

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

### Midyear Meeting Set for Campus of Southeastern Baptist College

by Blake McCain, President  
 BMA of Mississippi

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Midyear Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, May 17th 2022,



Blake McCain

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. Each department and director will be given ample

time to report, and visitors will be recognized. Bro. Dewitt Bain will preach the midyear message.

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.

NOTE: The Brotherhood and WMA will meet on Monday evening, May 16, 2022, at 7:00 pm on the campus of Southeastern.

**Gospel Concert for Southeastern**  
 see ad on page 5

#### Dates to Remember

**BMA of America Annual Meeting**  
 April 18-20, 2022  
 Springfield, Missouri

**North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference**  
 May 10, 2022  
 Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
 Fulton, Mississippi

**BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting**  
 May 17, 2022  
 Southeastern Baptist College  
 Laurel, Mississippi

### Are You Prepped and Ready for the National Meeting?

by Clif Johnson

First Vice-president, BMA of America

Arrangements are made and your BMA national departments and agencies are putting last minute touches on



Clif Johnson

their reports to give you all the information you desire, along with the victories and accomplishments for the kingdom in the last seven months. Add to that the numerous other BMA-driven ministries. In other words, we are prepar-

ing for you!

But now the question becomes, "Are you preparing for the meeting?" One of the best ways you can prepare for the meeting is to go to <https://bmaamerica.org/2022-department-video-reports/> to see video reports from our department leaders. These videos allow you the opportunity to see and hear extended reports from our departments, giving you more information than you would otherwise receive at the national meeting itself. Don't let the Wednesday morning session be the first time you hear from your department leaders. Rather, take advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with all that your BMA ministries have accomplished in 2021.

In addition to watching the video,



here are other ways you can prepare for our national meeting:

Make sure you have made hotel reservations. Click on this link to do so: <https://bmaamerica.org/2022-hotel-reservations/>

Call or text your pastor friends to make sure they will be coming with you, even arranging to travel together. I think we can all agree that one of the best parts of the national meeting is getting together with long time pastor friends and making new friendships with other brothers.

Pray for the unity of our association. It seems we live in the most hostile and divided time I have ever seen. But the one place where there should be unity is within the church and within the churches of the BMA.

Pray that you will have a heart ready to worship the Lord and receive His Word during our worship services and breakout sessions.

Once again, it is my great honor to serve the churches of the BMA, and I look forward to having a great time of celebration with you in just a few weeks.

#### All BMA missionaries to gather in Thailand

### Global Care Conference Planned for November 2022

When most of us think about BMA Missions, at least one name quickly comes to mind: Jerry Kidd. Bro. Jerry has embodied BMA Missions for many years and inspired countless generations of missionaries. Not only has he served as a North American church planter and a foreign missionary, Bro. Jerry also served for several years as Director of International Missions and was the first Director of Missionary Care. He has truly been a "Pastor of Missionaries" through his spirit of encouragement to those serving Christ worldwide. Bro. Jerry has a long legacy of faithful



missionary service within our association. It is no surprise he was included in the inaugural class of Legacy Missionaries for BMA Missions.

For several years under his leader-

ship of Missionary Care, Bro. Jerry has dreamed of having an opportunity to gather all our missionaries in one location for a care conference. Bro. Jerry said, "My hope has been for us to get all the missionaries together in one place so they can experience the same spiritual blessing as a team. There is a spirit of solidarity among our missionaries. BMA Missions has become a worldwide effort of advancing the gospel. We have the witness that is going out all over the world. And when our missionaries can

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# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Editor

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## Only One Issue

As we stated in our last issue, we are only printing one issue for both April and May 2022.

The cost of operation has increased in both the price of postage and a more recent increase in paper and printing costs. We certainly have no control over postage and our printer is passing along their increases that they are seeing from their suppliers. Just as gas, food, energy, and about every other area of our daily lives has been increasing, our costs are also going up.

We are printing this issue in full color. This makes the publication more attractive and with only one issue for these two months we will see a reduction in our overall operating expenses. We hope our readers understand the need to stay within our means and to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.

Our goal is still to provide vital information from all of our BMA of Mississippi departments and commissions along with other information that is of interest to our readers.

God bless you all for understanding our current situation.

## My Heart is Fixed

A devotional by Bro. Ed Steele

"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise" (Psalm 57:7). In a world filled with uncertainty, it is good to have some things we can be sure of and have total confidence in. Modern history books are nothing like what we were taught when we were in school. The

greatness of America is being denied by many in academia. The influence the Bible had on our fore-fathers in the establishment of our nation and the writing of the Constitution is being denied and many want the Bible removed from our lives. Many of our people are left to question

everything which results in them living in a world of turmoil. But, there are some things my heart is fixed on and they put a song in my heart that results in me giving praise to our wonderful Lord!

My heart is fixed on the Bible being the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God. Its inspiration is declared in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God."

**continued on page 5**

## Global Care Conference

from front page

all come together, they will easily see the global aspect of their team's far-reaching effect."

Since its earliest days, conferences have been an essential aspect of Missionary Care ministry. Several regional conferences were held to encourage BMA missionaries. Bro. Jerry stated, "Our people understand that missionaries make tremendous sacrifices when they leave home to serve on a foreign field. But one thing they may not fully realize is that often our missionaries work in isolation. When they have the opportunity to come together, they can exchange stories about their work. Sharing both their accomplishments and disappointments with each other is important for our missionaries because no one else can completely comprehend what they are going through except another missionary." Although there have been regional care conferences in the past, there has yet to be a Missionary Care conference for all the missionaries at one time and in one location.

Bro. Jerry's goal of bringing all BMA missionaries together has become our own, as Missionary Care has started making plans for a global care conference for November 2022. We hope to make this truly a global event by providing every BMA missionary family the opportunity to attend this conference planned for Thailand. The primary purpose of this conference is to provide a time of worship, fellowship, and mutual encouragement

for our missionaries. We hope this event will be inspirational, refreshing, and relaxing. In telling stories of past conferences, Bro. Jerry has always commented on how much of a bright

rejoice that the number of BMA missionaries continues to grow. The gospel is advancing in more areas of the world, and that is good news! But as the number of missionary families grows, so does the budget for this global conference.

While there is an immediate need to give towards Missionary Care so this conference can be

Bro. Jerry said, "I am sure our churches will consider sending an offering for this event. But I also hope many will think about giving regular support down the road to help with the ongoing ministry of Missionary Care."

spot these events have been in the lives of our missionaries.

In addition to the spiritual aspects of this care conference, our security consultant will be leading training sessions to help our missionaries review their security contingency plans. We are daily reminded by international news reports that there are growing dangers in many spots on the globe. According to Bro. Jerry, "The way things are going today, we need to continuously equip our missionaries to be aware of their security needs while still focusing on their primary need of sharing the gospel with the lost." Several hours of the Global Care Conference's schedule will address safety and security issues.

Because it is Missionary Care's goal to gather all our missionaries for one event, we intend to cover their expenses for the flights and lodging of each missionary family. We are confident God will supply the resources needed to accomplish this ambitious undertaking. We

fully funded, the work of this ministry is not limited to conferences alone. Bro. Jerry said, "I am sure our churches will consider sending an offering for this event. But I also hope many will think about giving regular support down the road to help with the ongoing ministry of Missionary Care. We have helped our missionaries in so many ways through Missionary Care. We must keep supporting this ministry as it supports our missionaries."

The churches of the BMA are faithful to pray and support our missionaries serving at home and around the world. Let us all keep praying for the work being done to share Christ with those who have yet to hear about His love. And please pray for the Missionary Care team as they work hard to organize and plan this Global Care Conference. We trust that the dream of bringing all BMA missionaries together in one location for a conference will be fulfilled this November. And we are trusting God to lead us in that direction.

## North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

### Back To The Future!

Many of you may remember a series of movies based on the title "Back to the Future". Your Senior Adult Commission is not 'going back' in history (except to remember the good conferences we have experienced) but we are going forward to the future conferences we have scheduled.

Your director and Senior Adult Trustees have planned the 2022 conferences and are hard at work finishing a few details for the NORTH Conference. We will



meet at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. We will begin at 9:00 am and finish around 3:00 pm on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The good folks of Mt. Pleasant Church are making preparations and looking forward to hosting this meeting.

The South Conference was held on March 8 and was a great success. We look forward to the North conference where we will have good preaching, good music, a catfish and chicken lunch with all the trimmings, and an afternoon gospel concert! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day with a few specials thrown in. The cost for each one attending is still just \$15.00. We encourage the local church to pay this for your seniors or at least help with some of the cost.

Ministers who have served 50 years in the ministry will also be recognized. If you know of someone who has been in the ministry for 50 years or longer, please contact Director Don Brown at 601-426-3293 as soon as possible.

### Prime Timers with a Purpose

Our Theme for this year is to encourage our Senior Adults to 'remain on the front line' of service. We all have a purpose in our spiritual lives. Make sure you are open to God's calling and make sure you are 'purposeful' in your spiritual service.

We look forward to seeing you all at Mt. Pleasant Church on May 10!



# Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

## Numbers Do Not Equal Success!

What would you consider to be the litmus test for success in youth ministry? In my next three articles I want to share my heart on what I discovered to be true success after 15 years of doing youth work. I hope what the Lord taught me will challenge some student pastor out there.

Back in my youth ministry days we did this thing called “Pac Da House Nite!” Most of them were very successful. The purpose was to connect new teens to the group permanently. We would see 135 - 155 attend. Normally it was a big food night, with kooky games, crazy videos, funny skits, our Praise Band led in worship and I preached.

Let me tell you about one of these things. One Spring we had a “Pac Da House” planned and intended to blow



Anders Lee

the roof off the previous attendance record, which was 162. Everyone worked on the event for over a month. Our goal was to have 200! Every teen in the universe was invited! We also had a goal of connecting with 50 new teens. Nothing wrong with that, right? Oh and by the way, it cost us nearly \$1,000.

The big day rolled around. I couldn't sleep the night before. I got up early and headed to church. On my way I got a text: “Have you watched the weather?” I had been so busy I had no clue what was looming. Memphis was in a high risk area for bad weather including possible tornadoes. NO!!! “LORD, PLEASE PUSH THIS STUFF THROUGH BEFORE



TONIGHT!” I pled! At church that morning parents were asking me if it would be postponed. We had a guest speaker coming so I told everyone it was on!

It started at 5:00 PM. At 4:00 PM the heaven's burst open and I think Noah's Ark floated by. My phone was blowing up with parents telling me they couldn't let their kids drive in this. I was crushed!!! Tornado sirens started going off all around us. My guest speaker called saying he wasn't gonna make it. WOW! By 6:00 PM it had blown through. We ate, the band played, and I preached an impromptu sermon. We ended up having 51 teens. There was ONE visitor! All that effort “down the drain.”

Parents started picking up kids, the team started cleaning. I sat on the stage like someone had shot my new puppy. Then it happened... Jacob Guenrich sat down by me. He said “I need to tell you something.” He sat

there and told me he knew that I was disappointed but he said: “God wanted me to hear the sermon you preached.” As it happened, it confirmed that God was calling him. We had previously discussed this. I was floored!

Just for perspective, Jacob surrendered to ministry. He attended Williams Baptist College and Mid-America Seminary. During that time he became Children's Pastor at First Baptist Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Later he became Youth Pastor and now he is their Senior Pastor.

God did what He wanted to do that night! When everyone was gone I was left to think. God whispered to my heart. He convicted me! On this particular occasion I was more worried about the number that would show up on one night than I was nurturing some that were already there. That was tough for me to swallow, but it was true.

It's great to have nights when you try to connect with new teens. But know this, it's just not about the numbers!

*Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

# BMA Brother in the Bronx

by David Dickson

The last several years have been characterized by the influx of an increasing number of immigrants to the United States, in large part from Mexico and the countries of Central America. Among those who immigrated from Central America are the Garifuna people group who represent a small percentage of the populations of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.

Garifunas are descendants of Africans forcibly transported to the Americas and the Arawak Indians of St. Vincent.

Although Garifunas speak the language of the country where they live (Spanish or English), their heart language remains their own unique language. Those who have immigrated to the U.S. tend to end up living in larger cities of the country in close proximity to other recent immigrants who share their language and culture.

Bro. Cherry Gamboa, former co-pastor of a BMAA Garifuna language congregation in San Juan, Honduras, recently immigrated with his family to the Bronx, New York. He was immediately able to connect with a



Garifuna ministry in the Bronx

number of folks who had attended our churches in Honduras before moving to the U.S. The problem they all mentioned to him was that there are no Garifuna-language Baptist churches in the area . . . at all. (Actually, none in the U.S.) Although there are a handful of Garifuna congregations in the U.S., none are Baptist.

With the authorization and support of the church in San Juan, Bro. Cherry has begun holding services in the basement of a dwelling in the Bronx and is already packing their small meeting area to its maximum capacity. Bro. Cherry supports himself and his family with a secular job, and receives no salary as a missionary/pastor, but that has not slowed him down. With the participation of his family in leadership roles, services are conducted in Garifuna/Spanish, and the Lord has already

blessed with professions of faith.

Several of those who attend are “transplants” from BMAA Garifuna churches in Honduras and were active in their congregation before they immigrated to the U.S. They are overjoyed to find a church that is doctrinally sound and preaches the same doctrine as the churches they left in Honduras.

Of course, the pressing problem is finding a larger building for their meetings. Because most of those attendees work in low-paying jobs, locating a meeting place they can afford is a daunting task. But as you would expect, Brother Cherry is optimistic that God will soon provide for them a new meeting place, adequate for his growing congregation.

Keep this missions effort in your prayers: the first and only Baptist church plant among the Garifuna people in our country.

# One Church Planter, Two Continents

from BMAA Missions · by Michel Poirier

Larry and Goldy

As Ruth and I were doing door-to-door soul-winning, we arrived at the home of Larry and Goldy and were invited into the house. As coffee and cookies were put on the table, we talked about their farm then jumped into why we were at their house. They did not seem interested at first but they like our presence, and they were not church people so it was easy to talk to them.

Week after week me and Ruth visited them, and we became good friend and always talk about the Lord and why Christ came and give his life for us. One day sitting at the table in their home, Larry and Goldy understood why Christ died for them. They got saved, and we cry with joy for the Lord had opened their eyes and they were baptized and few years later went to glory.

Gerard and Mary

One Thursday I was visiting on the street and saw a man working on his car, I was amazed seeing the man working on a Citroën car. I offer my help and he accept and we work on that car for the morning, and after done he asked me to come in to wash my hands.

I came in and his wife give me coffee and we fellowship. I present myself as Pastor Poirier of the Baptist church out of town.



We had a great time talking about Christ, but they hold on to their Catholic religion. It took me one and 1/2 years of work and visit and coffee and help the man with his car. They did not have many people coming over to their house and they appreciated my help.

One day after coffee, like I did every time, I present Christ again, but at this time, Mary understood that Christ came to save her because she was a sinner. She understood it was not about the Catholic religion but of a relation with Christ that she needed. She turn to her husband Gerard and asked him if he want(ed to) trust Christ with her. He said no I cannot. Why? I asked! Because I am a member of the Knight of Columbus and made a promise that I would not change religion.

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# 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

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises." Psalm 47:6

Since there is only one publication of the Mississippi Baptist paper for the month of April, I am focusing on the number one project for this month: The Southeastern Gospel Fest scheduled for nights of April 21, 22, and 23 at First Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi. This is a huge undertaking by the Southeastern Baptist College staff and a major fund-raising effort for the college. SBC is not only the sponsor of this event, it is also the beneficiary of any proceeds made from the concerts. The program features four different well known music groups each night. Tickets are \$20 nightly or \$50



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

for all three nights and can be purchased at [southeasternbaptist.edu](http://southeasternbaptist.edu)

Advertising is going well and is not only confined to the Mississippi area, but far beyond as well. I received an inquiry about the concert from a person in Red Oak, Texas, after they heard it on their local radio station. We have already sold tickets to persons in Alaska and in North Carolina! I suggest you reserve your seat soon! We have room for 1500 persons per night and will sell tickets at the door if space is available. Refer to the adjacent poster for additional information. We hope you can come and praise the Lord through some great Christian Southern Gospel music while supporting SBC at the same time!

"All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah." Psalm 66:4

Equipping the saints,  
Dr. Carson

### Choral Music Festival

SBC, in conjunction with Jones College, will co-host a Choral Music Festival on the campus of Jones College, Ellisville, Mississippi, on Saturday, April 30. Numerous high school and middle school choirs from across Mississippi will be participating.

County and the surrounding area will again be held in the SBC gym on May 5, 2022. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel will be this year's guest speaker. Please reference the flyer for additional information in this publication.

about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Pastor David Clark of Southgate Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to speak on the chaplaincy ministry. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

### Graduation

2022 Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Saturday, 11 a.m., May 14 on the campus of SBC. Please come to this free event and bless our newest graduates in their important life's accomplishment!

**Holloway's Dairy Bar Is Closed**  
Holloway's Dairy Bar has closed and is no longer open to the public. We are seeking new contractors who can take over the SBC food service for our students. If interested, contact the Dean of Students, Anderle Foster at 601-426-6346.

### Athletic Schedule

**Women's Softball**  
The historic first season of SBC Women's Softball continues! The Lady Chargers play their home games at Coca Cola Field, 2500 Airport Dr, Laurel, Mississippi. Here are the next few home games:

Wednesday, Apr 13, 3/5 p.m. vs Xavier University  
Monday, April 25, 2/4 p.m. vs Coahoma Cmty College (Last Home Game)

### Men's Baseball

The Chargers play their home games at A.W. Watson (Black Cat Field), 2400 Queensburg Ave, Laurel. These are the scheduled home games into April:

Saturday, Apr 9, 12/3 p.m. vs Rust College  
Tuesday, Apr 12, 3/5 p.m. vs Spring Hill College  
Saturday, Apr 16, 2/3 p.m. vs MUW  
Saturday, Apr 30, Time TBA vs Stillman College (Last Home Game)

### Memorial Gift

God bless Kim Horn for her generous donation to the library of Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Frankie Griffin. Your gracious gift enables SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

### Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

### Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation

### Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

### Seeking Sponsors

We are seeking sponsors for the twelve Southern Gospel groups that are coming to perform in the Southeastern Gospel Fest in April (see the separate announcement in this paper). Contact Rosemary Davis for more information at 601-426-6346 on how to support SBC through this exciting opportunity to promote your college!

### National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast for the Jones

## New Southeastern Financial Aid Officer Meet Tiffani McCarty



It is an honor so serve as the new Director of Financial Aid at Southeastern Baptist College, and witness first hand, the amazing blessings that God has bestowed upon our college. I have been working



Tiffani McCarty

at SBC since December of 2021 and as an alumnus, it has been extremely rewarding to work with the students and help them fulfill the purpose God has for them. I have enjoyed my own educational journey and I want to help the students enjoy theirs. While not at the college, I love spending time with my wonderful husband Hugh. We attend First Baptist Church of Calhoun where I have been a member for over twenty years.

I received my undergraduate degree in psychology, as well as my first master's degree in counseling and my specialist degree in education from William Carey University. I am currently working on my doctoral degree in general psychology through Liberty University and plan to use this degree to be a further help to the students. Our teachers, faculty, and staff give students a solid, conservative Christian education that encourages them to go out into the world and make a difference for Christ. I am excited to be working at SBC at this time of growth and change, and I am thankful to be a part of this great institution.

Chase Sims, incoming professor, speaking in chapel about his miraculous healing and challenging the students to live for the Lord



The Dean of Student's Council meeting to discuss plans for supporting student activities



# My Heart

continued from page 2

There were approximately 40 writers of the 66 books, but all of them were only tools in the hand of the Holy Spirit. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21). The Spirit did not give them a theme or subject to write about, but He gave them the very words He wanted us to be able to read. "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which

the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Corinthians 2:13). God has not changed His mind whereby there would be a need to make corrections in His Word. "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi

*Jesus died for each and every sinner and no one was left out of the provision He made for their salvation.*

3:6). My mind being fixed on the reliability of my Bible puts a song in my heart and praise to the Lord. "Thy words were

found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).

My heart is fixed on Jesus being the Savior of the world and no man will ever be saved apart from his repenting to God and placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). Jesus said "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Peter and John preached, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus died for each and every sinner and no one was left out of the provision He made for their salvation.

"The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Romans 10:12). I can sing and give praise because Jesus is the One who saved me and I can present Him to every lost sinner I meet with full confidence He can save them as well!

My heart is also fixed in believing I have made no personal sacrifice in trying to live for the Lord. It is true that faithfulness to the Lord has kept me from going to some places and doing some things, but none of them would have made my life better. Do you believe that me having never tasted beer (or any other alcohol other than cough syrup) has deprived me of god? God never gave a "thou shalt not" concerning anything that would benefit us. He never gave a "thou shalt" that would not be good for us if we obeyed. Living for the Lord has not only made my life better, but, hopefully, it has improved the lives of others as well. Moses repeatedly called on Israel to obey the Lord as they prepared to enter the Holy Land "that it may be well with thee." One place is Deuteronomy 12:28, "Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God." I have regrets for the times I have failed the Lord but NEVER for the times I have tried to please Him.

Do you want to sing and give praise? Let your heart be fixed on the truth of God's Word, the sufficiency of Jesus to save every lost person, and living for Jesus will only bless your life.

## Southeastern Gospel Fest

### GROUPS and COST

<b>Dixie Echoes</b> Thursday, April 21 \$1500	<b>Quartet</b> Thursday, April 21 \$3000
<b>Tim Lovelace</b> Saturday, April 23 \$2000	<b>Brian Free &amp; Assurance</b> Saturday, April 23 \$3000
<b>Jeff &amp; Sherri Easter</b> Thursday, April 21 \$3500	<b>Michael Combs</b> Friday, April 22 \$2200
<b>The Guardians</b> Saturday, April 23 \$2500	<b>The Perrys</b> Friday, April 22 \$2700
<b>The Lefevre</b>	<b>The Old Paths</b> Friday, April 22

### SPONSOR CATEGORIES

- PLATINUM** - \$3000-\$3500  
8 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- GOLD** - \$2500-\$2999  
6 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- SILVER** - \$2000-\$2499  
4 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES
- BRONZE** - \$1500-\$1999  
2 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES

# Southeastern Gospel Fest

presented by Southeastern Baptist College



EMCEE - JOSH FRANKS



3 Nightly Concerts

April 21-23, 2022

Thursday  
APRIL 21



HOPE'S JOURNEY

DIXIE ECHOES

JEFF & SHERI EASTER

LEFEVRE QUARTET

Friday  
APRIL 22



JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS

MICHAEL COMBS

PERRYS

THE OLD PATHS

Saturday  
APRIL 23



THE BIBLETONES

TIM LOVELACE

GUARDIANS

BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE



CONCERTS START AT 6:00PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

\$20 NIGHTLY / \$50 3-DAY PASS



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Laurel, Mississippi †  
607 West 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440

For more information:  
601.426.6346 or visit  
[www.southeasternbaptist.edu](http://www.southeasternbaptist.edu)



## 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](mailto:cmhagler@bellsouth.net)



# Creation Is Shaking

I love springtime, even with pollen covering everything. It's almost as if it were raining yellow raindrops on my head, my white car, and everything outside. But I love it because it's as if creation itself were shaking the earth with the good news that the resurrection is coming.

An old preacher from the Delta, Kid Scott, described it best in the 1930s as creation shaking when new life springs forward ("God Shakes Creation," David Cohn). With the daffodils springing forth overnight, my amaryllises peeking through the pine

people), with an old friend of my family—Miss Isabel. She explained that tombstones and graves face east because Jesus is coming back from that direction. I've remembered her comments all these years later because in many cemeteries I visit, the tombstones face east and the graves are laid out with the feet toward the east, too.

I'm disappointed that some



Carolyn Hagler

modern cemeteries position the graves to use the available space most efficiently. But when I see the rows of tombstones facing east, I remember that the resurrection is coming.

As my nephew's burial site was prepared last September, the question arose about the way to position his grave. As the first grave on his family's land in the newly begun "Pecan Orchard Cemetery," no other graves could serve as a pattern. I loved hearing one of the young men explain that it needed to face east because "the Lord is coming back for us from the East." Even James' grave is saying, "The Lord's coming back."

A community near my family's old home is named Red Lick, reportedly named for a buffalo and deer lick on a nearby hill of red clay. I don't know about that, but I do know that one man was serious about being ready for Jesus' return. He wanted to be the first one standing to meet Him when He comes to rapture His believers. Tradition says Ephraim

Woods requested that he be buried standing up. Near the Red Lick Baptist Church is a small cemetery with an unmarked grave shaped like an Indian mound. "And the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

I do like to see tombstones and epitaphs that look to the Bible for comfort and to a future with the Lord. One of the most beautiful that I saw recently had the Lion of Judah in relief on the

many epitaphs that told of faith: "God giveth His beloved rest"; "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"; and "Too good for earth. God called her home." Best of all, though, was the one that reminds all who pass it that "I know my Redeemer liveth."

One tomb I know needs no epitaph nor inscription because the empty tomb says it all. No

me of the resurrection, but plants also remind me. This past winter I watched many of my plants die: my ferns, my vines, my grasses, my hydrangeas, my native azaleas, and many others. But appearances are deceiving because creation is starting to shake. Easter is coming.

Recently I saw some daffodils pop up. Then leaves appeared on my clematis vine, seemingly growing tall overnight to reach for the sky. My mayhaw trees started showing those beautiful white blooms, and yesterday I saw a few leaves on my oakleaf hydrangea.

I also see the stirring of my Easter lilies, symbolic of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And I know that one day soon they will bloom and bring joy with them. When the plants and trees start blooming, we know that Easter is coming.

And therein lies our blessed hope: When we see creation shaking as spring follows winter, we know that the resurrection is coming, too. We're told, "And, behold, there was a great earth-



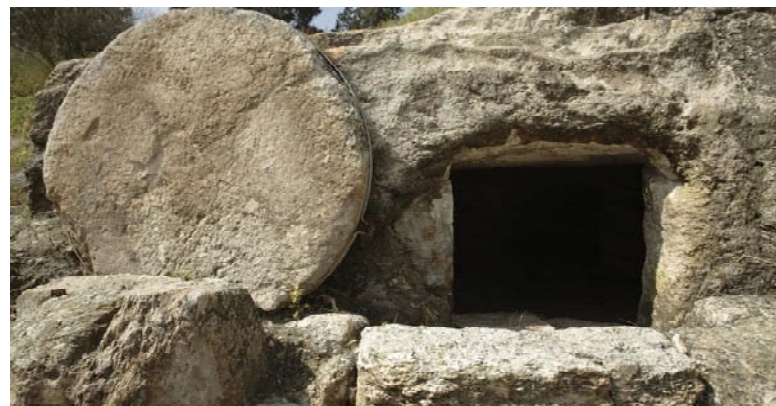
Lion of the tribe of Judah

face of the tombstone and reminded me, "The Father of all creation, who keeps His eye on even the sparrow, considers us of such value that he sent His only son, Jesus, as a sacrificial lamb for our redemption. So have faith and do not weep, for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus, has triumphed."

On a recent trip to the historical Rodney Cemetery, I noticed

words could explain what happened that wonderful day, but we know that prophecy was fulfilled. "He didn't use it for long...for it only took three days and Jesus walked out...arising victorious like He said.... That is why the Savior only borrowed the tomb" (The Borrowed Tomb, Diane Wilkinson and Rebecca Peck).

Not only do cemeteries remind



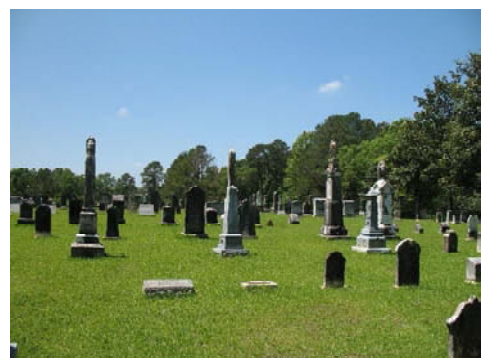
The empty tomb

straw, and the azaleas creating a riot of color, spring is being welcomed.

The Lord knew that we needed to see new signs of life after a long, dark, cold winter. Middle Sister suffered from seasonal affective disorder, which simply means she tended toward depression in the winter. She was always so excited to see the harbingers of spring—even time springing forward an hour.

Creation shaking looks forward to the resurrection and influences believers in many ways: in our cemeteries, our plants, and our lives, most of all.

I can remember as a child being in the Union Church Cemetery in Union Church, Mississippi (which confuses many



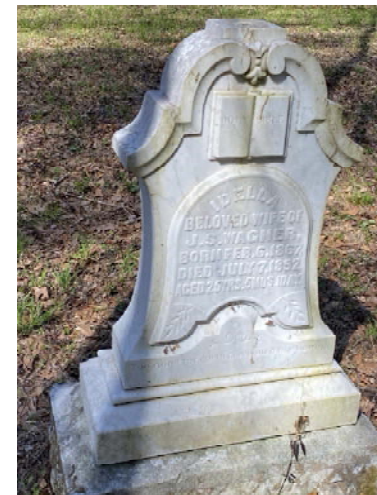
Union Cemetery

modern cemeteries position the graves to use the available space most efficiently. But when I see the rows of tombstones facing east, I remember that the resurrection is coming.

As my nephew's burial site was prepared last September, the question arose about the way to position his grave. As the first grave on his family's land in the newly begun "Pecan Orchard Cemetery," no other graves could serve as a pattern. I loved hearing one of the young men explain that it needed to face east because "the Lord is coming back for us from the East." Even James' grave is saying, "The Lord's coming back."

A community near my family's old home is named Red Lick, reportedly named for a buffalo and deer lick on a nearby hill of red clay. I don't know about that, but I do know that one man was serious about being ready for Jesus' return. He wanted to be the first one standing to meet Him when He comes to rapture His believers. Tradition says Ephraim

Tradition says Ephraim



Creation shaking

quake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it" (Matthew 28:2).

We are also told, "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matthew 27:52-53).

The One Who created it all had creation shaking. He died. He arose. He lives today. And He's coming back!

One day, we'll be part of that great resurrection when Jesus comes back. Adrian Rogers says it best, "You're going up whether you're beneath the ground or on top of the ground. If you've been heaven-born, you will be heaven-bound." No matter how hopeless life seems at times, creation is shaking; Easter is coming; and I'm in His grip.

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## Mrs. Chris Smith Passes Away

October 2, 1932 – March 21, 2022

Mary "Chris" Christine Smith, 89, of Brandon, passed away on Monday, March 21, 2022. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl. Burial was at Edwards City Cemetery.

Preceding her in death is her husband, Joe Smith; parents, George Monroe Fleming and Adele Cox Fleming; brothers, George M. Fleming, Jr. and Monroe Lee Fleming; and sister, Andi "June" Baldwin.

Chris is survived by her son, Billy J. Smith, Jr. and wife Terry; grandson Philip Smith (Taylor); and sister, Emma Sweatman.

## Faithful - A Tribute to Mrs. Chris Smith

by Barbara White

When asked to briefly sum up the life of Chris Smith, the word faithful came to mind as it epitomizes her very being. Early on she was faithful to her family as her mother was sickly so Chris had to help out with her younger brothers and sisters.

She was faithful to band practice in high school as she played the bass drum in her high school band in Missouri. Her father's career was the timber business so the family moved often to follow his work. At one time, they lived on a houseboat on the Mississippi River.

Faithfulness continued to de-

fine her life as she married Bro. Joe Smith and became his helpmeet as he pastored churches and they often helped get mission churches started in different parts of the state of Mississippi. This showed that Chris had a love for people and her concern for their souls.

This love for people was further evidenced as she became involved in WMA (Women's Missionary Auxiliary) in the churches of which she was a member. In WMA, she held every office from Bible and Tract Distributor to President. Each office to which she was elected was entered into enthusiastically



Mrs. Chris Smith

and with a desire to help others.

As President of the National WMA she further showed her love for people by arranging a trip to the Philippines where she spoke many times and encouraged the missionaries and the

Filipino workers.

Her faithfulness spread to the GMA (Girls Missionary Auxiliary) where she served humbly as assistant to the State GMA Director. One of her tasks in this capacity was to arrange for State GMA Retreats. This was during the time when they met at a campground where no meals were provided so she had to bring food for the entire assembly. The only way to describe this is to call it pure hard work!

She later was elected to be the Director and she insisted that no effort be spared in presenting the girls who had completed their work to progress in the Forward Steps of the GMA Program.

She continued to teach missions for the GMA's until God called her home.

On Sunday night as Hurricane Katrina came crashing into the coast, Chris wasn't feeling well so she left church early and went to Shoney's to get a bowl of soup. As she was eating her soup, she noticed a couple at another table with a newspaper spread out before them. The lady of the couple was crying so Chris went over to their table and asked if she could help them. They explained that they lived in New Orleans and their house had been flooded and they were looking in the paper to find a place to live until they could return to their home. Well Chris, being Chris, invited them home with her.

As they reached Chris' house, as they went in, Chris' phone rang and it was her sister in Tennessee. Chris told her that she had invited a couple home with her. Her sister asked what their name was and Chris turned to the couple and asked, "What is your name?" It turned out they were Hindu. The husband was an official with the Dominoe Sugar Company. They stayed with her for 6 weeks until their home was restored. You can be assured that they heard about her God and Savior during that time. This is another example of her love for people.

Her love for people is further evidenced by the deep interest she had in the program, "Water for Christ" which is involved in drilling wells in countries where fresh water is not available. When the Director of this program explained that the reason he began the work was when he was visiting a country and he saw a child drinking from a mud hole in the road. This registered with Chris and she became burdened for the program as she supported it sacrificially.

As she entered into the presence of the Lord, undoubtedly she heard "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

## Progress in many ministry areas

from Doug and Diane Lee Reporting  
Missionaries to the Philippines

Because of COVID, we have not been able to have College Week for two years. College Week is an annual event at the college the week after mid-term exams. It gives the students a chance to unwind and have a time of fun, games, and camaraderie. Mrs. Donna Scroggins was a fantastic sponsor this year with four teams. It was an incredible time of sports, talent contests, preaching, basketball, ping-pong, cooking competitions, and the famous Amazing Race! Each team did an excellent job and showed an outstanding display of good sportsmanship.



Work is nearly complete on the Darlene Carey Christian Academy! The building should be complete in April with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication in May. Classes will begin August, 2022. A big shout-out to Dr. Stan Scroggins and Pastor JoJo Vallejera for



Darlene Carey Christian Academy

coordinating this building project and a great big Thank You to the National WMA for adopting the academy as their project.

Combine a group of new believers having home Bible study who desire a building where they can worship. Add a mission pastor and a mother church who have made sacrifices to purchase a piece of land. Unite two American missionaries, Doug and Stan, who have a burden to help, and a Christian contractor, Pastor Noel. Join with them some great folks back home who have committed to help financially, then mix in God's abundant grace and blessings. With a lot of work and prayer, it will become a great endeavor in God's kingdom. Pray for this building project as we go forth!



## Doug Lee is a Chaplain



Life as a missionary involves being open to new opportunities to expand ministry to reach people in all walks of life with the gospel. Besides working in church planting, Bible study

groups, and overseeing the BMA Bible College, Doug was recently invited to become a Chaplain Officer of the Pearl of the Orient Chaplain's Values Educators, Inc. in the Philippines. It is a volunteer organization which ministers to Coast Guard personnel and other military and law enforcement. Pictured are Doug and Pastor John Rey Vallejera, a chaplain officer, presenting Doug with his official ID and badge. Doug served as a Chaplain's Assistant in the Army during the Vietnam era. project as we go forth!

## Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

### The Encourager

"For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother." Philemon 7

Philemon was an encourager. He was the kind of Christian other disciples wanted to be around. He was busy with others, not himself. He was focused on others, not himself. Oh, how we need more like him in our churches today!

The New Testament is replete with what we would call "men of encouragement." Luke referenced Barnabas as "Son of Encouragement" in Acts 4:36. Luke also speaks of Barnabas encouraging the young church in Antioch (Acts 11:23). Paul commented how Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus refreshed his spirit (1 Corinthians 16:17-18). They too were encouragers to the saints.

Dear Reader, as your fellow believers work with you, where do you think they would place you on an "encourager scale" of 1 to 10? A 10 would place you right up there with Philemon and those like him mentioned in the New Testament. You do not want to be placed down the scale toward the area of 1, or 2, or 3. At this point on the scale, let's just say you are not seen by others as an encourager. You do not refresh the hearts of your fellow saints. You have no love that brings joy and encouragement to others.

Review the conclusion of this letter (verse 25): "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." Let that be your resource for encouraging behavior.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at [jstmcleaver@gmail.com](mailto:jstmcleaver@gmail.com)



Tony Cleaver



# THE BACK PAGE

## Faith TALK: Why Did God Make Me This Way?

(The following is a family devotional guide with suggested questions and scriptures.)

Focus Verse: *I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.* Psalm 139:14

### T-Talk About It

Tell me a good quality you have. Now, tell me something you struggle liking about yourself.

### A-Anchor To The Bible

Though we have many good qualities about us, we sometimes get stuck on what we perceive as “flaws” – things we don’t like about ourselves, things that make us different than others, or things that others point out and perhaps make fun of. Sometimes, we can focus on our negatives so much, it can make us pretty sad. It might even cause us to wonder why God would make us this way.

But, God wants us to know a few reasons why He made us the way He did.

God made you special and unique, specifically different than others. In fact, the Bible says He knit us together inside

our mamas intentionally, adding in our mama’s DNA, our dad’s DNA, and even some gifts and talents from Him. And you know what? He calls us masterpieces; Psalm 139:14 says we were made in an amazing and wonderful way.

Can you tell me some good things you got from your mom? From your dad? From God?

God made you in a way He could demonstrate His power and strength. In John 9, Jesus and his disciples were walking past a man who was born blind. Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus why this happened. Jesus’s response was this: “This man was born blind so that God’s power could be shown in him.” What you may call a “flaw” is an opportunity for you to lean on God for help and support and be a witness to others who are struggling with liking themselves. God has a plan for you – a plan for Him to be big in your life if you will trust Him with your “flaws”!

Read John 9:1-6 and talk about the way Jesus healed this man.

God is after a relationship with

us. Not only is God our Father, but He is also our Savior, our Helper, our Counselor, and so many other wonderful roles! He yearns for a deeper, more meaningful relationship with us. He made us in such a way that we would need Him. God is hoping we can lean on Him in our areas of weaknesses or flaws so that we deepen our relationship with Him, loving and trusting Him more.

How much do you talk with God? How could you add Him into your day more?

### L-Learn God’s Word

It can be so easy to get frustrated when we are different than others, but our differences can be opportunities for Him to be even bigger in our lives. Trusting Him is the key! So, next time you start feeling bummed about yourself, spend time talking to God, and focus on turning our



focus verse into a prayer: “Thank you, God, for making me this way. Help me to see it as wonderful and trust You to help me live in a way that shows others I love you and trust You.”

### K-Keep Each Other Accountable

Here are a few ideas to keep everyone in check with this week’s TALK.

The next time you get sad about some of the things you don’t like about yourself, make a list of good things/qualities/strengths you have. Better yet, do this with a parent! Thank God for these things. The best remedy to combat this sadness

Moses stuttered and didn’t feel comfortable talking, let alone leading people, but God empowered Him to do just that!

David was a shepherd boy who hung out with sheep all day long (and probably smelled like it), yet God chose him to be King.

Hannah was sad and depressed because she couldn’t have a child, yet God blessed her to have a baby boy named Samuel.

Naaman, an amazing general from a pagan nation, had leprosy, but God healed him and used him as a light to a pagan nation of unbelievers.

Zacchaeus was a despised tax collector who was very short, but Jesus showed up in his life, saved

God is hoping we can lean on Him in our areas of weaknesses or flaws so that we deepen our relationship with Him, loving and trusting Him more.

or depression about our perceived “flaws” is to thank God for all the good we do have! The more we focus on the good, the less we will focus on the “bad”. And that’s a good thing!

Here are a few more people in the Bible who had struggled with their weaknesses, but God worked through their perceived “flaws” to do great things in their lives:

him, and worked through him, changing his life.

Motivate each other to memorize our focus verse this week. Write the memory verse on a chalkboard and display it by the door. Have them say the verse each morning and initial they did so.

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**2022**  
**National Day of Prayer Breakfast**  
 May 5, 2022 **FREE!** 7:30 a.m.  
 Southeastern Baptist College Gym  
 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440  
**Keynote Speaker: Senator McDaniel**  
**Mississippi State Senate**  
 RSVP how many are coming in your party  
 By **TEXTING** (601-428-4462) by April 28  
 (but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)

### One Church Planter, Two Continents

continued from page 3

I try to convince him to trust Christ and not man, but no success. We cry and cry pleading with him to consider Christ over religion but he continued crying bitterly and repeated, I can’t, I can’t. Mary, on the other hand, said, I want to be saved! She repented and asked Christ to save her. We rejoice for Mary and prayed for Gerard.

One week later, Gerard died of a heart attack in the house. Mary found him on the floor and had also a heart attack. Did Gerard trusted Christ before he died? It’s not for me to say, but I know Mary went to be with the Lord.

All because of Christ.

### SBC President Scott Carson featured speaker Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day



On March 29 a short memorial service was held at the Veterans Museum in Laurel for Viet Nam War Veterans. Those who served in Viet Nam were recognized for their service. Southeastern College President and retired U.S. Army Chaplain Col. Scott Carson was the guest speaker. March 29 is the day of observation every year.

Carson commended those for their service and highlighted the act of service in every area of our lives.