

Missions Department Special Emphasis

April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

Baptist

Mississippi

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Mission work in Philippines Hampered by Covid Rules

by Stan & Donna Scroggins
Missionaries to Philippines

The following covers the Scroggins' efforts to get back to their field...

After 11 days of quarantine in Manila we are finally ready to head to the airport for our flight to Bacolod City on our Island Negros.

Every island and province has its own procedures. Talisay City, the city we live in, requires a covid swab at the airport, then quarantine until negative results. So, off to another hotel, the Avenue Suites, for quarantine. We passed right by our house on the way there.

After three more days our negative tests are back and we

are driven to our house for two more days of quarantine. We are finally free and ready to get back to work.

We are just in time for our CHED (accreditation agency) meeting. It was a virtual meeting with campus tour, staff and curriculum evaluation, and final recommendations. The two major recommendations are to supply more Asian Evangelical periodicals and reduce the needed credits for graduation from 193 credit hours to 130.

First chapel back

It was so good to see these enthusiastic Bible students. Also, Donna and I were glad to be able to present to our Academic Dean her diploma for completing her Master's in Education from Liberty Baptist University. We are so proud of Mrs. Marie "Tootsie" Samson.

There is a bit of "bitter/sweet" in our hearts right now. Sweet to be back, bitter that our dear friends the Lee's travel



Stan & Donna

continued on page 8

The Cost of Making Disciples

by Scott Attebery

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *The Cost of Discipleship* is a classic. It powerfully describes Christ's call for men to "come and die" in order to be His disciple.

In as many times as I have discussed that book with friends, I've never thought about an equally important concept – until now. Since a true disciple of Christ will become a disciple maker of others (after all, that is Christ-like), we must also con-

sider the cost of disciple making.

Initially we may think the cost is time and energy. Certainly this is true. Disciple making is a commitment to open up your life to another person. It's an act of service that requires long hours, late-night calls, in-

convenient conversations, and out-of-the way trips.

But the cost of disciple making doesn't stop there. In fact, time and energy are actually just the beginning of the cost.

The real difficulty of disciple making comes from the nature of the task: Helping a fellow redeemed sinner grow in Christ. Read that last sentence again. It implies (biblically) that every believer, while on this earth, is still growing. We still make mistakes, act selfishly, rebel against God, and hurt those who care for us.

Disciple makers must accept the fact that there will be times when they will be hurt, let down, taken for granted, and used. This is where we must realize that we are like a bridge – laying down our lives for the good of others. And, like any good bridge, we will be walked all over.



Midyear Meeting To Be Held At Southeastern College A Word Concerning The Meeting

by Greg Medenwald, President
BMA of Mississippi

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Mid-year Meeting will be conducted according to schedule on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. SBC President Dr. Scott Carson, and the staff and student body of SBC, will welcome both messengers and visitors to the campus, and request that we carefully use whatever social distancing protocol that will be appropriate for the time.

SBC will also provide lunch at the Lighthouse Café at no cost, but donations will be accepted with appreciation.

Second Vice-President Justin Cameron, Pastor of the Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia, Mississippi, will preach the Mid-year Message just before the noon break. An afternoon session, though it will likely be brief, will be necessary due to the presentation of some constitutional changes which will be presented in the morning session and voted on in the afternoon session.



Greg Medenwald

The meeting, due to lingering Covid-19 concerns, will be expedited. However, each department and commission director will be given quality time to speak and report, and visitors will be recognized and asked to be brief in their comments. SBC will be in charge of the music.

May God graciously bless you in your preparations to attend the meeting, in your travel to Laurel, and in your participation in the cooperative work of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi.

But don't let that discourage you. In fact, let it encourage you. Why? Because in laying down your life for others, you are being Christ-like toward them (1 John 3:16)

That's why Scripture calls us to "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:23), "bear with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2), "teach and admonish one another in all wisdom" (Colossians 3:16), and "exhort one another every day" (Hebrews 3:13).

Those aren't words to pass over lightly. Exhorting, rebuk-

ing, forgiving, bearing, and admonishing are all painfully difficult. And at the same time, when accomplished in Christian strength, they are incredibly joyful.

Why? Because there is nothing greater than identifying with Christ in His sufferings – especially when those sufferings produce disciples (3 John 1:4).

So before you venture off into disciple making, take a moment to count the costs. Just be sure to count them in light of the immense joy found in identifying with Christ – the master disciple maker.

-from Lifeword

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Special Emphasis Is Vital

Every area of ministry of the BMA of Mississippi relies on "gifts and offerings" for their financial support. There are no exceptions! Our churches and members have rallied to the need of each ministry department over the years and are to be commended for providing needed funds to minister and continue to reach out to the world with the Gospel.

April and May have been designated as "special emphasis months" for the State Missions Department. Under the leadership of Bro. Geraldson the department has grown and established a number of new mission points. Other ministries have been incorporated into the department's outreach and service areas and have proven effective.

In his article in this issue he tells us that there are those that wish to go and that there are a number of viable sites to begin New Testament churches. I urge each of our churches and their members to make a special effort to support state missions with an exceptional offering during this drive. It is needed and I think our time to present the Gospel to the world is drawing short.

Our world is sinking lower into sin at a rapid pace and we know our God, who is gracious and longsuffering, will judge this world for her immorality and wickedness. Give so the Word of God can be preached to the lost. He is not willing that any should perish and we must do our part.

New Website

We have been working on a new website for a few months. The new one is still in testing and design mode, but may be accessed at www.newmsbaptist.org. That is a 'temporary' web address and the site you see there will soon be found at our regular web address of www.msbaptist.org. Both are now up and running. We would appreciate you visiting the new site and sharing your thoughts. We would also like to know what features you would like to see that are not currently available. Our purpose is to provide news that is valuable and of interest to our readers.

Special Emphasis 2021

Our emphasis total for January 2021 is \$10,393.93. Wow! I cannot thank our churches and folks enough. God is good and He provides and uses His people to do His work. Thank you to all who gave. May God bless you as you have blessed this ministry.

2021 National Day of Prayer Breakfast

May 6, 2021 - FREE! - 7:30 a.m.

Southeastern Baptist College Gym

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Leander Bridges

Senior Pastor
Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

RSVP how many are coming in your party
By **TEXTING** 601-498-8832 by April 26
(but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

THOUGHTS FROM GENESIS

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12

Adam not only "kicked Eve to the curb;" he also "threw her under the bus" when he had to tell God he had sinned. How shameful to point the finger at your wife to blame for your actions! Yet Adam blamed someone else for his own sin. Sin is not simply breaking the laws of the land. Sin is disobeying God. Adam had disobeyed God and was making excuses for his own disobedience.

Before we get too far into condemning Adam, let's think about our own sin. When we disobey God, who is at fault? Certainly it is not your wife or husband. It is definitely not the boss or a neighbor who makes you sin. Please don't say it is your society or culture that makes you sin. Listen to the penitent David in Psalm 51.4: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."

David did not try to shift the blame to anyone regarding his choice of disobeying God. He confessed – confess means to say the same thing – his choice of behavior to God. God knew his choice and agreed with it. God heard David's prayer when he said in verse 10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God;

Dear Reader, who has sinned? You or someone who "made you do it"? No, not anyone caused your sin. You chose to do so.

Home is the
University of Life
with parents as
the professors,
children as
students, and
life as the lab.

Adrian Rogers

Confess your sin to ask for a clean, new heart through Christ Jesus our Lord.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Gen 6:8

What does one do when all around is nothing but immorality and wickedness in the population, even corruption in the highest government offices? David asked this same kind of question as he looked around his own country in Psalm 11.3: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Basically David concluded the best thing for him to do was to go on being righteous! That is the situation here with Noah.



Tony Cleaver

The passage tells us the Lord saw widespread evil in all of humanity. But – and here is the great exception – Noah found grace and favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Dear Reader, are you set every day on all sides with dishonesty, debauchery, and even worse things? What can you do? You can go on being righteous. You can look to find favor in God's eyes by your following the precepts of the Word of God that brings light to your life. You will be that light shining in a dark place. The Lord looks for light. He found it in Noah.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

"The man who attempts Christianity without the church shoots himself in the foot, shoots his children in the leg, and shoots his grandchildren in the heart."



Attention Area Pastors, College Pastors and Youth Ministers

College and Youth Ministries, along with parents and friends, are invited to attend CHOSEN: SUMMER CAMP AND MISSIONS EXPO on Wednesday, April 14th. Southeastern Baptist College will host this event on our campus at 4229 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440. This will be an evening event you do not want to miss.

Camps and Mission Outreach groups will be on hand to talk with prospective campers and their families, interview older students for summer staff jobs, and for parents to learn about opportunities for their children. Church leaders, with their youth groups, will have an opportunity to meet and talk with these organizations for their churches.

Praise and Worship will be led by Justin Rhodes, pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church. Rhodes is an Alumni of SBC and a current instructor at SBC. The message will be led by Wesley Martin, pastor at Redemption Baptist Church. Martin is a 2018 graduate of SBC. He has spent time working with youth ministry, music ministry, and preaching the gospel. This special time together intends to inspire and challenge our youth and adults alike to know what God has "Chosen you for in His mighty work".

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for meet and greet. Praise and worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is a free event for all. Students interested in interviewing for summer staff jobs, need to be interview ready.



Don J. Brown, Editor

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Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Special Emphasis for State Missions

"...ye have not, because ye ask not." James 4:2b

Last year, at this same time, we were facing the unknowns of COVID-19. Churches were unsure of the impact to their finances and I certainly felt it was not prudent for me to promote our Special Emphasis for State Missions, which runs from April-May. Well, I did not ask, and we didn't get.

This year, having heard from a number of our Pastors that their finances, in some cases, are better than before, I am

year; two in April and one in September. More of our missionaries have developed a multiple church planting vision, which will result in continued growth.

Two of our missions are currently getting ready to build, while one is just finishing the renovation of their building. This year, we witnessed the mission in the Kiln reach a high attendance of 135, meeting in a storm shelter

...we have ministry activity in Church Ministries, Disaster Relief, Benevolence, and Jail Ministry. Our primary mission is to serve our churches by supporting the missionaries they send out, but we also care for our churches through this myriad of ministries...

asking. We need to have a good Special Emphasis this year. In addition to not promoting and receiving a good Special Emphasis offering last year, we were hit with Tornadoes and Hurricanes that took a toll on our Disaster Relief Fund. For this and other reasons, I am asking you to place Special Emphasis on your State Missions program and take up a special offering for this worthy cause.

Our missionaries have done an outstanding job through the pandemic. Three missions are scheduled to organize into New Testament Churches this

and our mission in Meridian establish a core group of 10 families starting in the middle of the pandemic. Faced with challenges, our guys have pressed forward, God has richly blessed, and there is more to come.

We have at least 35 other locations where we could be planting churches, if we had the men and the resources to do so. We have new people filling out applications now. We have associate missionaries in training and a coaching team of veteran missionaries that is providing outstanding support, as they



Attendees at our recent Missionary Meeting. From left to right and back to front, Estuardo Marroquin, Johnny Williams, Wesley Martin, Johnmicheal Poulan (Missionary Committeeman and Guest Speaker), Daniel Allen, Scott Brocius, Josh Daniels, Jason Howard, Chris Yager, Larry Geraldson (Mission Director) Not Pictured: Sidney Farmer, Paul Spurlin, Kenneth Pollock

equip each missionary in the areas of Discipleship, Church Doctrine, and Church Polity. The results have been tremendous.

In addition to our church planting efforts, we have ministry activity in Church Ministries, Disaster Relief, Benevolence, and Jail Ministry. Our primary mission is to serve our churches by supporting the missionaries they send out, but we also care for our churches through this myriad of ministries.

We have tried to be good stewards of the money you send us. 100% of every dollar that we receive from you for missions, goes out the door to our mission-

aries. We use none of it for overhead, upkeep, maintenance, or even my salary. 100% goes out the door to our missionaries. We have operated in the black for 9 years straight and are on track to doing the same this year.

You can find out more information about our missionaries, our ministries and resources that are available to your church by visiting our website at www.bmams.org. There is so much more I could say and will say at upcoming associational meetings. For now, would you please allow me to encourage you to pray for us and seriously consider promoting our Special Emphasis?



State Missionaries and guest at our recent Missionary meeting



Johnmicheal Poulan speaking to our State Missionaries

Missions Department Special Emphasis

April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

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

"Forthou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me."
Psalm 31:3

While I was serving in the U.S. Army, Linda and I were blessed to have been twice assigned to Europe. Our first overseas tour was for three years in Germany during the Cold War while we were facing off the Communists who were threatening to invade Western Europe. It was during this time that the Berlin Wall was removed, the Soviet Union collapsed, and freedom was restored to many Eastern European countries.

The second time we were assigned to Europe, the Lord blessed us with an opportunity to live in four different locations over a period of eight years, twice in Germany, with assignments to Italy and Belgium. After a while we became very comfortable living in these foreign nations.

Believe it or not, it was actually quite difficult to break away from my work as a chaplain in order to visit the many fascinating European sites. I often said that we would have toured more, except that work kept getting in the way!

Europe has a wonderfully developed train system. One can travel conveniently by train to almost any location, even to smaller towns and villages. Between the larger cities they have bullet trains that can travel over 100 miles per hour. During our time there we were able to travel on these rapid forms of transportation with ease and comfort instead of the alternative of fighting heavy automobile traffic. Trips that might otherwise have taken eight hours by driving, where only a couple of hours via bullet train!

Here at SBC, we often feel like we are on a bullet train in reference to the school calendar. A staff member the other day mentioned that graduation is in a couple of months. I said it was more like a couple of days! They agreed that time flies here because of all the projects and work we do. We cannot afford to waste time by waiting to plan for a big event, because before we know it, we are already too late for efficient and well



Dr. Scott Carson
President

thought through planning. The Army used the six-week rule for locking in their calendars and an event had to be on the calendar no less than six weeks out from its execution. We are also trying to follow this rule, though COVID 19, and sometimes the weather, often interfere, especially with our sports programs.

Our Next Big Event

As COVID 19 restrictions are eased, we are beginning to put events that were cancelled last year back onto the school calendar. The next big event is the CHOSEN: Summer Camp and Missions Expo that will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Camps and Mission Outreach groups will be on campus to talk with prospective campers and their families, interview older students for summer staff jobs, and for parents to learn about opportunities for their children. Church leaders, with their youth groups, will have an opportunity to meet and talk with these organizations for their churches. Praise and Worship begins at 6:30 p.m. led by Justin Rhodes, pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church. Brother Rhodes is an SBC Alumnus and a current instructor. The message will be led by Wesley Martin, pastor at

Redemption Baptist Church. Brother Martin is a 2018 graduate of SBC. For more information, there is a flyer included in this edition of the Mississippi Baptist Paper.

Another event we have scheduled, is **The National Day of Prayer Breakfast**. It is on May 6, 2021, at 7:30 in the morning. Our guest speaker is Brother Leander Bridges, alumnus and pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ellisville, Mississippi. Our own Lighthouse Café will cater the breakfast and this event is free because of the gracious gift provided by Bethlehem Baptist Church of Laurel. There is a flyer in this publication that provides more information. Come join us as we pray for our

communities and America at this special nationwide annual event!

Also, soon to be announced is the date and time of the 2021 graduation exercise.

Thank you again for your continuing support. SBC is on the fast track and it's getting faster! Pray for us as we hurry to keep up with the Lord and His ever expanding plans for your college.

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them." Isaiah 42:16

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

In Memoriam

Thank you to Linda Windham for her gracious donation to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of her late husband Brother Edward Latrelle Windham.

Brother Windham faithfully served as State Youth Director for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi for twenty-five years. As State Youth Director, he organized events, camps, and conferences for young people from elementary to college age throughout Mississippi.

He invested in the lives of young people through Christian education and discipling them in Christian service. Brother Latrelle served on staff at Parkview Baptist Church, Lebanon Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Louin in education, youth and music minister capacities in his early years of ministry and on the staff of Southeastern Baptist College.



Latrelle Windham

CHOSEN: Summer Camp and Missions Expo

This annual event is on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the campus of SBC. Please read the above article and reference the flyer contained in this paper for more information.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

After cancelling last year's event due to COVID 19, the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held in the SBC gym. 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. See the adjacent flyer for more information.

Time to Apply for Summer and Fall Semesters!

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. In the last 4 years we have twice been ranked the

number one college out of hundreds of other colleges and universities! We have consistently been in the top 25 and SBC is also one of the top 10 least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer on our website or by calling 601-426-6346.

Chargers Baseball

Come out and support the first year of Chargers baseball. They are playing on Wooten-Legion Field, 1215 West Drive in Laurel. Please double check before leaving for the field, the schedule often changes due to weather or Covid 19 issues. The season schedule is provided near this announcement.

Amazon Smile

Anyone 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 Smile! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

See College on page 5



A big thank you to Eddie Walker for using his personal equipment to spread the gravel we recently purchased for the Granbury Hall parking lot.



A coordination meeting between SBC Coaches and Administrative Staff



Dr. Carson briefing prospective incoming students and their parents.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

feelings. They miss their families and siblings. They miss being home with them. Most of the time all they want is to be back home. But back home is where most of the trouble comes from. Mom or dad may not be there and they have to fend for themselves. They feel alone and most of the time they are. At school they are usually at the bottom of the class. Sometimes

causes the older ones to be bitter. They become angry. Wanting to fight at the slightest comment, even those meant to be funny. We have held those that screamed and cried until they couldn't anymore. We have watched them lie, wondering to what end. Dwight and I have had to make hard decisions. Those decisions that we know are best, but not what we want because it means the end of our help for that lost soul. We go to bed every night praying for the Lord to work in the kid's lives and shower upon them blessings that they don't even know they need.

Right now we are facing the most difficult time in our ministry. We have a change coming in the home with the children. We are having to let go of children we have poured into for months now knowing they are going back to a potentially bad situation and still not knowing our Savior as their Savior and what all he can do for them. It breaks my heart to hear one of them tell me, I'm doing better on "this" than I ever did at home and I have to send them back to that home. This is where I am glad that I know a Father that loves better than any human father, protects with an army of angels, and will bring the chil-



Winter snow enjoyed by the kids

From the Heart of Lindsay Lindsey

What mom wouldn't love to hear the laughter of her children in the next room? What parent wouldn't be excited to know that their child was making straight As and at the top of their class? Wouldn't we all like to think that we have the given the very best for our children. We all dream of the best possible scenarios, even before we have children. But here at The Home sometimes those are just dreams. Those are just thoughts we have to help our own minds cope with what reality is. Those are the dreams that give us Hope and Joy that one day we all will have the best of the best, Jesus! We take in the children the Lord places in our path. Sometimes those kids are not the top of the class nor do they even know what true joy is. This is not to be dreary and cause you to feel sorry for us or the children here. I mean to inspire you. I want you to see the kids and how you



Lindsay Lindsey (*yes it is confusing*) on the left with Dwight on the right and the kids in the back during a recent outing

have been a part of their journey because you are a part of the Children's Home. There is always another side to every story and I'm here to tell you mine, as the mom of hurting children.

Don't take this the wrong way. Our kids are not always sad, angry, and hurt. But anything at any time can trigger these

behind in class or even by a grade or two. That's hard to see your classmates move up and you have to stay and do that grade again. They feel like no one is in their corner. No one cares and everyone is leaving them to face this big huge world to fend for themselves. All these things crush the little ones and

dren we are letting go of back to Him one day. I find joy in knowing I have an all powerful, all knowing, and in all places, Father of the fatherless and protector of orphans. This mama's heart breaks on a daily basis. I have a Heavenly Father that holds me and tells me its going to work, for I know their future and see their steps and you better believe I will be watching over them.

Please pray for Dwight and me as we try to show these broken and unloved children that there is One that can heal and love like no other. I would like to be able to share my story with you and your church's WMA or ladies group. Please contact me to be at your next meeting.

College

from page 4

Be sure to choose Southeastern Baptist College and NOT the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Be sure to choose the correct "Southeastern Baptist College" because numerous organizations have "Southeastern" in their name.

Library Memoriam

From time to time, God's people send SBC donations in order to purchase books for our library. Thank you to the J.B. Eady Family for your recent memoriam in honor of J.B. Eady and thank you to Rita and Mike Patrick for your donation in memory of John Wesley Patrick. Both families are members of Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi.

Library Donations

Although we have a continuing need for the purchase of new library books, and we do receive and purchase new books, some-

times we have donors asking to give us a personal library that has been acquired over many years. We greatly appreciate the gesture, however, our library is nearly at full capacity and the receiving of older references can no longer be accepted at this time. Thank you for understanding.

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.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

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.

Photo on the right -

Author, pastor, Christian lawyer, and retired military chaplain, Dr. John Eidsmoe speaking in chapel on the subject of Darwinism verses A Christian World View



Chargers Baseball players getting ready to depart for an away game



Photo on Left

SBC Professor Reid Guy and church planter, son of alumnus Steven Guy, bringing a dynamic message to our chapel program

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



Let All Creation Testify

My sisters and I inherited our love for animals from our daddy. In fact, when we started traveling in the RV towing a car, we had a poodle named Scarlett, a schnauzer named Angel, and another schnauzer named Gabi.

Traveling with our dogs led to some unforgettable experiences. One of the schnauzers was famous for leaving the RV, immediately peering under it, pulling to get away, and growling as if a varmint were hiding. In the land of snakes, bears, and the like, we just ran for the car.

The doggie friends were with us on one of our trips to Yellowstone when we finally saw a grizzly bear.

That day, we had determined to drive to Cody, Wyoming, from West Yellowstone. On the way we noticed a small crowd of people standing on the side of the road near a ranger with a can of bear pepper spray. (By the way, we had a can of the same bear spray, but had left it in the RV.) That's all we saw. We never made it to Cody; but on the way back hours later, we saw the ranger with people in the same spot.

There was no place to stop because a 7-foot stone wall bordered our side of the road. When the two sisters looked up and

spotted the grizzly on top of the stonewall, Scarlett barked and growled. The grizzly lifted its head with clover still in its mouth, and Angel lunged for the bear.

With our blood pressure rising and the ranger yelling at us, the middle sister took the picture, and I sped away with No. 1 sister shouting, "Wait."

The moral of this story is if you want to see a grizzly, look for the rangers. They are always tracking them and trying to protect the visitors to the park.

One of the other hard-to-find creatures at Yellowstone and the Grand Teton is the moose. Large, gangly, shy, and fast, the moose is elusive. One day we drove to Willow Flats and Oxbow Bend and spent some time watching for them. Finally a mother and her calf raced across the meadow while the middle sister watched through binoculars. When a bird

flew by her head, she thought the moose was about to run over her. She ran to the car, jumped in, and locked the doors. We learned a lesson that day to always carry the extra set of car keys. Have I mentioned that the middle sister was scared of most varmints including frogs and lizards?

Even though seeing Yellowstone takes several days, we were determined to see all of it. The three sisters started out before daylight one day to see all the animals we could. Middle sister went to start the car so that it would be warm for us. We didn't get as early a start as we wanted because she decided to turn on the wipers to clear the windshield. You know what happened: The windshield froze.

Middle sister always wanted to see the mountain goats, which are really hard to find, too. We constantly looked for them as we drove around Yellowstone and anywhere mountains are.



Carolyn Hagler



On the way home to Mississippi, I found an unusual castle in the mountains of Colorado we needed to see: Bishop Castle, one man's answer to the "gov'ment," and all the "lawyers, politicians, bureaucrats, and

gestapo."

The main story of the day came afterward. Leaving the castle, we continued on the highway until we came to a junction. On the hill just ahead, that's where we saw the mountain goats by accident. Sometimes you find things when you're not looking for them. No. 1 sister is fond of saying, "Even a blind hog finds an acorn once in a while."

The sound of the elk bugling was another thrilling experience. We saw herds at the north entrance to Yellowstone, at Mammoth Hot Springs, and all over the town of Estes Park, Colorado. You certainly had to drive carefully. Those majestic animals with racks that looked too heavy for their necks went wherever they wanted.

Not only were they a sight to behold, but also their sound was unbelievable. I can't describe it,

but when I heard it, I asked the sisters if a train was coming. After they quit laughing, they told me what it was. Sometimes your calling in life is to make your family laugh.

Pictures can't compare to the beauty of God's creation. I wish words could describe my feelings on seeing the beauty He has provided us. During our traveling days, we covered lots of states and a few countries. In my mind, I still see the beauty and remember our laughter. But that same beauty is in my own backyard, too.

I'm reminded every morning as I sit drinking my coffee looking out the bay window into my backyard that God has blessed us with so much to enjoy. We just need to take the time wherever we are to see the beauty all around us. "In the beginning..." He created it all; let all creation testify.

Notice of Planned Constitutional Changes

Proposed Constitutional changes to the By-Laws of the Mississippi Baptist Commission on History and Archives.

Proposed Constitutional changes in Bold Type

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this commission shall be to:

1. Gather and preserve information from the churches, pastors, missionaries, and various departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi.
2. Publish information when necessary.
3. Correspond and cooperate with other archival libraries for exchange information.
4. Collect and disburse funds received and give regular reports to the association.

5. (Proposed Constitutional Change) – Bring the History and Archives department to the churches by republishing certain books, tracts, etc. containing doctrinal or historical information relevant to BMA churches of Mississippi and making these republished works available to the people and churches of the BMA of Mississippi.

Article III as currently stated in Handbook.

Article III – Staff

Section 2: Librarian And Designated Personnel

- a) Personnel: The librarian of Southeastern Baptist College shall serve as the custodian of the commission's holdings.
- b) Duties: The Librarian or designated person's responsibility is to:
 1. Catalog and file all holdings of commission.
 2. Serve as the treasurer of the commission and to receive and disburse funds as directed by a majority vote of commission and/or association.
 3. Supply a financial report to the director to be given at the annual session of the association.

(Proposed Constitutional Change to Article III – Staff)

Article III – Staff

Section 2: Custodian and Designated Personnel

- a) Personnel: The Director shall appoint some person, at his discretion, who shall serve as custodian of the commission's holdings.
 1. Duties: Catalog and file all holdings of the commission.
- a) Personnel: The Director shall appoint a Treasurer of the commission. (Custodian may serve as Treasurer)
 1. Duties: Receive and disburse funds as directed by majority vote of commission and/or association.
 2. Duties: Supply a financial report to the Director to be given at the annual session of the association.
- a) Personnel shall be compensated for their work. Compensation to be determined by Director.
- b) Personnel shall hold membership in a BMA church.

THE TEACHER'S CORNER

HELP FOR THE CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

Is That What the Passage Says?

by Dr. Philip Attebery

Most teachers hope to see their learners participate in classes. One of the ways teachers attempt to encourage participation is by asking questions. That can be effective IF you ask good questions.

What makes a "good" question? It guides the learner to discover answers directly from the biblical passage being studied. For example, a lesson on 2 Peter 1:13-15 might have questions such as "What word(s) are repeated in the text?" A good answer is "remembrance." Is that what the passage says? Yes, it is repeated three times.

What makes a "bad" question? It opens the

door for learners to give their opinions that may or may not be true to the Scriptures. For example, "What does this passage say to you?" does not guide the learner to the Bible, but to his or her own feelings. In such cases, a lesson on 2 Peter 1:13-15 could turn in to a discussion of anything but what the passage truly says. Also, the teacher has set up the learner for potential embarrassment. How do you tell the learner he is "wrong" about the passage?

Ask yourself before you ask others, "Is this question's answer going to help my learner discover what the passage says?"



Philip Attebery

“How to Fight a War”

by Josh Howard

In many ways, the days of World War II seem as if they occurred in a different world than the one we live it. Despite all the natural horrors of war, WWII witnessed many moving acts of bravery, many epic feats of heroism – where men seemed to simply transcend their circumstances. One of the more compelling stories is that of Lt. Ronald Speirs, whose exploits later achieved fame in the series ‘Band of Brothers.’ Speirs stepped in to take command of the famous Easy Company during an attack on Foy (Belgium) near the outset of the bloody Ardennes Counteroffensive (‘Battle of the Bulge’). Having just survived the brutal siege of Bastogne, Speirs took over the command at Foy from another cowering officer. While trying to coordinate their attack between two divided assault forces, Speirs grabbed his service rifle and sprinted through the battlefield to the other unit – past row after row of stunned Nazi soldiers and tanks. After delivering his orders to the astonished Allied troops, Speirs did the unthinkable – he then ran back.



Dr. Josh Howard

Dedicated? Delusional? What is certainly clear – Speirs did not fear the battle. Compare this to Paul’s words of courage in Ephesians 6:12-13: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Paul’s exhortation is that we recognize that we are in a battle. It is a spiritual battle, it is a present battle, and it is a cosmic battle. It is a battle that entails all of creation. It is a battle that is light against darkness. And in response to this, our call is potent: stand firm.

How do we explain such bravery? Was Speirs courageous?

Christians are not called to run from battle. Fleeing the fight is not an option, nor should it be our desire. The sounds of the surrounding battle seem near indeed, yet we are reminded that our war is not against people (‘flesh and blood’) but is against the very forces of darkness in this world. We are called to a battle of light against dark, because we are children of the light

(Eph 5:8). So how are we to prepare for this battle?

We are called to ‘take up the whole armor of God’ (6:14-18) – and finally to “keep alert with all perseverance” (6:18). The task of the Christian is to be prepared for the fight, and to persevere with all of the strength that God has given us. We do not stand on our own – God has prepared us for the battle and we therefore perse-



Ronald Speirs

vere. How then do we fight a spiritual battle? Scripture gives many answers, but a few come to mind. We faithfully, watchfully, and thankfully, continue in prayer to God (Col 4:2). We do not simply endure but have hope and rejoice, as we patiently endure tribulation in ongoing prayer (Rom 12:12). We rely on the life-giving, death-conquering, righteousness-imputing Spirit of God who dwells within us (Rom 8:9-11). We fight the battle knowing that nothing – indeed, nothing in all of creation – can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Rom 8:38-39). In short, we fight bravely.

Following his heroics at Foy, Speirs was promoted to Captain, and he commanded Easy Company through the war to the eventual capture of the Kehlsteinhaus (Eagle’s Nest) itself. Christians are reminded of a much greater promise: “if we endure, we will also reign with him” (2 Tim 2:12). Christian, there is a war that is raging, and you are called to fight. So stand firm. Depend on Christ. Endure. And fight the good fight, until the victory bells ring.

Howard is Associate Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Horn Lake and oversees Missions, Student, & Discipleship

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden
795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119
601-797-4597 or 662-251-0455
Email jessicahaden3@gmail.com

Shiloh Church to Hold White Bible Service

Shiloh Baptist Church's WMA would like to invite everyone to a White Bible Service on April 17, 2021 at 2:00. This service will honor Miss Lakekan Flynt, bride-elect of Mr. Michael Jenkins.

This service is the culmination of Lakelan's many years as a faithful member of the GMAs. At the ceremony, Lakelan will be presented a white Bible from the ladies of the WMA. This Bible will be included in her wedding.

Brother Dewitt Bain will bring a devotional at the service. There will be special time set aside when the ladies of the WMA will pray over the couple for a God centered marriage. The service will end with Brother Bain leading a prayer for this couple's marriage

Please make plans to bring your church's GMAs to witness this ceremony.

Reception in the fellowship hall to follow the service.

Shiloh Baptist Church, 795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS, 601-797-4597

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233
www.facebook.com/bmamysouth



Kelby Johnson
Director

The Truth Is... (A word of hope)

The truth is that life is hard for everyone. Everyone has issues.

Everyone has burdens. Everyone you know has some type of struggle. They may have a spiritual trial or addiction in their life that you do not know about. They may have some horrible past they cannot get over. They may be in the middle of a difficult relationship. They have a physical condition causing them daily pain. They may have lost a loved one recently or fear the loss of a loved one. They may be financially unstable. They may be miserable at their current job. They may be depressed. They may seem happy but are actually struggling just to get by every day. You may even know someone who is contemplating whether life is even worth living anymore.

The truth is life is hard for everyone so my question is, “Do you make life better or worse for those around you?”

Some people bring love, joy, peace, patience, and goodness to those around them. They give others hope by being positive encouragers. Some people live with a constant attitude of complaining, bitterness, and negativity. They bring down everyone around them.

Life is hard enough. Let’s do what we can do make it better for those around us. If things aren’t going well for you, make it go well for someone else.

Jesus makes things better.

He gave his life so we could have forgiveness of sin, a relationship with God, and eternal life.

When things were going bad for us (when we were sinners deserving of condemnation), Jesus made things better.

May we open our eyes to see the hurting around us and be someone who makes things better for others.

Pray for people.

Tell people about Jesus.

Love people.

Give to people.

Smile at people.

Joke with people.

Be kind to people.

Start with those in your house.

Continue with those you see every day.

2021 National Day of Prayer Breakfast

May 6, 2021 - FREE! - 7:30 a.m.

Southeastern Baptist College Gym

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Leander Bridges

Senior Pastor
Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

RSVP how many are coming in your party
By **TEXTING** 601-498-8832 by April 26
(but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)

Missions Department Special Emphasis April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

Philippine Missions

from front page

plans to return had to be canceled. There is a rise in covid-19 cases and so the Philippines locked the country back down to returning foreigners. They will have to wait a while longer. But, if you need someone to speak on



The Freemans

missions, especially on the Philippines, please give them a call.

Sam and Dawn Freeman, also fellow Philippine Missionaries, are Locally Stranded Individu-

als (what the Philippine government calls those who can't get back to their homes). They are in Mississippi still waiting to return too.

Danny & Rita Ballard had returned to the Philippines just before covid lock-downs. They



The Ballards

are safe at work in Manila. Pray for them. Danny just got out of the hospital and many of their workers are battling Covid-19.

The Covid pandemic has brought lots of challenges. Please be praying for these Philippine missionaries as they serve in these unique times: Cris and Alicia Samson in Mississippi, Jimmy and Julie Walker in Arkansas, Fil and Lisa Kakilala in Arkansas, and our Patriarch Don Newsom in Iloilo, Philippines.

Campus Sickness

Donna is home just in time to nurse the students back to health providing vitamins and



The Lees medicines they normally do without. Airish Claudio is a huge help in helping our students with their health needs. Donna is so grateful for her.

We got busy visiting some of our local BMA churches. First, FMBC on the Bible College campus and Open Door Baptist Church in our city of Talisay.

Sunday, March 28 Donna and I were invited to E.B. Magdalona Baptist Church. They recently finished some great renovations and improvements to their church. I preached "Encounters with Jesus" from John 1:35-38. As John the Baptist's two disciples were following Jesus He asked "What do you seek?". Their response, "where are you staying?". That answer moved Jesus because all they wanted was to be with Him. How about us, what are our motives, always wanting something or just to be with Jesus?

Master's Builders Fellowship & Work Projects

The Master's Builders Retreat was scheduled for January, but due to Covid concerns, it was decided to reschedule the Retreat for March 11-13. It would be at Daniel Springs where our first job of 2021 would start on March 15.

Following our "Weekend Retreat" at Daniel Springs Camp, The



Fellowship Time

Master's Builders were rested and ready to begin work on their first job of 2021 at Daniel Springs. This would be the 169th job that The Master's Builders would have the privilege to work on.

Jason Prewitt, camp Director, always has a list of projects ready for our men and they were ready to get after them! We did whatever we could to build whatever there was a need for.

The women helped with a few projects. There is always sweeping to be done, blocks or boards to move to keep the work area clean. But we also stained the bunk extensions that were done several years ago in the Daniel Dorm.

We enjoyed the Jacksonville College Choir and leader Bro. Randy Decker one night. We always enjoy the fellowship we have with them every year.



Staining bunk bed frames

Thank you to Jason and Jessica Prewitt and Morgan Sandifer for all you do! These are hard working, kid loving, God called servants of the Lord! We love you and thank God for you!

There are so many more things I could share about our time there, but you can see and read about our "daily doings" on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders"(church arbor logo).

If you have questions about our ministry or if your church had building needs, contact: Eddie Sikes- (479)462-1675, Mike Green- (972)935-3877, David Axe- (903)918-0720.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

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4229 Highway 15 North
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4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

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

Missions Department Special Emphasis
April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2183

A Gift That Keeps Giving

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

Some Ways to Give

- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- IRA Rollovers
- Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuities

Ways to support Southeastern Baptist College

Amazon Smile- Link your Amazon account to have 5% of most purchases to go directly to the college - search Southeastern Baptist College Inc

Go to our website and click on the "Support Southeastern" tab to donate online

Send or bring cash, check, or a money order to:
Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Hwy 15 N
Laurel, MS 39440

Donate to your local BMA church and specify Southeastern Baptist College or during our special emphasis months of July and August

Get your friends together to help create a scholarship fund

Attend Southeastern Baptist College (you or your child)

Come visit us and donate your time and skills

MOST IMPORTANTLY PRAY FOR US!