the Jackson Convention Center in our state capitol on April 16-18, 2018. What a great opportunity to attend a national meeting.

These meetings are not dull business sessions as some may think. They are times of worship, fellowship, study, information gathering and promotion. Inspiration abounds with the gathering of God's people to care for the business of the worldwide efforts of our denomination.

Yes there is business - important business - to be considered. The input of every church is sought and needed. I hope you will take time to attend this year's meeting right here in our backyard.

### Midyear State Meeting

The good folks of Central Church in Southaven and Pastor Anders Lee have made preparations to host our midyear meeting on May 21 & 22. We will have more information in a later issue, but let us determine to be at this meeting.

Central Church is a joint mission effort with the BMA of Mississippi and America. They have been very successful and are a growing and dynamic congregation. Southaven is a 'long way' to travel for some of our churches. Let us show our support for missions and the overall work of the BMA of Mississippi by making a special effort to fill up their new building in May.

### Annual Missions & Evangelism Conference

The annual Missions Conference meets May 4, 2018 at Evergreen Church near Seminary. See the poster in this issue for details. This is always a good meeting. Make your plans to attend and be blessed.

### Positions Available

#### Wiggins Church Seeks Pastor

Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins, Mississippi, is currently accepting resumes for the Senior Pastor Position. The church has a full-time secretary as well as part-time music director, staff, youth leaders and helpful men and women in the various departments. The church is located in town with a Life Center and other buildings on the church campus. Through the years, the church has a history of supporting missions and the departmental work. Contact may be made by mail P.O. Box One, Wiggins, MS 39577 or phone Dale Davis at 601-528-0121. He may also be reached by e-mail at stoneprint1@gmail.com.

#### Fulton Church Seeks Pastor

Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Fulton was founded in 2007. The church is located just off of Hwy 25 in Fulton across from the Meadows. We are a small church with a welcoming atmosphere and faithful members. We are looking for a pastor to help lead

and guide as we look to the future that God has for us. For those seeking more information or having interest please contact Benton Armstrong at 256-412-4542 or email your resume/questions to walnutgrove2007@gmail.com

### Hopewell, Fulton Celebrates 175 years

Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton, will be celebrating her 175th anniversary in ministry



on April 15, 2018. The service will begin at 9:00 with a time of renewing old friendships. Old fashion singing, special music and a slide presentation will follow from 10:00 - 11:00 am. All former pastors in attendance will be speaking during the 11:00 service. Lunch will be served at noon. We are anticipating a

## Southeastern Report

from page 3

already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!

### #6 in the Entire Nation!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your amazingly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today!

### Go for the Gold

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned

great celebration service for this special occasion. All former members and pastors are invited to attend.

### Church Hosting Gospel Sing

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian (just north of Hardee's) will host the LeFevre Quartet from Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. This group of men will bless your heart as they minister the gospel through song. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend this night of worship and praise. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

### Oak Grove Asso. Report

by Ed Steele

The Oak Grove Association met with Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on March 15. After a great time of food and fellowship, the Associational meeting began at 7:00. D. Scott Carson gave a report on Southeastern Baptist College and Bro. Sam Freeman on his work in

them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

### Alumni Association

We are reorganizing our Alumni Association and reaching out to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school. We will recognize all our alumni attending the BMAA annual meeting in Jackson and will have a table set up with school memorabilia on display. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor\_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

## Brown's Celebrate 50th Anniversary



The children of Don & Bonnie Brown are hosting a reception for their parents on the observance of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married at Liberty Baptist Church of Isola, Mississippi, on April 11, 1968.

The Browns have two daughters, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter.

Friends are invited to attend the reception on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The reception will be held at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, where the Brown's are members.

the Philippines. Bro. Philip Burns reported on his work with Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall and Bro. Dale Broom on his work at the Foundation Baptist Mission in Hattiesburg. The Association Mission Am-

bassador, Bro. Ted Quinby, gave a general report on all missions work. Dr. Scott Carson delivered the message.

The next meeting will be with Calvary Baptist Church, in Purvis, on May 17.

### CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?  
NOW THAT'S A RADICAL IDEA!



# Mississippi Baptist

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USPS 353-960  
P.O. Box 8181  
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail

\$15.00 Per Year by Email

CHURCHPLAN

\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to  
Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O.  
Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI  
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Larry Geraldson  
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I want to encourage you to participation in our Special Emphasis for State Missions during April and May. I sincerely hope that your church will prayerfully consider setting a goal to help us reach our Special Emphasis Goal of \$25,000.00.

**1.4 Million People are Unchurched or Unsaved in**

**MISSISSIPPI**

Our budget is built upon the expectations of consistent support by our churches throughout the year and a healthy Special Emphasis offering. Special Emphasis is not extra, for us, but rather it is a part of our normal operating needs. I want to commend our churches for the regular and routine financial support and encourage you to help us with a good Special Emphasis offering.

My pledge to you, as always, is that we will continue to seek ways to improve our efficiency in handling your missions' offerings. To that end, I can report to you that we are maintaining an efficiency rating right at 90/10 for the year. This means that 90% of the offerings we receive for missions, goes directly to our missionaries. Will you help us reach them?

I am available to come to your church and share, in more detail, how God is blessing our work. If you would like for me to visit your church, give me a call at 601-428-8616.

**The World Needs A Few Good Men**

by Richey Hester

National Brotherhood Editor & Promoter

There are some prerequisites to be a Good Father. You need to be a man for one, you need to be functioning as a man, taking responsibility as a man, acting like a man, and working like a man. All of these are prerequisites to being a good Father!

You will not be a good Father until you are a good Man. It's a dying art today...there are not many in our nation anymore. Thank God we DO have a few good men here...we can always use a few more though.

Men of the Brotherhood of the BMA, we need to stand up tall and teach these young boys and young men how to be real men. Men that are not afraid to stand in the name of Jesus. In our nation you can not use the name Jesus our government. One has to say in the name of God's son. All this is teaching our kids and grandkids is that it is ok not to believe in Jesus and God's judgement. This is the prime reason that

crimes, drugs, rape and murder has become a part of a young person's life. Ezekiel 22:30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one." Brothers let's be that one who will stand in the gap. If you want the killing to stop, it has to start with us. We have a voice, let it be heard. Christianity is not dead, we need to teach that.

Tony Evans says "Young men need a positive influence, especially when they don't have a strong male figure in their lives. They can be influenced by a great, godly man in the church, which gives men a great mission in the church to influence these kids." Men of the BMA, will you be that Godly influence? You may say how can I do this? You can do it by living by Psalm 107:8, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" We are a few good men, let's now show the world.

**NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD MEETING**

The 2018 National Brotherhood Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 17 at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Mississippi. This meeting will be held at 8:00 AM in room 212. This meeting is a part of the BMA of America National Meeting. Bryan Risner, missionary to Romania will be our guest speaker. We need all our BMA men to show up for this meeting. May God bless each and every one of you.



**60th ANNUAL MISSIONS & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**  
 MAY 4, 2018  
 Sponsored By: The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Department of Missions  
 Hosted by: Evergreen Baptist Church  
 65 Evergreen Church Rd, Seminary MS  
 (Locations will be provided.)

**Conference Theme: Baptist Bible Distinctives**

Conference Music by:  
 Jeff & Rosalind Dixon

Special Music from 1:35 - 1:50 by:  
 Justin Rhodes  
 Jeremy Wiegerson  
 Justin Cameron  
 Wesley Martin

Concert from 2:00 - 3:00 by:  
**Calm Assurance**

**9:15am Introduction of the Theme**  
 Larry Geraldson  
 Director of Missions,  
 BMA of MS

**9:25am "One Body" Eph 4:4**  
 Dennis Knight  
 Pastor of Paramount Baptist Church

**10:05am "One Spirit" Eph 4:4**  
 Bryan Atwood  
 Pastor of Cameroun Baptist Church

**10:50am "One Hope" Eph 4:4**  
 Greg McEwen  
 Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church

**11:30am "One Lord" Eph 4:5**  
 Jason Goodwin  
 Pastor of FBC of Shady Grove

**1:20pm "One Faith" Eph 4:5**  
 Chad Cusack  
 Pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church

**State Missionaries**

**Nancy Bartlett**  
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**Sidney Farmer**  
 Missionary Coach  
**Dale Brown**  
**Will Hutchinson**  
**Bobby Elliott**

# Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

## Looking for a Church? (Part 2)

Last month I shared an article that gave student pastors some points on what to think about while looking for a position with a church. If you didn't read Part One I hope you will! Let's pick up where we left off... What should a young man look for in a church? What should be the expectations & things to consider?

### The Church should be Discipleship Driven!

I know that sounds like a cliché, but it's TRUE! These days you have to make sure they are. Not all churches are intentional about reaching the lost and determined to equip those that get saved to grow and serve. Sadly a lot of churches today think that if they have a sign outside that posts their service times, that people will naturally come, get saved, and become a disciple. It doesn't work that way in this culture any more. Ask the church, the committee that is interviewing you, or the pastor; "What are the churches ministry engines?" "What is in place that accomplishes outreach, discipleship and church growth?"

It's a fair question. Be humble and careful with your approach to this subject. Obviously you have to have the burden to also reach & discipleship people. You will find that there are churches out there who are looking for young men to bring a fresh vision into their midst. You will also find that there will be those out there who are satisfied with exactly how they are. You may be the answer for them. God may be sending you to them to spark a new zeal and implement new methods.

If they don't have intentional meth-

ods, ask them if they would be open to the implementation of new things that will enable this. If you find resistance to change, and unwillingness to adapt to the culture, you will have to be ready to accept them where they

are if you go. If you know ahead of time that they will be slow to change or doing new things, and you end up going to this church... don't be a whiner and complainer to fellow youth guys or friends in your circle later on. Don't bail out and quit when you begin experiencing exactly what you already knew to be true of them. If you have a check in your heart before time about their commitment to discipleship, it's simple, don't go. I realize those are tough words, but I've learned that from experience.

### The Church should Fund the Ministry! Two things here...

First, if they are willing to call a guy to be their student pastor, they need to be determined to have a student budget. In the past, I've had a couple of guys tell me when they arrived at their new church, they found out the church did not have anything to work with. They ended up facing a lot of fund raising immediately. That's not always the best way to start off a ministry. If you are called to go to a church that doesn't have the money flow needed, then you've got to be willing to do what it takes to get the funds. So asked about this UP FRONT!

Not all churches have budgets. It doesn't make the church a bad church

if they don't. Remember God always makes a way, of course! He provides! But ask them before you go to install a budget. It's harder to get it to be considered later on. Get them to put in place as much as is feasible.

Second, they should pay you a fair



Anders Lee

*Personally, I always try to do above and beyond what is expected. You can too, but... the church shouldn't put you over a barrel on this matter*

salary and enable you to be free to do ministry. Establish upfront whether or not the position is full time or part time. It's not right for a church to call you, pay you a part time salary, and expect you to function as if you are full time. (On the flip side, it isn't right for a church to step up and pay you full time and then get part time work!!! You should have a great work ethic. Lazy preachers bug me! Don't be lazy!!! You aren't in it to get rich... NO! If you are, then you need to be reading 1 Peter 5:2.) Neither of these thoughts would be right!

Personally, I always try to do above and beyond what is expected. You can too, but... the church shouldn't put you over a barrel on this matter. The scripture is also clear that a workman is worthy of his hire and we are not to muzzle the oxen that treads. Too many preachers have been kept poor through the years when churches could have done better! As my Daddy would say; "You gotta eat!" Clear communication about this UP FRONT, again, is so important.

### The Church Should Provide a Job Description

There are differing opinions on this subject, but I'm a firm believer about

things being clear up front. This helps you and the church! There are so many different people in the church with differing back grounds and expectations about their staff. You are setting yourself up for problems if you don't have one.

Once upon a time there was a young man who went to a certain church. They said we are thrilled to have you come and lead our young folks! He was excited and happy, you know, he had that honeymoon with the church. Then one day one of the older ladies said; "What day do you clean the gym? It's looking pretty rough in there." He said; "I don't." She said; "The old youth pastor always did." He later consulted with the pastor, asking; "Am I supposed to be cleaning the gym?" His reply; "Yes! Did you not know? Well... you get my point. He was thrilled to being paid more than he expected, but then it made sense why he was getting that weekly amount.

Here are some closing pointers. Before you go, get a job description. Ask the pastor or committee if the church will be fully aware of the job description and your pay. Ask them what kind of hours they expect you to put into the ministry each week. Ask them to be clear on exactly what they want you to do on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. That way you fully understand this up front, and the devil has no way of causing division over your position later on.

Certainly this three point article isn't exhaustive. I encourage you to talk to experienced pastors or youth pastors and get more insight on this subject. They may differ with me on some things, and that's certainly fine. And of course... let the Holy Spirit lead you and God's Word direct you! I know you won't go wrong if you do!

*Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

## National WMA Meeting & Ladies Retreat

Jackson, Mississippi - Monday afternoon—April 16 & Tuesday April 17

**Officer's meeting** at 1:30 p.m.—2:30 on Monday afternoon at the convention center in Room 209-210.

**WMA Business meeting:** Monday 3:00p.m.—5:00p.m.

**Opening**—Ruby Poteet, President

Welcome—Beth Caldwell, Mississippi President

Song—Judy Wallace (offering for general fund)

Song & Project Offering—Judy Wallace

Business Meeting—Ruby Poteet

### Reports

- Petitionary Letters
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer's Recommendations
- Project Nominations & Selections
- Election of officers
- Officer's Reports—GMA & Sunbeam
- Committee Reports—Registration, Finance, Resolutions

- Installation of officers
- Theme for 2018-2019—Brenda Hornaday
- Promotion of Project
- Closing Remarks

### Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears Ladies' Retreat

Rooms 216-218

### Tuesday morning

- 8:45—Registration
- 9:00—Welcome—Ruby
- Devotional—Miss GMA—
- Prayer—Junior Miss GMA—
- Door Prizes
- Praise & Worship—Judy Wallace

Special Music—Sabrina Clayton

Introduction of Program

Charlotte Johnson - Kim Crabill

Meal—(at Convention Center) 12:00-1:00

*You must register and send \$17.50 for meal to Jodi Rhea by February 28, 2018. Jodi Rhea, 40156 E. CR.*

*1631; Wynnewood, OK, 73098*

### 1:15—Breakout Sessions—

- 45 minutes each /rotate to another session
- 1. Shirley Hoffpaur—Teaching in Sunbeams
- 2. Judy Wallace—"From Final to First"
- 3. Kim Crabill—Roundtable discussion
- 4. Diana Morris—Missions
- Dismiss at 3:00 p.m.
- Nursery Room 211

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

## Jesus Christ Has Arisen and Conquered Death!

Our resurrected Savior said to the Apostle John, "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 1:17,18. I am so glad that we can sing with full assurance the song "Christ Arose" as Christians.

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

It is good at this special time of the year when we as Christians reflect on the fact that our future is full of hope because of the resurrected Christ. "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. The dynamic power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ has conquered death

and makes it possible for Christians to shout, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55. Thanks be to God.

## Spring Break

Can you believe it is spring time? Everyone seemed to enjoy the time out of school during spring break March 12-16. It will be just a few short months until summer and another school year will be history.

## Remember in Prayer - Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers as we look to the Lord for His leadership and guidance. *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4. Praise the Lord! Jesus is alive!

# COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

## A Great Day of Ministry

On a cool breezy first day of spring over 300 people gathered at Big Creek Baptist Church for the annual South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference filling the auditorium to capacity with joyful seniors anticipating a day of praise and worship and it turned out to be just that.

The host church once again had everything in order as the result of many hours of hard work. Thank you Big Creek Church for once again taking care of the seniors of our churches. It was a great day of Praise and Worship.

Now it's on to Fulton for the North Senior Adult Conference to be held May 9th at Hopewell Baptist Church. The people of the host churches in the Northern part of the state are exceptional in their preparation. It will be a great time for God's people to come together for a day of fellowship.



Kenneth Flynt  
Director

## May 9, 2018 at Hopewell Baptist Church

Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College will bring the morning message during the worship hour. He is a retired chaplain of the U.S. army and is leading Southeastern to new heights. Let's have a full house at Hopewell.

The Dorsey Volunteer Fire Department will cater the noon meal and always do an excellent job.

See you at Hopewell, Dorsey, Tuesday, May 9th at 9:30 am. With registration to begin earlier the \$15.00 registration fee will get you a full day of blessings.

## State Galilean Camp Report

The Mississippi Galileans state camp was held recently at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Bro Larry Tramel was our camp pastor this year. Our theme was 'United' taken from I Corinthians 1:10.

Elected this year as Mr. Senior Galilean was Matthew Wheeler; Mr. Junior Galilean was Clay Caygle. These two young men will be representing the state of Mississippi at the National Galilean camp this summer on June 28-July 1, 2018 at Stoneridge camp in Smithville, Arkansas.

The new officers for 2018 are President Breadon Martin, 1st VP Maddox Hendricks, 2nd VP Matthew Cochran, Secretary Jesse Williams, Historian Matthew Wheeler, and Music Director Maverick Hendricks, Mr. Galilean Senior and Junior are also considered officers.

The project this year for the Galileans is Dale Broom, our state missionary in Hattiesburg. Want to thank all the men who took the time to bring their Galileans to camp who made this camp a success. If your church does not have a Galilean program and you would like some information, you may contact me at stonewall@yahoo.com or 662-231-1435. Our young men are too valuable not to invest time in them.



2018 Galilean Officers



Mr. Senior Galilean Matthew Wheeler & Mr. Junior Galilean Clay Caygle



A Great Day  
In Pictures  
at Big Creek

## 2018 North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

May 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM  
Hopewell Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

**Make plans now to attend!**

## Another LifeWord Profile

Ellen Rhinehart didn't know she was considered the best typist at Southeastern Baptist College until Doug Siler arrived at the Laurel, Mississippi campus in 1982. As a new student, priority one was finding someone to type his term papers, so he consulted his peers, who all agreed he should talk to Ellen. Talking soon turned into dating, and by Christmas break Doug decided to return home to Bradford, Arkansas, to work and save money so they could marry after Ellen's graduation.

Before her college days, Vicksburg, Mississippi, was Ellen's home. The family had moved there from Collinston, Louisiana, where her father, Collins Rhinehart, worked at the International Paper mill in Bastrop. When he was offered a transfer to the new Vicksburg plant, the family, which included Ellen's

mother Barbara and her older sister Virginia, made the move to Vicksburg.

After a while the Rhineharts were invited to a new mission church by Mrs.



Ellen Rhinehart Siler

Louise Crawley and Mrs. Geraldine Holloway, who were wives of paper mill employees. A mission begun by Oakland Baptist Church in Vicksburg, it was called Berachah, and it was the first BMA church they had attended. Their life revolved around the church, and Ellen was involved in GMA, part of

a girls trio, and participated in Youth in the Harvest. God was already arranging decades-long relationships in her life and developing her love for small churches and the people in them.

In addition to serving at Berachah with the Crawleys, the Rhineharts got to know a young preacher named George Reddin, who pastored there for a short time. God moved her heart to salvation at sixteen and revealed another passion: business and clerical work. She took all the business classes Warren Central High School had to offer and held part-time clerical jobs during high school and college.

When Doug and Ellen first married in June of 1983, they lived in Bradford for a year, then in Vicksburg for ten years where she worked at Mercy Hospital in accounts payable and purchasing, then at a doctor's office as medical transcriptionist.

A Frito-Lay route driver for many years, Doug was transferred to Arkansas, and they settled in a town on his route. Ellen commuted for a while then they moved to Conway, where she worked for a lawyer then at Central Baptist College. She loved working at CBC and intended to retire from there until Steve Crawley called in 2008 and

asked if he could talk to her about Lifeword. At the time, Steve was financial director and he and Bro. George, whom she had both known since childhood, asked if they could talk to her.

She began at Lifeword in 2008 helping Steve with donor entry then later with accounts payable, payroll, and accounting. In 2010, Lifeword's donor software changed, and she was stretched professionally as she learned a new system, but, she recalls, Steve patiently encouraged her.

Her favorite part of the job is working with donors, because she gets to correspond with contributors and read their personal notes to the Lifeword team. She feels very connected to them and their needs when they write personal notes with prayer requests or explanations about why they can't give as much as they'd like.

Ellen says, "Many times, people send in donations in memory of someone who has died. It's such a blessing to help them carry out the wishes of their loved ones. I have such a burden for our churches as I hear from them and note their support. Sometimes I just stop right there in my office and pray for individuals and churches, that God will continue to bless them."

## Ministers Resouce Changes

from page 1

retirement program. Specifically, this plan offers the Ministers Housing Allowance to retired pastors. This provision will save ministers thousands of dollars in federal and state taxes for years to come. The new plan will also reduce the minimum withdrawal age from 62 to 59 ½, include a provision for hardship withdrawals, and provide the ability to borrow against your retirement account on a short-term basis in emergency situations.

The second reason we are changing is to provide more flexible options. The new retirement plan will offer investment options that will aid younger and older pastors, as well as those in between. Younger pastors will have more aggressive options available to build savings while older pastors may utilize more conservative options to preserve the capital they have accumulated. Those in between will benefit from flexible alternatives tailored to their age, risk tolerance, and money personality.

The third reason we are changing is to lower costs. The new plan and service provider agreement will reduce participant fees by over 60%. These savings will result in more of your investment earnings remaining in your account, and, compounded over time, could produce higher returns benefitting your family's financial future. Additionally, the new plan, coupled with the opportunity to relocate MRS to the BMA Global

Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas will allow us to reduce MRS operating costs by more than \$160,000 annually. Of course, these savings will be passed on to the participants.

The fourth reason we are changing is to provide on-going educational services. A recent at large survey indicates that 83% of employees admit not being on track to meet retirement goals, yet 92% of employees make changes to their retirement within 30 days of receiving training. On-going stewardship training will be a key component of the new retirement program.

Finally, we are changing with hopes of increasing participation. While we currently have 425 participants in the plan, we have approximately 1,200 BMA churches. We are hopeful that broadening our scope with enhanced benefits, more flexible options, lower fees, and on-going educational services will increase participation in the BMA Retirement Plan and allow us to build on the foundation we've inherited.

### What Are We Changing?

#### Article 2 of 3

With the approaching retirement of Bro. Ron Chesser and his staff, Ministers Resource Services (MRS) will be undergoing a number of significant changes. In the first article, we addressed the "why" question and shared that we are changing to enhance ben-

efits, provide more flexible options, lower our costs, provide on-going educational services, and strive to increase participation in the BMA Retirement Plan. This second article addresses the "what" question.

First, we are changing from a 401(a) Money Purchase Retirement Plan to a 403(b)(9) Church Retirement Plan. A 403(b)(9) is a defined contribution plan specifically designed for the unique needs of evangelical churches or church organizations. While similar to other basic 403(b) and 401(k) plans, 403(b)(9) plans offer retired ministers the ability to have retirement distributions designated as housing allowance.

Second, we are changing from a centralized investment platform with one fund option to a more decentralized platform with a number of fund options. Thus, participants will play a greater role in the decision making as to where their funds are invested. Not to worry if you are unsure about where to invest, automated options will be available through Target Date Funds or Risk Based Funds that will reallocate your investment without you having to do anything except identify your projected retirement date or risk profile. Likely, 70-80% of participants will choose these automated options, and competent financial advisors will be in place to hold our hand through this process. For the Do-it-Yourselfers, there will be a menu of high quality funds available from reputable providers such as Vanguard, Fidelity, American Funds, etc.

Third, we are changing investment

managers and financial advisors. Given the new paradigm we are entering, we felt it paramount in fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility to send out Request for Proposals (RFPs) on the new services we wish to provide participants. Seven RFPs were received from potential providers. The MRS Board and a sub-committee reviewed and synthesized the data to determine which providers offered the greatest benefit at the lowest cost. Interviews were held with the top three in Conway on January 23rd. An on-site visit was conducted with the finalist, Envoy Financial of Colorado Springs, Colorado, on February 15 and 16th. The following week the MRS board approved signing a Memorandum of Understanding to engage Envoy as a strategic partner in facilitating the new BMA Retirement Plan. With the new arrangement, MRS will be able to reduce participant fees from 2.65% to approximately 1%, depending on the funds the participants choose.

Fourth, we are changing from internal record keeping and administration to external. By outsourcing this task, we will be able to reduce costs and scale our retirement plan without having to hire additional employees as we grow. Further, we will be able to provide participants on-line access to their accounts, as well as provide the ability to make changes to their investments as needed. The capital investment required for us to provide such a service internally would be cost prohibitive. By outsourcing, we can offer these features for a fraction of the cost.