

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 1, 2020

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 74 No. 7

CORONAVIRUS EFFECTS

Mississippi Midyear Meeting Information

by Greg Medenwald
President
BMA of Mississippi

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Midyear Meeting is scheduled to meet at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. The meeting, however, due to recommendations of health authorities relating to the CoronaVirus crisis, may have to be canceled.



Greg Medenwald

There is no constitutional protocol by which a BMAM

meeting is cancelled or rescheduled and, consequently, the associational officers and department directors have taken the responsibility upon ourselves with the understanding that we will gladly apologize if the wrong decision is made.

On April 13, the Monday after Easter Sunday, the aforementioned group will confer and if circumstances by that time have not radically improved, the meeting will be cancelled and you will receive notification in the following issue of the Mississippi Baptist and also on the websites of some of the state departments.

If the meeting is canceled, a live stream meeting generated

from the missions office, most likely on Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m., will take place and provide a vehicle by which state directors can give brief reports and Pastor Justin Cameron, who was elected to preach the Mid-year Message, will address the internet audience with an inspirational message.

Stay tuned! The decision will be made on Monday, April 13, and reported immediately thereafter. In the meanwhile, may God graciously bless you, your family, and church, keep you safe during the CoronaVirus threat, and help all of us to come out of this historic time a stronger and more united people in Christ.

The 2020 BMA of America National Meeting Is Cancelled

from Jeff Swart, President
of the BMA of America

We, the officers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, in consultation with the department and agency directors, the Coordinating Council, and the national meeting production team, have cancelled the 2020 BMA of America national meeting. The reasons for this historic decision are based on several lines



Jeff Swart
BMAA President

of reasoning. On Sunday, the CDC strongly recommended that groups of 50 or more be cancelled for the next 60 days. The city of Dallas, sister city to Waxahachie where our meeting was to be held, passed a city ordinance prohibiting gatherings of 500 or more. We feel that as believers, we need to lead the way in submitting to the authority of our governmental agencies in non-faith matters.

Many of the attendees of our annual meeting are older saints which are at a higher risk to experience complications if they

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The Coronavirus and Missions Around the World

from Baptist Missionary Association of America

Coronavirus has caused concern, panic, even terror all over the world. Although “social distancing” is recommended, there are stories of compassion like the young lady who shopped for an elderly couple terrified to enter a grocery store and the man who gave \$100 tips at restaurants in his city.



John David Smith

It’s a chance for Christians to do what they do: Meet people’s needs, both physical and spiritual, something our missionaries do instinctively.

Executive Director John David Smith says, “Early on (in this crisis) some of our missionaries could have gotten out, but

they chose to stay because they would have lost all credibility when they returned. They put themselves in greater levels of risk for the cause of Christ. It’s what the missionary spirit is all about.”

Our missionaries around the world are familiar with risk. Also, their ministries are in countries with poor infrastructure, mass transit ill equipped to handle the population, and financially-strapped economies. Coronavirus may have brought life to a stand still, but not their mission work.

One of those countries is India, where the first death reported in the country was just 100 meters from the Prakash family’s home in Gulbarga, which is currently on high alert. Their primary ministry work is to the 1,500 children in the

schools where Prashant is administrator. Also, the churches and church plants he and his team visit are in rural areas with limited access to more supplies than just masks and sanitizers. In addition, Golda Prakash says “it’s difficult for people in our town to understand the seriousness of the matter.”

Sam Jordan, missionary to Jordan, recently received a container filled with mixed rice through a partnering agency.



Sam Jordan Family

During a time of diminished supply chains, he praises the Lord for those supplies being distributed to Syrian refugees at their camp and church facilities, his team’s largest area of ministry. Please pray for the refugees, especially these days, because of the coronavirus. They live in very difficult situations with little means to purchase basic personal hygiene products.

In Lebanon, Middle East coordinator Charlie Costa says that coronavirus has further complicated the financial crisis there. Because of the country’s ongoing economic problems and inflation, bank withdrawals are restricted to \$100 a week. In addition, ministry work and other gospel activities in the Middle East have halted because of travel bans in the region. Pray that the good news would have



Charles & Mona Costa

an open door, and that God would protect his people in the Middle East.

“There are opportunities in limitations,” Smith says. “It’s an opportunity to talk to an audience with hearts and ears that are somewhat more softened and a little more open to the gospel. We abide by the guidelines for precaution, but we look for opportunities to exalt the name of Christ. Our missionaries will be greatly limited

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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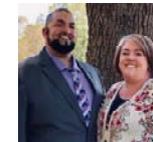
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DuVall

Will I Know You On The Other Side Of COVID-19

“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, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” 1 Pet 1:3-9 Wow! What powerful words from Peter to a group of Christians who were facing a crisis of their own. They were scattered and afraid, filled with uncertainty and not completely aware of the trials they faced. Skimming over his letter, I find it remarkable that he does not shy away from the truth that suffering is inevitable for the believer. In chapter 2, beginning with verse 19, he says, “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

He goes on in chapter 3, “... and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid...”; “...it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins,

the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:...”; and then in chapter 4, “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:...”; “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

As I read through 1 Peter, I couldn't help but wonder about the change that would come to each of these believers. When a crisis happens, the change is not subtle. It made me ask the question about all my brothers and sisters in Christ, “Will I recognize you after this crisis?”

You see, suffering, for the believer, is inevitable and the change that accompanies it is also inevitable. But the question is, “Will I know you?”

During a crisis, we can be challenged until qualities are brought to the foreground, just like gold tried in the fire. Many, like Peter, will step up and lead, while others like Barnabas, will give. Character will be carved out and dedication and devotion will grow deeper and deeper roots until, just like Peter's Pentecost moment, we don't even recognize the old you.

Yet, at the same time, we will discover that some will break our hearts. Fear can lead some to react with anger, greed, pettiness and self-centeredness. You may discover things about some people that you never knew.

Peter would write, “...let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

You see, the trying of our faith is inevitable. In as much as it is God's will to use trials, such as the crisis we now face, to bring about change in our lives, let us embrace the change as a challenge to be more like Christ. We should recognize that the One who created all things can shape us into the person He wants us to be. “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

When the answer to our question, “Will I know you?” is answered, let it be said, like with Peter, that we don't recognize you because the old you is gone and the new you has arisen. “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings:...”

BMA of Mississippi Missions & Revolving Loan Fund COVID-19 Initiatives

Immediately, after realizing the impact of this crisis, we began to develop initiatives to help our churches and missionaries. After advice and approval of our recommendations from the Revolving Loan Fund Board of Trustees, we began to implement the following:

1. Churches that have a loan with the Revolving Loan Fund will be given the opportunity, on a case by case and month by month basis, to pay interest only from the period of April – July 2020.

2. We are making Zero interest loans available to BMA of Mississippi churches that may be impacted financially. These loans will be for up to 50% of the church's normal monthly offering during the period of April – July 2020. The payback will begin January 2021.

3. With the dramatic reduction of the Federal Reserve Interest rate, we have no alternative but to reduce the rate of return to our shareholders to 2.0% from the current 2.25% rate. This is still better than any bank rate of return on Money Market or CD's. I want to ensure our shareholders that our fund is sound, and our reserve is strong. All our procedures are working fine, and our normal day to day routine is running smoothly. For more information about these initiatives or to receive instruction on how to apply, please contact our office at 601-428-8616.

Special Emphasis for State Missions

I realize that this crisis will impact our churches financially, nevertheless, I am compelled to encourage you to remember that your struggle will be magnified by the time it reaches us. Therefore, more than ever, we implore you to consider doing what you can to help during this special time. Special Emphasis runs from April – May. We pray that the COVID-19 crisis will be short

lived and that we can all grow through our struggles and sacrifices. God bless our churches!

New Mission Opportunities

As I write this article, I am prayerfully hopeful that we will be announcing another new church planting project and new missionary in our May 1st article. God continues to bless us with opportunities. Please keep this in your prayers.

Office Open for Normal Business Hours- Closed to Walk-In Traffic

For the time being, our office is closed to walk-in traffic. We are completely capable of handling most all our normal transactions, through the Revolving Loan Fund, electronically or through the mail. If you have any questions or needs, please contact Ms Kim at 601-428-8616.

Church Ministries

Part of the mandate of the Missions Department is to help our churches in need. Often, we receive calls and find ourselves struggling to help needy churches because we have very little resources under Church Ministries. The current COVID-19 crisis has brought to the foreground our need to have funds available to help. Typically, these are not long term needs, but most often isolated to a specific challenge. Please consider helping us help our churches by putting Church Ministries in your budget or normal giving. This is not your missions offering and will be kept separate and used 100% to help our churches. Just mark your gift “Church Ministries” in the memo line of the check.

New Features on Website

Recently, we launched our new website www.bmams.org. Now, we have added a couple of new features that we hope will be helpful. 1) We have installed a Resume Builder directly to the site. If you would like to build and post your resume, you can do so by clicking on this option in from the Resource Tab on the Menu. Also, we have installed a Position Available feature which allows a Church to submit a position they need to fill, and it will post that position on the website and cross match it against any resumes on file. As new resumes are posted, it

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National Meeting Cancelled

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contract the coronavirus. Attendees at our meetings also come from many different areas of our country and even foreign countries, which could contaminate attendees or spread the virus when they return home. And, there is a strong possibility that if the meeting were held this year that many people would just not come. It is just common sense that has led us to cancel the 2020 meeting.

In light of the fact that we are experiencing a national emergency, we are suspending the Statement of Principles of Cooperation for this associational year to allow our present slate of officers to continue to serve another year and to allow Luis

Ortega to preach the 2021 annual message. Because the commissioning service for our newly elected missionaries is always a special time for the missionaries, their families, and the members of our churches—we have decided to hold this extraordinary service on the Wednesday night of SOAR this July in Grapevine, Texas.

Since Pastor Richard Smith and the people of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, have worked so hard to prepare for our coming this year, we have decided to allow Farley Street to host the 2021 national meeting, to go to Springfield, Missouri, in 2022, and then to Antioch Baptist Church in

Conway, Arkansas, in 2023.

Because there is some business that must be conducted this year, next week a ballot will be mailed to the churches of the BMA of America to give every church the opportunity to vote on these important items of business. Each church will have one vote and the ballot needs to be returned by Wednesday April 29th, the day that these issues would have been voted on should we have met this year.

If you have made reservations at a Waxahachie area hotel, please contact that hotel and cancel your reservations so that you will not be charged for your rooms.

The officers of your association are dealing with problems that we have never dealt with before and so, we would sincerely appreciate your continued prayers on our behalf.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

From Abandoned to Assured Part 5

The beauty of God's love is seen in Ezekiel sixteen. It culminates in the concluding verses sixty through sixty-three: "Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. And I will establish my covenant with thee: and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God." I favor this passage and have written this series with these final verses pushing me along.

At the beginning of the chapter, we see our abandoned state and God's loving-kindness. We see that despite all the care and love that could be shown abandonment leads to misplaced affection. When sin abandons us in death we fight desperately to fill the void on our own prideful terms, even though God offers to fill our needs of love and care with Himself. This broken mentality is seen the world over and it is seen in the children we are trying to help here at the Home. We have a hard time grasping how dangerous our rebellion is and how far it is pushing us from the Christ we truly need. We live with the consequences of our sin. We can feel utterly alone. But, I have often heard it said, "But God," is a beautiful phrase in scripture. The wording is not exact, but the meaning is there in verse sixty, "Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant." No matter how many ups and downs, twists and turns, or people or things abandon us God is there. Even if we turn from God, nevertheless He remembers His covenant, and He will never break it.

This everlasting assurance is what we offer the children here. When they feel abandoned by this world we show them that Jesus came to heal broken relationships. It doesn't change the hurt that is happening here and now, but His promise is everlasting. When the hurt of this world reaches its conclusion He is the one who will wipe away every tear and bring about the eternal kingdom with no more pain and no more death with Himself as its greatest consolation. I am so thankful to have had that hope offered to me and that I have it to offer to others.

Hope has been needed since the garden of Eden, but I don't know of a time in my life that its need has been more evident in our society. All the quarantine measures we are now facing are wise measures and biblical for that matter (Leviticus 13, 14, 15), but they can cause a lot of unrest. We have postponed all our speaking engagements until all the regulations are lifted. Pray for us as we pray for you. Our current cases are in limbo at this time. Pray that no child goes without help because of restrictions during this time. In the coming weeks, it will be easy to dwell on very negative things, so be reminded of our everlasting hope, Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Governance: BMA Service Team activities are supervised by the executive directors of departments and agencies located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas. To oversee day-to-day operations, the executive directors may hire, in cooperation together, a Direc-

tor of Operations. The BMA Service Team annual operating and capital budgets are approved by the respective boards of the governing departments with the allocated share in-

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Ballots Mailed To Churches

BMA of America Business Information

Editor's Note - The following is information that is being mailed to the churches of the BMA of America for their action in lieu of holding the Annual Meeting. Churches are encouraged to participate and keep the business and ministries of the Association in order. This document can also be found on the BMA of Mississippi information website. Go to <http://www.bmaofmississippi.com/2020-bmaa-information.html> and download all the information listed below.

PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

Since the BMAA Department known as DiscipleGuide no longer exists, the Coordinating Council proposes that the Department of Camp Ministries and the Publishing Department be recreated similar to the way that they functioned (up to 2004) before the creation of DiscipleGuide. If these changes are adopted by the messenger body in April 2020, then Article X—Department of Church Resources would be replaced. The changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation would then read as follows:

ARTICLE X — DEPARTMENT OF CAMP MINISTRIES

Section 1. This association shall elect a Department of Camp Ministries board of trustees consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of trustees are:

- To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
- To fulfill the purpose of the department, which is to provide a retreat from outside pressures to focus on spiritual needs through Christian fellowship and evangelical ministries.
- To be responsible for the physical properties and the establishment of administrative policies relative to the operation of the camp.
- To fill any vacancy between sessions that may occur in the Executive Director's office.
- To require each applicant for a

position in the Department of Camp Ministries to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.

ARTICLE XII — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. This association shall elect a Publications Committee, which shall also serve as the corporation's board of directors consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of Directors are:

- To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
- To fill vacancies between sessions that may occur among staff writer positions and the Executive Director's office.
- To recommend to the annual session all writers of publications. Special writers (non-staff writers) may be elected by the committee between sessions.
- To require each applicant for a

position in the Publications Department to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.

Section 3. The publications of this association will be a complete course of Bible Study literature and such other literature and publications as the association may deem advisable.

Section 4. All literature bearing the name of the Baptist Publishing House,

the publishing agency of the Publications Department, or any other trade names as the board of Directors shall authorize, including literature published in foreign languages, will be under the supervision of the Executive Director of Publications and the Publications Committee.

Section 5. The Publications Committee shall elect annually a subcommittee of three (3) hereafter called the Audit Committee. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are:

- To oversee the financial integrity of this department.
- To consult with the director as often as necessary.
- To make recommendations concerning the finances of the department to the Publications Committee.

We propose the following addition to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation concerning the BMA of America Service Team which is neither a department nor an agency of this association:

ARTICLE XVII — BMA OF AMERICA SERVICE TEAM

Section 1. Purpose: Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America Service Team (BMA Service Team) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the departments of the Association located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas. The BMA Service Team was created for the purpose of providing an entity designed with the capacity to share employees and assets, thereby minimizing costs and maximizing return on investment for support services and functions.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

points along the way and I had to explain why I was traveling and have my forehead scanned at each one. Thankfully the Lord blessed and they accepted all the reasons and documents I showed them. This is an overly populated country of 120 million people on a land mass smaller than Texas. The government has promised financial relief, but most believe that is unlikely.

Rita Ballard: I would like to ask for everyone's help. I live in the Philippines and we are in total lock down and every business is closed except the drug store and supermarkets and only a couple of people are allowed to enter either place at one time. All of their modes of transportation have ceased and the average Filipino family that had a job making any money has ceased. They have no money and no food and no government help. It's heartbreaking. Please pray that people will soon be able to get back to work so they can feed their families as before. This means millions of people have nothing. Please pray for them.

Donald Ray Newsom: Two week total lock down. Hopefully, this will rid us of this terrible



Don Newsom & daughter Angela

pandemic. We can do this. I encourage everyone to cooperate. This will pass. God is still in control. For, at least, two more weeks, Here's Hope Baptist Church will meet online. Our streaming service will, once again, be on Facebook, at 10:00, Sunday morning. Hopefully, the internet will be good. When this is over and we can once again meet in our beautiful building we will have a wonderful thanksgiving service. I miss you all more than I can say. I need a hug.



Kenneth Flynt
Director

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

From the Editor

I spoke to Bro. Kenneth Flynt on Friday March 28 concerning the North Senior Adult Conference.

Plans are still in place to hold this rally at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton. If this changes due to the current coronavirus pandemic, he said that he will let our churches and people know as soon as possible.

We Don't Know...This is all uncharted territory for everybody...

These words are taken from a bulletin that I receive from one of our churches each week. The pastor laid out their decisions and recommendations for their church. They planned to meet for worship only... One thought he shared was, "However, if conditions in our area worsen...."

This was over a week ago and no doubt things have changed and are changing on a daily basis. Churches are making informed decisions and limiting or canceling services until further notice. Many have taken action to continue services through streaming online. I have seen several sermons through my Facebook account. My wife and I worshiped on March 22 by watching a service of a friend online. He was preaching to an attendance of only the church's musicians. This has been the experience of so many.

I have seen that some churches were holding 'drive-in' services. The preacher spoke from an elevated platform and folks stayed in their cars and listened through their FM radios. But they came and worshiped.

I polled some of our pastors and one responded that they were having an outdoor service. I think they were to bring their own chairs. The church of God is alive and well and making responsible decisions while continuing to minister the Gospel.

Someone has suggested that the Gospel has been heard by more people due to this worldwide pandemic than under normal circumstances. This is certainly due to fear and concern for people looking for comfort and answers. It is made possible by technology. God is using His church to boldly speak the Gospel and people are listening. I am pleased and comforted by a commercial on TV from Rev. Franklin Graham. He boldly is witnessing for Christ and sharing the simple message of salvation.

People are concerned. People are afraid. The future is uncertain. Folks are looking for answers and they are intently listening to those who are sharing the Good News

of Jesus. May we all be a part of this effort.

Remember Our Missionaries

I asked some of our foreign missionaries how things were on their field. The following is just a small sample of the concerns they have. Please continue to pray for them as they deal with the same issues on their fields that we have here at home.

Question: *What's it like in the Philippines for our missionaries and the people they serve?*

Doug Lee: No land, sea, or air travel is permitted, so we cannot leave this island. There is no food hoarding here because most people only have money for one



Doug & Diane Lee

day's needs. Even though we feel a great deal of loneliness and isolation, we know that God is in control. We'd like to be home with our family, but God has a purpose for us being here for such a time as this.

Danny Ballard: Yesterday I had to travel to a hospital 63 kilometers (40 miles) away for Rita's cancer prevention medication. There were many military check-



Danny & Rita Ballard

Coronavirus and Missions

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but opportunities will appear, and they will be looking for them."

Some of the issues paralyzing the countries where our missionaries serve are the same worldwide: closed schools and churches, canceled meetings and events, and empty shelves in the stores. Americans, while inconvenienced, don't have the paralyzing issues that the Prakashes, the Jordans and the Costas do.

Of course, it's not just our missionaries who are called to look for opportunities. Christians are called to offer comfort during uncertain times, and there are already many examples of their sacrifices.

Follow BMA Missions on Facebook for updates, go to <https://bmamissions.org/missionaries/> to pray for them by name then find them on Facebook.

State Missions

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will continue to cross match and email resumes to the church. All these features are designed to help connect our churches with needed information about people who are available to serve.

Missionaries Coping

All our Missionaries are coping well with the dynamics brought on by this process. I can't tell you how honored I am to work with such a fine group of men. During events like this, I have witnessed the deep commitment and dedication of our Missionary team of church planters, coaches and coordinators. We are blessed!

Commendation In Order

I want to commend our churches and pastors for the fine job they are doing to improvise and continue to minister the gospel. Most have increased rather than reduced their efforts to reach people in need, at their point of need. Many creative ideas are being used. This is proof positive, that when necessary, we can defeat the stereotype that we are all set in our ways. In the weeks and months ahead, I believe we will look back on this as a moment, much like the events that shortly followed the Day of Pentecost, when the Lord pushed the early church out of their comfort zone and into the world at large. God help us to embrace the moment, even if it is painful, to bring about good and glorify our Father in Heaven.

Mississippi Baptist

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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
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.50 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

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Psalm 46:1-3

I found this quote by General Dwight Eisenhower on Bplans.com, "The plan is useless, but planning is essential." There's also the famous line, "No battle plan ever survives the first encounter with the enemy," and is not only attributed to General Colin Powell, but also to Field Marshal Helmuth Carl Bernard von Moltke.

In my opinion, one of the keys to the success of the U.S. military on the battlefield, is the infusion of the mission goal down to the lowest levels so that, when the original plan must change, every soldier makes the necessary adjustments to achieve that goal.

Soldiers in the United States military eventually learn that

plans can and often change. A simple plan of going to the rifle range is often in danger of changing. So is a battlefield plan. Commanders often remind their troops that the enemy also has a vote on the outcome of a battle plan. There are three words instilled into our military members: adapt, improvise and overcome.

I once had a chaplain assistant who needed to learn this principle. I would give him a duty to perform, but he often did

not accomplish the mission I gave him. He would use excuses such as running out of supplies, or a device stopped working, and so on. In his mind, when these obstacles to success presented themselves, he believed the job could not be performed. I helped



Dr. Scott Carson
President

him understand that it was not my job to think for him, but his responsibility to think for himself. He needed to learn to adapt, improvise and overcome the issues and accomplish his mission. This chaplain assistant quickly grasped the concept and began to succeed. He later was promoted into the higher echelons of the Chaplain Non-commissioned Officers Corps, and I like to believe I had a part in guiding him to career success as he learned to accomplish each mission by overcoming the obstacles along the way.

A couple of months ago, none of us would have predicted the situation our communities are in today. Many shelves in gro-

"He needed to learn to adapt, improvise, and overcome the issues and accomplish his mission"

cery stores are empty. Restaurants have closed their dining areas. There are limited hours of operation at many stores and businesses. Even our churches have closed their doors and we now attend worship services online or in parking lots. Many

are concerned of the virus that is spreading across our land and making prudent decisions about protecting their health.

We too, at Southeastern Baptist College, have had to make adjustments to how we teach. Like many other colleges, SBC has decided to transition all classes to 100 percent online

But the Bible tells us of one who trusted the Lord who promised them success and gave a reply filled with resolve. The scripture says, "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30

You too can overcome today's

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

through the rest of the Spring Semester. Many of our current students, who otherwise would resist online courses, are now forced to learn a new way of receiving instruction and being successful with their studies. Some of our professors, who would prefer not to instruct online, are now learning new technologies to be successful teachers. We are encouraging our students and professors as best we can, to adapt, improvise and to overcome the challenges they face. And, every one of them can do it, if they apply themselves to the task at hand.

When the Israelites first approached the promised land and the spies were sent to survey the land, ten of the Israelite spies were fearful and reported about the fortified cities, the well-armed inhabitants and the giants that lived in the land.

challenges! If you need to learn a new way of connecting with your church, friends, loved ones, shopping online, etc., you can do this! Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Yes, with God we are fully able and we should continue to learn new things throughout our lives. None of us should shy away from difficult challenges, but rather, we should embrace the opportunity to expand our knowledge and talents. You and I are more than able and we can do this!

Pray for the students, faculty and the staff of SBC that we successfully adapt and overcome in these challenging times.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Donor Dinner

The annual SBC Donor Dinner that was scheduled for March 26, 2020, will be rescheduled. A new date will be announced when we are able to meet in larger groups once more.

Commencement Exercises Are Still On

Mark your calendars for the Southeastern Baptist College graduation ceremony that will be May 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. with Dr. John Adams as our guest speaker. Dr. Adams is an alumnus, Pastor of 1st Baptist Church of Mantachie Mississippi, and the Director of the Moral Action of Mississippi. We will let you know if we must make changes to the date.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

National Day of Prayer Breakfast is still planned for May 7, 2020. We will update you as soon as possible if we must cancel this event. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Leander Bridges, an SBC alumnus and Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, Mississippi, will be this year's guest speaker.

The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best

report continued on page 7

SBC Chargers Sign Players



Left Photo - Mr. Anthony Wheaton of Bay Springs, Mississippi officially became a Charger



Right Photo - Christopher Forrest, Jr. has signed a commitment to the Chargers Basketball Team for the 2020-21 school year. Christopher is coming to SBC from Wayne Academy, Waynesboro, Mississippi

Officials from the U.S. Census Bureau recently trained census takers on the campus of SBC.



Fast Track Summer Session



SBC will offer a full semester of courses in a shortened format this summer, and for half price. Each course costs \$375. Dorms are available. Registration is Thursday, May 21, 2020 and classes are May 26 to June 26. You may preregister NOW! Call 601-426-6346 or stop by the college Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Classes offered

- English Comp I
- World Lit I
- US History I
- College Algebra
- Old Testament Survey

National Meeting Information

from page 3

cluded in each entity's annual financial plan presented to the Association. The expenses for these shared services are pooled and allocated using Activity Based Costing methodology. This accounting procedure safeguards each department so that it is charged only for the applicable costs related to that organization's activities. Non-allocated costs for BMA Service Team are apportioned based on each departments' prorated share of allocated costs.

Section 3. Specific duties assigned to the BMA Service Team are:
 A. To provide shared services to supporting BMA departments and agencies to minimize overhead costs and prevent duplicate activity. These services include accounting, conferences, human resources, information services, information technology, production, and development.
 B. To provide a legal entity to hold shared employees and assets of BMA departments located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas.
 C. To provide services to departments, agencies, and applicable committees in producing the annual BMA national meeting.

If the proposed changes concerning the Department of Camp Ministries, Publications Department, and Shared Services are adopted, then we propose that the articles in the Statement of Principles of Cooperation be renumbered as follows (wording in red - see online version or mailed version sent to churches - indicates a proposed change):

- PREAMBLE
- ARTICLE I – NAME
- ARTICLE II – PURPOSE
- ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP
- ARTICLE IV - NATURE
- ARTICLE V - POLICY
- ARTICLE VI - POWERS
- ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS
- ARTICLE VIII - COORDINATING COUNCIL
- ARTICLE IX - DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS
- ARTICLE X - DEPARTMENT OF CAMP MINISTRIES
- ARTICLE XI - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
- ARTICLE XII - PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT
- ARTICLE XIII - LIFEWORD BROADCAST MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
- ARTICLE XIV - MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES AGENCY
- ARTICLE XV - MORAL ACTION AGENCY
- ARTICLE XVI - BMAA FOUNDATION
- ARTICLE XVII - BMA OF AMERICA SERVICE TEAM
- ARTICLE XVIII - COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS/PRODUCTION
- ARTICLE XIX - STANDING COMMITTEES
- ARTICLE XX - ENROLLMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
- ARTICLE XXI - NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- ARTICLE XXII - MEETINGS
- ARTICLE XXIII - FUNDS AND PROPERTIES
- ARTICLE XXIV - AMENDMENTS

We further propose the following changes to the old Article XXII—Amendments, new Article XXIV, if the other proposed amendments are adopted. The reason for this proposal is to bring the Statement of Principles of Cooperation in line with our actions this year concerning not printing the Recommendations Booklet (wording in red indicates a proposed change).

Section 1, Letter A — Proposed amendments to this Statement of Principles of Cooperation must be submitted in writing to the clerks of the association no later than February 1 prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the clerks to provide a copy of each proposed amendment, no later than February 15, to be published in the Recommendations Booklet which will be distributed to the churches. Any additional expenses involved in developing and distributing the Recommendations Booklet shall be paid from the Minute and Meeting Expense Fund.

Section 2, Letter A — Proposed amendments to the Doctrinal Statement must be submitted by a cooperating church to the clerks of the association no later than February 1 prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the clerks to provide a copy of each proposed amendment, no later than February 15, to be published in the Recommendations Booklet which will be distributed to the churches. Any additional expenses

involved in developing and distributing the Recommendations Booklet shall be paid from the Minute and Meeting Expense Fund.

DiscipleGuide Board Recommendations

The DiscipleGuide Board of Trustees respectfully submits the following recommendations regarding the Baptist Publishing House:

1. That Dr. Charley Holmes be elected as Executive Director of Baptist Publishing House for one year.
2. That the proposed budget of \$465,855 for Baptist Publishing House be approved.
3. That DiscipleGuide be dissolved and the Baptist Publishing House operate as independent department of the BMA of America as defined in the proposed changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.

The DiscipleGuide Board of Trustees respectfully submits the following recommendations regarding Daniel Springs Baptist Camp:

1. That the proposed 2020 budget of \$567,440 for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp be approved.
2. That Daniel Springs Baptist Camp stand as an independent department of the BMA of America apart from Baptist Publishing House and conferences as defined in the proposed changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.
3. That the names presented by the Nominating Committee of the BMAA be approved as the new Board of Trustees for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp.
4. We recommend the reelection of Jason Prewitt as the Executive Director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp.

Proposal for Changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation of the BMA of America as approved by the DiscipleGuide Board of Trustees, October 2019

The following proposal for changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation has been approved by a majority of the members of the DiscipleGuide Board of Trustees and is being presented to the Coordinating Council for publication and recommendation to the members in attendance at the BMAA Annual Meeting to be held April 27-29, 2020.

The end result, if approved by the constituency, would result in the current DiscipleGuide department being separated into the Department of Camp Ministries and the Publications Department. The current DiscipleGuide board of Trustees would become the board of Trustees for the Department of Camp Ministries. A separate 15-member board of Directors will be established for the Publications Department. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for selecting all board members. The Articles will be renumbered to fall into the proper sequence in the Statement of Principles of Cooperation. Each Article will read as follows:

Article -- Department of Camp Ministries

Section 1. This association shall elect a Department of Camp Ministries board of trustees consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of trustees are:

- A. To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
- B. To fulfill the purpose of the department, which is to provide a retreat from outside pressures to focus on spiritual needs through Christian fellowship and evangelical ministries.
- C. To be responsible for the physical properties and the establishment of administrative policies relative to the operation of the camp.
- D. To fill any vacancy between sessions that may occur in the Executive Director's office.
- E. To require each applicant for a position in the Department of Camp Ministries to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.

Article -- Publications Department

Section 1. This association shall elect a Publications Committee, which shall also serve as the corporation's board of directors consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall

constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of Directors are:

- A. To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
 - B. To fill vacancies between sessions that may occur among staff writer positions and the Executive Director's office.
 - C. To recommend to the annual session all writers of publications. Special writers (non-staff writers) may be elected by the committee between sessions.
 - D. To require each applicant for a position in the Publications Department to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.
- Section 3. The publications of this association will be a complete course of Bible Study literature and such other literature and publications as the association may deem advisable.
- Section 4. All literature bearing the name of the Baptist Publishing House, the publishing agency of the Publications Department, or any other trade names as the board of Directors shall authorize, including literature published in foreign languages, will be under the supervision of the Executive Director of Publications and the Publications Committee.
- Section 5. The Publications Committee shall elect annually a subcommittee of three (3) hereafter called the Audit Committee. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are:
- A. To oversee the financial integrity of this department.
 - B. To consult with the director as often as necessary.
 - C. To make recommendations concerning the finances of the department to the Publications Committee.

Lifeword Board Recommendations

1. We recommend that the proposed operating budget for Fiscal 2021 be adopted.
2. We recommend that Sunday, October 18, 2021 be designated as Lifeword Sunday across the BMA.
3. That every BMA church be encouraged to support Lifeword on a monthly basis as part of their Great Commission strategy.
4. That the housing allowance be set at \$2,500 per month for the Director of Operations, Director of Digital Broadcasting, Director of Finance and the Executive Director for this year and beyond until amended.
5. That Donny Parrish stand as nominee for Executive Director.

Moral Action Recommendations

1. That our Baptist Missionary Association of America reaffirm and approve these five (5) Moral Action resolutions and that they are mailed to the President, United States Senators, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Supreme Court.
 2. That we embrace and support the National Day of Prayer May 7, 2020, and the Sanctity of Life emphasis on a designated Sunday in January, 2020. That we go to the town halls, city halls and county courthouses and join other Americans in prayer for our nation.
 3. That we humbly request that these resolutions be printed in our BMA state newspapers.
 4. That Dr. John M. Adams represent the BMA of America in Washington, D.C. by encouraging and contacting our United States Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen and other Christian moral/political organizations, such as American Family Association, Focus on the Family, and Family Research Council.
 5. That our local associations, our local and state WMA and Brotherhoods, and our local churches and pastors give either a monthly or a yearly financial gift to Moral Action.
 6. That all our BMA churches schedule June 28 or July 5, 2020, as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials for our soldiers, both past and present.
 7. That the proposed budget be approved.
 8. That Dr. John M. Adams stand as a nominee for Executive Director of Moral Action.
- Chairman, David Inzer, AR – 2020
 Vernon Lee, LA - 2020
 Dr. Kevin Clayton, MS - 2022
 George Reddin, AR - 2022
 Linda Dertinger, MS – 2023
 John Smith, CO - 2023
 Randy Burk, CA – 2024
 Sidney Davis, MS – 2024

continued on page 8

While her Son was dying, Mary was thinking...

by Joe McKeever
with permission

"But there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." (John 19:25)

Why am I here? And why is He there? There seem to be no answers other than "God knows and we trust Him."

Thy will be done. "I am the bond-slave of the Lord. Be it done to me according to Thy word."

Sometimes you cry and cry until there are no more tears.

Your heart aches until it no longer feels anything.

Your mind grows exhausted from events happening all around, none of which you were prepared for.

If anyone had told me a year ago I could experience the suffering of this day and live through it, I would have thought it impossible.

There are no words to describe this kind of heart-break.

You are surrounded by people, yet more alone than at anytime in your life.

Friends come over, want to make sure I'm all right. They ask how I'm coping. No words come.

Where are the disciples? They never let Him out of their sight for three years, yet where are they when He needs them? Oh, there's young John. That's good. He's so broken in spirit. Maybe I should go over and comfort him.

And that may have been Simon Peter in the back of the crowd, I'm not sure.

Standing here, I keep remembering the words of old Simeon when we went into the Temple for Him to receive the dedication of the first-born. The old gentleman surprised Joseph and me by walking up and reaching out his hands to take our infant. After a moment's praise to Heaven, he looked at me and said, "A sword shall pierce your own heart."

Little did he know. Or then again, maybe he did.

I miss Joseph so much. He could help me make sense of all this. My husband had such a strong and unen-

cumbered faith. He heard from The Name, then obeyed. Me, I have to mull things over, to ponder and meditate. Nothing is ever simple for me.

It helps a little—not as much as I wish it did—that He has the most incredible look of peace about Him, even in the midst of what is surely unimaginable suffering. God is with Him. The last few days, He seems to have been moving toward this event, these moments, even dropping a few hints.

Maybe in time we will know what that means. Right now, everything is in a fog.

The noise is unbearable here at the cross. Everyone seems to be shouting. Those not clamoring for His death and taunting Him for His Messianic pretensions, not cursing Him and spitting upon Him—forgive them, Lord!—are crying. All the women with me are so broken-hearted.

John needs me. I'll walk over.

And what's this? Through His agony, His tears, His pain—He speaks from the cross.

"Woman."

Did I hear right? He's speaking to me.
"Woman. Behold. Your. Son."

Oh, my beloved. I have been beholding nothing but My Son for these hours. Did you think you were escaping my notice? Do you see how my soul is crying out in pain for You?

"Behold."

He speaks again. This time His eyes have turned toward John.

"Behold. Your. Mother."

Oh. That's what He is saying. John will be my son and he is to treat me as his mother.

Once again, He leaves me speechless. — How many times in these thirty-plus years has He done that! He is suffering an agony we cannot imagine and what does He do but think of others.

How good He is. How like The Name.

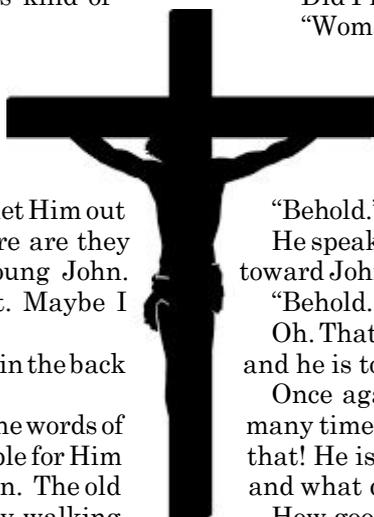
How blessed I am to be His.

I worship Thee, O righteous Lord. There is none like Thee.

"Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow...." (Lamentations 1:12)



Joe McKeever



John Meriweather Serves The BMA

In 2013 the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America made the historic move of relocating much of its departmental structure to Conway, Arkansas. The dream of a unified vision, the benefits of a Shared Service Team, and the savings of thousands of dollars derived from this integration have been a tremendous victory for our association. The move has given BMA Missions and Lifeworld unprecedented synergy and effectiveness in reaching around the world with the gospel. And when DiscipleGuide began to suffer and eventually dissolve its ministry, many of its functions were seamlessly absorbed into this new structure that was already in place.

One of the great highlights of this move has been the success story of the BMA Service Teams. These are specialized employees that are not limited to serving one BMA department, but have a wide range of expertise shared by different departments. Information Tech-



John, Rama and Jeremiah

nology (IT) services, media production, building maintenance, financial accounting, and human resource experts make up the BMA Shared Service Team. They support the needs of our missionary family around the world and are integral to making the worldwide ministries of the BMA effective and efficient.

God has given the churches of the BMA an experienced professional to shepherd this area of ministry. John Meriweather holds a degree in business management from the University of Central Arkansas. He comes to BMA America after serving with Acxiom Corporation from 1990-2016. Acxiom leverages data and information services and technologies to support the marketing strategies of (primarily) Fortune 500 companies. Serving in numerous client management and operational leadership roles during his time at Acxiom, his last role was Vice President of Client Implementation Services — leading the teams that design and implement marketing services solutions for new and existing clients. John's business acumen helps to bring a high level of professionalism and efficiency to the management of the BMA Service Teams.

"I never imagined how my skills and experiences could be used in ministry," said Meriweather. "It has

continued on page 8

Southeastern College Report from page 5

Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And, we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10 least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. You really need to contact the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.

Lighthouse Café

The SBC Lighthouse Café is closed until further notice. Nearly all of our students have chosen to study from home and the café could not find a reliable source of supplies. We plan to reopen the café in the Fall Semester.

TNT

Tuesday Night Talks (TNT) are cancelled through the rest of the Spring Semester.

SBC Choir

Now is the time to reserve dates for a performance at your church or other venue during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

Veterans Benefits

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

SBC Sports Gear

SBC Charger sports clothing and gear are available online and get 20% off when ordering more than \$80. Go to this website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/shop-southeastern-baptist-chargers>

Preach It!

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

Do You Shop on Amazon.com?

Southeastern is on
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amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Our Amazon Smile account is fixed! Anybody shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon!

National Meeting Information

from page 7

Moral Action Proposed Resolutions

Presented to the B.M.A. of American churches April 28, 2020 in Waxahachie, Texas

For the U.S. Coins.... "In God We Trust" was first inscribed on American coinage in 1864 and in 1956 Congress made it the National Motto of the United States. We resolve to continue supporting this.

For the U.S. Congress.... "Congress has opened its session with prayer since 1774, usually given by its official chaplain in both houses. We resolve to continue support of these prayers.

For the U.S. Flag.... Congress placed "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 to combat the rise of atheism and communism. We resolve to continue this pledge.

For the U.S. Court.... Since 1820, the U.S. Supreme Court has opened its sessions with the unison prayer of "God save the United States and this Honorable Court." We resolve to support this prayer pledge.

For the Presidential Oath.... Since the first president George Washington added "so help me God" to the inaugural oath April 30, 1789, every U.S. President since has likewise asked for God's help in their Presidency. We resolve to continue supporting this brave oath.

Moral Action Director
Dr. John M. Adams

Ministers Resource Services Recommendations

- That we adopt the proposed operating budget for Fiscal 2021.
- That \$12,000 of the executive director's salary be designated as housing allowance.
- That we recognize Bro. Dwayne Ashcraft for his faithful service to the MRS board.
- That Dr. Steve Crawley stand as a nominee for Executive Director

Editor's Note - As of March 28, this Ladies Retreat is still scheduled. If this changes we will have a notice in our next issue.

Retreat Planned

The Hobolochitto WMA will be hosting the 5th Annual LIFE (Ladies Interceding For Eternity) Retreat April 24-25, 2020. Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. The retreat is held at Campground Baptist Church, 20577 HWY 53, Gulfport, Mississippi. The cost is \$35.00 a lady or teen girl before April 10th and \$45.00 after or at the door.

This year's speaker is Dori Drabek. Dori is a Baptist speaker who travels all over the



Dori Drabek

United States with her unique style of spreading God's Word. Her speaking and drama ministry is designed specifically for women.

For more information please contact Melissa Comeaux at 228-861-8308.

BMA Foundation Board Recommendations

- That the proposed 2020-2021 operating budget be approved.
- That the Executive Director's salary be set at \$7,200 and that he be paid a \$500 Christmas bonus in December.
- That Charles Attebery stand as a nominee as Executive Director.
- That BMAA church members prayerfully consider including the BMA Foundation in their estate plans. An undesignated bequest will benefit all BMA of America departments and agencies or individuals may designate their bequests as desired.

BMA of America Proposed Resolution on Beholding the Majesty of God First Baptist Church, Cave Springs, Arkansas

WHEREAS, the Scriptures are filled with robust, soul-piercing revelation of the triune God in majesty (Exodus 15:11) as He is utterly unique in His transcendence, since He is infinite (Job 11:7-9), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable in His being (James 1:17, Exodus 3:14), wisdom (Psalm 147:5), power (Revelation 4:8), holiness (Isaiah 6:3), justice, goodness, and truth (Exodus 34:6), and WHEREAS, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) and the Apostle Paul prayed that the church in Colossae would increase in its knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10), and WHEREAS, the Baptist Missionary Association of America stands in great need of growing in our fear of the Lord and knowledge of Him, and WHEREAS, the Lord of hosts is jealous for His own glory, refusing to share it with any false gods (Isaiah 42:8), and dishonored when His people turn to sources outside of His divine

revelation in order to analyze or understand the greatest need of a pagan and godless culture (2 Timothy 3:16-17), and

WHEREAS, God will not hold those guiltless who take His name in vain (Exodus 20:7) by thinking less of Him than they ought, knowing less of Him than they ought, and loving Him less than they ought, and

WHEREAS, lack of awareness of the majesty of God is the root cause of so many serious issues churches and denominations, even our Baptist brethren, face in the 21st century (Psalm 115:8), including, but not limited to, the lack of trust in the sufficiency of Scripture, being pro-LGBTQ+ lifestyles; having women preaching to and teaching/ exercising authority over men in the church (1 Timothy 2:12), ignoring sexual abuse and covering it up, a lack of concern for evangelism, purporting a man-centered theology, and lacking biblical church discipline and concern for regenerate church membership in local churches, and

WHEREAS, our triune God is honored and glorified by His people when they humbly adore Him for who He is and seek to adjust their lives in all ways possible to conformity of His will as revealed in His Scriptures (John 4:23-24), and WHEREAS, the chief end of our existence is to glorify this great and holy God and to enjoy Him forever and ever (Psalm 145:1-3), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the BMA of America Annual Meeting, assembled in Waxahachie, Texas, April 27-30, 2020, acknowledge our desire to worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness as He is revealed in the Scriptures; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all BMA Churches, pastors, departments, agencies, leaders, laypersons, and associations to repent of any and all ways that God has not been honored, through sins of blatant disregard of His Word or sins of ignorance or neglect of His Word; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all BMA Baptists to behold the Majesty of God in humble reverence through means of prayer and Bible intake,

both corporately and personally, and having an intentional local church focus on preaching the majesty of God in regular Sunday services as well as special emphases throughout the year on beholding God together; and be it finally RESOLVED, That we warn churches and individuals who do not take the majesty of God seriously that not only will there be adverse consequences in this life, but also in the one to come.

Unanimously Approved for submission in the Regular Business Conference of First Baptist Church, Cave Springs Arkansas of March 8, 2020

Michael Battenfield, Pastor
Gaylene Vanhook, Church Clerk

Just The Crumbs Ministry Relief in Nashville

Just the Crumbs arrived in Nashville on March 12 and immediately began setting up to be ready to replace Mercy Chefs, who were pulling out on Sunday. We began feeding Monday, March 16. We have averaged feeding between 3 and 4 hundred per day. Our most difficult challenge has been the continuous rain and wet ground where we are set up. God has provided us a tremendous group of volunteers from TX, IN, KY, AR, MS, Mexico, Brazil, and, of course, TN.

We have partnered with the awesome organization, Connect Nashville, to reach this community. Our needs remain the same: food or monetary donations. We have agreed to stay as long as the need and resources last. We have permission to stay at this location for at least another 2 months as needed. Nashville is on lockdown due to COVID-19, but our services have been deemed essential, due to so many of the elderly and others that are in need.

We are complying with all the safety measures put forth. All volunteers have been told if they feel vulnerable and want to leave to feel free to do so. Pray for us and the people God allows us to minister to.

Thank you to all the BMA Churches and Individuals who have helped us continue this service thus far. Contributions can be made through BMMA Mission Office or PAYPAL; justthecrumbs21@gmail.com or Mail to Just The Crumbs 10 Wagon Trail Sumrall, MS 39482

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Hunkered Down

Because of these crazy times that we're going through because of supposedly the corona virus, I have been hunkered down at home.

When I first heard of this virus I said that I may have been exposed because I used to type on a Smith Corona Typewriter, but the situation quickly became too serious for a remark like that.

I don't know what Hunkered down means and I tried to look it up and Mr. Webster didn't know what it was either. But because of its usage I think it means to hide from something.

I was thinking about stories of people in the Bible who hunkered down or hid from something. Some that came to mind were:

Josiah was hidden for 6 years.

Moses was hidden for three months.

The spies hunkered down while Rahab covered them with stalks.

Jesus hid himself when the Jews were going to stone him

David was hunkered down when he asked God to hide him "under the shadow of Thy wing."

I've decided that "hunkered down" is not a bad place to be.

Meriweather

from page 7

been an incredible experience to see how God shaped my heart and opened opportunities in my life to serve him in a ministry capacity where my skills and experience can be leveraged for his glory. And I've continued to be amazed at how he is able to reshape and leverage previ-

ous skills in new and exciting ways."

John has been married to his wife, Holly, since 1990, and they have three grown children, Landon, Sidney and Olivia. Last year they welcomed their first grandchild, Phillip. To connect with John and to find out more about his service to the BMA, email him at john@bmaamerica.org.



- Revival Fires -

2020 Senior Conference

North Conference

Tuesday, May 12th at 9:30

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Fulton., Mississippi