

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 2023

[www.ms baptist.org](http://www.ms baptist.org)

Volume 77 No. 4

## Tornado Relief Underway



Providence Baptist Church, above, suffered major damage in the tornadoes that swept across Mississippi in late March. There was damage inside the building and possibly some structural issues with some of the walls. Pastor Bro. Lance Murray shared that insurance would take care of much of the damage, but we all know that insurance does not cover all recovery costs. Churches across the state, along with a number of individuals are rallying to supply needed items and help to all areas effected by these storms. Hardest hit Rolling Fork, in the Mississippi Delta, along with many other communities are in need of help.

by the Editor

A number of areas in the state of Mississippi were effected by the recent tornadoes and storms. From the Mississippi Delta bordering the Mississippi River to the northeast section of the state, several communities were drastically effected by the rash of storms. Over 25 individuals have lost their lives and hundreds have lost homes, possessions and jobs.

Federal and state agencies are helping and numerous private groups are rallying to the need of so many in need. In this report are notices from Bro. Lavoy Haden of Just The Crumbs ministry and from our state Missions Department. Even though you will be reading this several days after the storms there will be needs to be met for weeks and even months.

Many of our churches and individuals have already rallied and are on the ground helping with relief, but the need is great and God's people should be the first to respond and respond generously. Pray for those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost all their worldly possessions along with their homes and employment, and for those who have so many decisions to make.

As a native of the Mississippi Delta I hope to one day see Rolling Fork, Silver City, and many other areas rebuilt and prospering as never before.

### Just The Crumbs Responds to Tornado Victims

by Lavon Hayden

JTC is responding to the tornadoes that destroyed so much property and took so many lives last month. We will be first going to Amory and be setting up at East Amory Baptist Church, one of our BMA churches. We will work as long as there is a need, then possibly move on to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where there was so much devastation. We are accepting donations and volunteers. Thank You for your prayers and support.

### From the State Missions Office

The BMA of Mississippi Missions office is coordinating efforts with our BMA churches and partnering with Just The Crumbs ministry to help get relief to the churches and communities that were devastated by the tornado that went through Rolling Fork and Amory, Mississippi.

If you live on the coast, Bro. Sam Freeman and Campground Church are going to be a coordinating center for any supplies or items that you would like to donate.

If you live around the Hattiesburg area, Bro. Sydney Farmer and South Forest will coordinate any donated supplies from that area.

If you live around the missions office, our office will coordinate any donated supplies

## State Midyear Meeting Information

by Ken Riley, President - BMA of Mississippi

The Midyear Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Over the years we have had the opportunity to meet on the campus of SBC and it has always been a tremendous blessing and encouragement. SBC continues to go the extra mile in making sure all our needs are addressed. SBC President Dr. Scott Carson, along with the staff and students, are eager and ready to welcome the messengers of the BMA of Mississippi and visitors.

Let me encourage you to make every effort to encourage your church members to attend the meeting. While there is some business to be conducted during this gathering, there is also great fellowship, encouraging one another, preaching, and being informed of what's going on in each of our departments and how we can help. Our last meeting was heavily attended which was immensely encouraging and motivating. My desire and prayer are for each church to see the importance once again to have messengers present. Each department and director will be given adequate time to give their report. Bro. Anders Lee will be preaching the message this year. I look forward to seeing everyone!



Bro. Ken Riley

## A Challenge That Benefits Generations to Come



by Holly Meriweather

The Natchez Trace Parkway covers three states and 450 low-speed miles. Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama share sections of this fifty-mile-an-hour highway that is meant to be enjoyed by hiking, biking, camping and horseback riding. If you have ever driven the parkway, you've noticed the peacefulness of being the only one on the road.

That's what native Mississippian, cyclist, and BMA Global President John David Smith will be doing May 8-12, but for a higher purpose. He says, "This

from this area.

Samuel Yager and Living Hope in Meridian will coordinate donated supplies for those around the Meridian area.

Matt Hudson and Walnut Grove in Fulton will coordinate for our northern churches.

If you would like to donate water, Gatorade, or other supplies, one of these churches will help us gather it and coordinate with the missions office so it can get up there as soon as possible.

You can continue to donate to Just the Crumbs or to the missions office disaster relief fund and we work together as a team to make sure all of these supplies are distributed.

Thanks again for your love and care for those affected by the storm.

challenge has long been a personal bucket list item. A big challenge, but it's not about me. The ride is called ChangeMaker Challenge 2023 in honor of our ChangeMakers with whom we partner globally by offering them church planting grants for new churches."

The vision for ChangeMaker Challenge is to build a foundation for future generations of ChangeMakers around the world. The heart of all missionaries is to establish a ministry that flourishes well beyond their years on the field. Dr. Smith has the same vision: to build an income-generating portfolio that will contribute funding for future ChangeMakers through the money raised.

Your gift will establish a fund to support ChangeMaker missionaries for generations to come. To learn more or to give, scan the QR code or go to [www.bmamissions.org/changemakerchallenge](http://www.bmamissions.org/changemakerchallenge).

The one million dollars raised will be added to other available funds to create a managed investment account where projected growth will provide a new, recurring, annual income stream for BMA Global that we project could be \$200,000 of annual income within five years.

When the baton of leadership is passed, what a blessing to know that current funds are being stewarded to assure ongoing income to continue church planting around the world for future generations.

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

### Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman  
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E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org  
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## Pastor's Wife Passes Away

Funeral services were held March 20, 2023, at Evergreen Baptist Church in Seminary for Christie Lynn Cummins, 49, of Seminary, who passed away at her home surrounded by family and friends on Thursday, March 16, 2023.



Christie Cummins

Bro. Bob Burch, Bro. Johnny Williams, and Bro. Adam Parker assisted in the services. The funeral message was brought by her husband and pastor, Bro. Chad Cummins. Christie was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 12, 1973, to Terry and Evelyne Hill. She was an active member of Evergreen Baptist Church in Seminary, where her husband is pastor.

She was preceded in death by her father, Terry Cranford Hill; grandfathers, Johnnie Johnson and Fred Broyles; grandmothers, Georgette Johnson and Ella B. McClain.

Survivors include her husband of 29 years, Chad Cummins of Seminary; children, Brittany Cummins and Dalton Cummins, both of Seminary; mother, Evelyne Johnson Hill of Laurel; brother, Corey Hill (Amanda) of Ellisville; sister, Gina Sherman (Tommy) of Laurel; grandmother, Bobbie Broyles of Ider, Alabama; aunt, Jeanette Beech (Charles) of Spotsylvania, Virginia; uncles, Johnnie Johnson, Jr., Dennis Johnson (Elaine), and John McClain (Jeanne), all of Laurel, and David Hill of South Carolina; father-in-law, Harold Holifield (Vickie) of Laurel; mother-in-law, Sandy Tidwell (Morris) of Laurel; sister-in-law, Jennifer Rushton (Cary) of Laurel; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration

### Bro. James & Mary Sprayberry

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
2:00 p.m. To 4:00 pm.

First Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall  
371 Highway 18 - Bay Springs, Mississippi  
*Your presence will be your present!*

## Positions Available

East Foothills Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes, including references, may be e-mailed to [Eastfoothillsbc@gmail.com](mailto:Eastfoothillsbc@gmail.com) or mailed to Marilyn May at 13107 CR 431, Tyler, Texas 75706. Call Josh Richardson at 903-316-3047 if more information is needed.

### Texas Church seeks bi-vocational pastor

First Baptist Church of Omen is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to share all aspects of a small Baptist church, with particular interest in a family-oriented ministry. We prefer some seminary training, but more importantly a true calling by God and led by the Holy Spirit to discern the Word of God and love his congregation and a commitment to Biblical Christian principles. Omen is located about 15 minutes from Tyler and 23 miles from Jacksonville, Texas

Please send resumes to [firstbaptistchurchomen@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistchurchomen@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 508, Arp, Texas 75750. If available, please attach any links of video or audio clips of your recordings.

### Available for Service

Bryson Haden has resigned at Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel, MS. He is available for pulpit supply and however God may lead. You may contact him at 662-251-0443 or by email at [blhaden@gmail.com](mailto:blhaden@gmail.com).



Bryson Haden

## College Seeks President

Jacksonville College, a vibrant, faith-based, liberal arts institution is accepting applications for the office of President. An earned Doctorate degree is preferred, with Education or related disciplines also preferred. This confident, well-spoken leader must be a conservative, growing Christian with deep experience in institutional development, fund-raising, and administration. Pastoral ministry-related experience is a plus.

For consideration, please send: A cover letter; A personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience, your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references. Please email your application to: [gdoorr85@gmail.com](mailto:gdoorr85@gmail.com) and [wpratt@northsideconroe.com](mailto:wpratt@northsideconroe.com)

Apply by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 for full consideration.

Jacksonville College was founded in 1899, and is affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

## 2023 Publications Special Emphasis

Below you will find our 2023 Special Emphasis receipts. Each gift of support is greatly appreciated and makes a tremendous difference in the operation of this ministry. We ask you to review your church's or your personal gift and let us know of any errors on our part. May God bless you in kind for your help and thoughtfulness.

Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$225.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise	\$200.00
Big Creek District WMA	\$167.50
Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$500.00
Canaan Baptist WMA, Richton	\$250.00
Central Baptist Church, Southaven	\$300.00
Charles Dicks, Vicksburg	\$50.00
Chris Broadhead, Hattiesburg	\$500.00
Anonymous	\$1,000.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland	\$500.00
Day Star Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$781.00
Doyle Phifer, Tishomingo	\$200.00
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$75.00
First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
First Baptist of Windsor Park, Ocean Springs	\$132.87
Frank Panzrino, Tupelo	\$100.00
Good Hope Baptist Church, Moss	\$150.00
Helton Road Baptist Church, Theodore	\$300.00
Hilda Cline	\$50.00
Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton	\$115.00
Judson Baptist Association, Mantachie	\$300.00
Just The Crumbs	\$300.00
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$101.00
Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$500.00
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$106.00
New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary	\$20.00
Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	\$130.00
Parkview Faith SS Class, Laurel	\$50.00
Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel	\$100.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union	\$200.00
Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive	\$551.00
South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$150.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$78.40
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$94.00
Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$355.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,281.77</b>

## Sofilthy's Attic

By Barbara White

## Dressing The Preacher

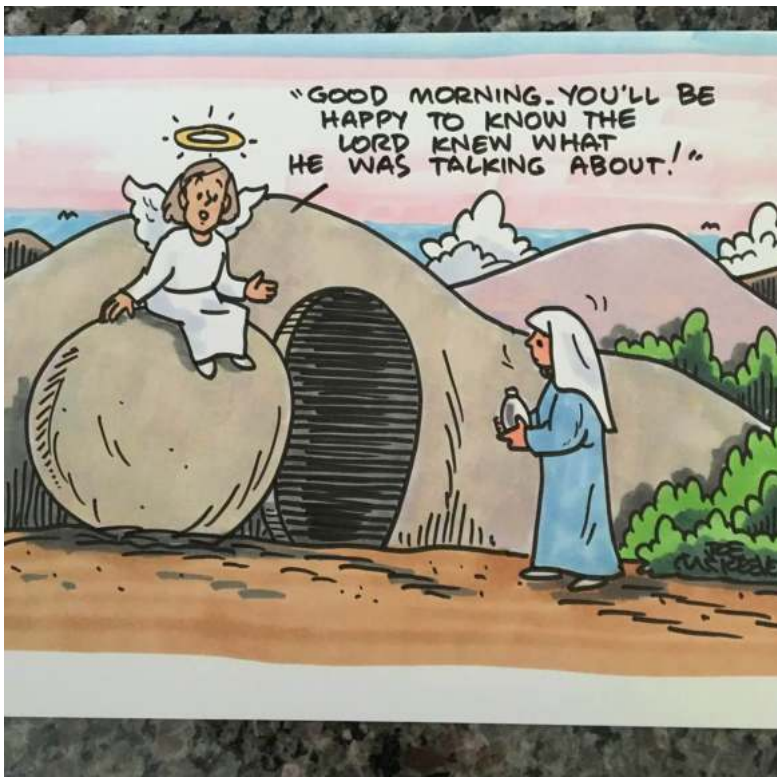
For years, I have stood on my soap box and proclaimed that preachers should dress like preachers. My reasoning was that God gave explicit directions for the apparel of the priests and preachers ought to be so glad that they didn't have to wear a robe with bells and pomegranates all around the bottom that they wouldn't mind putting on a shirt and tie.

Well, I woke up the other morning with John the Baptist on my mind and what did he wear? "the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins." Matthew 3:4.

So I have climbed down off my soap box!



FW





Anders Lee

901-343-3293 - ander.lee571@gmail.com

## March Was Exciting!

### NEW WEBSITE

I am thrilled to report that our new website is up and functioning. The link is simply [www.bmamssyouth.org](http://www.bmamssyouth.org). Please be sure to visit it and check it out. There are some typos and things that will be adjusted of course. You can now register for camp through the website and make payments through it online! Things will be added to it as time goes along!

### REMINDER - CAMP 2023

Just a reminder! Camp is July 17-20, 2023, at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi. It is NOW TIME to register your group. You can reserve your spot initially and later firm up your exact numbers

### Feeding the troops



### Prize Winners TV & Bible



my cousin. She shared her testimony and gave a clear gospel witness in her presentation to the students! By the way, pray for Joye, she is battling lung cancer!

The students enjoyed Chic-Fil-A for lunch! We gave away a 43-inch TV as a door prize. Kerrione Brown was the winner of the TV. Coach McNelis gave away a Bible for athletes and Caleb Polk got it in our drawing. It was a great event! Pray for Southeastern, Dr. Carson, and all the staff and students!!!

### LATRELLE WINDHAM OFFERING

Thank You to everyone for giving to the March Special Emphasis. It is not too late to give. If it slipped your mind, plan it and we will be grateful to you! It has been reported to me that many churches are taking up offerings and they will be sent in. At this point all the offerings are not in our hands, and we know that many offerings will come in after this is written and even into April. I will give you a full report on the offerings received in my May article. We are having a strong response to our overall goal. Send offerings to Brandy Riley, 454 Lebanon Rd., Laurel, MS 39443.

### ASSOCIATIONAL VISITS

It has been my goal to be at every local association possible. If I have not got to your group yet, it is my aim. Please let me know when your meetings are. If it is feasi-



The "Silver Bullet"

ble for me to be there I will. This month I was blessed to be at the Ten Mile, Oak Grove and Washington Associations. I have been enjoying being among our people! Thank you to these associations who each gave \$500 to the Latrelle Windham offering goal! I am available to preach some select Sunday nights. Just ask and I will see if I can work that out to be with you! It was a blessing to be welcomed at Temple Baptist in Laurel on March 19th!

### 40 CHURCHES GOAL

If you haven't heard, we are praying to have 40 churches that will support monthly. When I first started, Brandy reported to me that we had only 6 churches that were giving monthly. Ultimately this is the need. Please pray about leading your church to do so. I so appreciate those who already are! May your tribe increase! The first church to jump on board to this goal was Good Hope in Ovet, MS! Thank you to this good church and their pastor Ricky Mitchell.

### SENIOR CONFERENCE WHAT A JOY!

On Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, I had the joy of preaching at the South Senior Conference! Man, that was a blast! The folks had such a warm spirit and it was a great day! Bro. Don Brown is to be commended for putting together such an outstanding event! Brandon Wilson did an amazing job leading music! Those in attendance gave a little over \$2,150 to our Latrelle Windham Offering. THANK YOU!!!! WOW!!! What a JOY!!! I am very grateful! I look forward to the North Conference in May.

### A NEW (to us) VEHICLE

When I came into the position we had just sold an old Ford pickup we owned and we sold an old tractor. The trustees voted to purchase a vehicle for the trips I am making. It was very much needed, and I am grateful for it. We bought a silver 2014 Honda Crosstour. It is fuel efficient and has the capability of hauling things I take on trips. It's a sporty Lil fella. I named it the "silver bullet." However, the trustees would not let me put an LSU tag on the front. They just hate a winner. HA! I kid!

Blessings to you all! Thank you for letting me serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. Contact me at [Anders.Lee571@gmail.com](mailto:Anders.Lee571@gmail.com) or 901-343-3293.

## Mississippi Galilean Camp Report

by Mark Jones  
Galilean Director

The Mississippi Galileans met March 10-11, 2023, at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport. We had 37 in attendance with 2 new churches joining us. The camp pastor was Bro. Scott Brocius. He is one of our Mississippi State missionaries. Bro Scott did an awesome job preaching and we had 1 young man saved. Thank you to Bro. Sam Freeman and the folks at Campground for the wonderful job taking care of us.

This year's Mr. Senior Galilean is Micheal Powers and our Mr. Junior Galilean is Levi Franks. Both young men come from Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton.

Our state officers are President Micheal Powers, 1st Vice-president Eli Drumm, 2nd Vice-president Will Martin, and Secretary Brice Rutledge. We are thankful for these young men who are willing to serve. Our Galilean project this year is Bro. Scott Brocius' mission effort.



## National Department Reports Available Online

In anticipation of the 2023 BMA National Meeting, all of the leaders of the various departments of the BMA have recorded in-depth video reports of their activity in 2022. Those can be found at <https://bmaamerica.org/2023-bma-department-annual-reports/>. These reports are intended to give the churches of the BMA and the messengers attending the National Meeting details that might not be available during the reports given at the meeting.

The BMA National Meeting will be held April 25-27 at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Details for the meeting can be found at <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/> along with registration for BMA Mission's Dinner on the Ground on Wednesday night.



Joye Lee-McNelis, head basketball coach of the USM Lady Eagles, speaking to our kids.



# SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

## President's Perspective

*"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."*  
Psalm 149:1

Wow! Time flies! In just a couple of weeks we will hold the second annual Southeastern Gospel Fest. The event is scheduled for the nights of April 13, 14, 15 and will again be held at First Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi. We had been diligently seeking a way for SBC to bless our community and we have found it through Southern Gospel Music! Our Provost, Jan Walker, attended a similar event in Georgia and upon her return, she announced that this was exactly



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

what we could bring to the Laurel area. Although this venue is a huge undertaking by the Southeastern Baptist College staff, we look forward to it being yet another blessing this year. SBC is not only the sponsor of the event, but also the beneficiary of any proceeds made from the concerts. Four different, well-known music groups are featured each night. Tickets are \$20 per night or \$50 for all three nights and may be purchased at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or call us at 601-426-6346.

Advertising is going well and is not confined to the Mississippi area, but far beyond as well. We even had people travel all the way from Alaska come to attend last year's fest and they have already reserved their tickets for this year! My 91-year-old father wasn't sure if he liked Southern Gospel Music, but after attending the first night, he made sure to attend every night. Last year

the church was a packed house each evening, so I suggest you reserve your seat soon! We have room for 1500 persons per night and tickets will be sold at the door if space is available. Refer to the adjacent poster for additional information. We hope you come out, support SBC and praise the Lord through great Southern Gospel music!

There are opportunities to help SBC through financial sponsorship of one of the twelve performing Southern Gospel groups. If interested, please refer to the separate announcement in this paper. Help us promote your college!

I pray you will join us at this exciting event!

*"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."* Psalm 104:33

Equipping the Saints,  
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information.

## Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 23-hour program and the student may take one class or a full load. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelors degree should the student desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer [today!](mailto:today@sebc.edu) 601-426-6346, or apply online at [www.southeasternbaptist.edu](https://www.southeasternbaptist.edu)

## Now Hiring

We are in search of our next Athletic Director. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please refer them to our website where they can upload their resume': <https://sbcchargers.com/employment-opportunities> or call 601-426-6346.

## National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Once again, SBC is the host location for the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast for Jones County and the surrounding area. The event will be held in the college gym on May 4, 2023. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Jamie Altman, Pastor of Bethlehem Community Church will be our keynote speaker. Please reference the flyer for additional information in this publication.

## Half Price Summer Courses!

We are offering half priced tuition for the summer session that begins on Monday,

May 22 and ends Friday, June 30. Some classes are in-classroom while others are online. To register go to: <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/admissions/> Or call us at 601-426-6346.

### Courses offered are:

Bible Manners and Customs  
Worship  
New Testament Survey  
Old Testament Survey  
Personal Books (1 & 2 Timothy;  
Titus; Philemon)  
Principles of Managerial Accounting  
English Comp 1 & 2  
World Literature 1 & 2  
Math Literacy  
College Algebra  
Music Appreciation  
General Biology  
Oral Communication  
Introduction to Sports Management

## Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online each semester. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. Qualified students can take classes while still in high school and get a head start in their college studies with our dual enrollment program. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

## Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at

## Graduation

Big News! We anticipate the largest graduating class in the 74-year history of Southeastern Baptist College! The 2023 Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Saturday, 11 a.m., May 13 on the campus of SBC. Please come to this free event and bless our newest graduates in their important life accomplishment!

## Mark Your Calendars!

SBC has scheduled a golf tournament to raise scholarship money. The event will be at the Laurel Country Club on May 11. More details coming soon!

## Memorial Gifts

Thank you Don and Bonnie Brown and Sonny Jones for your donations to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Mrs. Odell Lott.

Thank you Sandy Tidwell for your donation in memory of Mrs. Molly Blackledge.

## Scholarship

Thank you Laurel Board of Realtors who have provided a \$500 scholarship!

## 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.

## Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation 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 First Baptist Church of Shady Grove for inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday message. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

Registration is open!  
Half Price!

# SUMMER

## CLASSES

BEGIN MAY 22

## National Women's' Missionary Auxiliary

Wednesday, April 26, 2023; 8:30-3:00  
Central Baptist College-Cooper Complex  
*Let Love Overflow*

Diane Spriggs will be the guest speaker and she will speak on Loving the "Unlovable". Mrs. Spriggs is a writer for Lifeword and speaks at various women's meetings.

Lunch will be across the street in Mabee Student Service Building. If you would like to eat, please send \$15.00 to Janet Widger, P. O. Box 23, Salem, MO.

65560. Must register by April 1, 2023. Minister's wives and widows are to be our guest but you do need to register with Janet Widger if you plan to eat.

There are breakout sessions after lunch that you may also attend. The breakout sessions are: Lauren Crawley, "Loving Young Mamas"; Jessica Willems, "Splish Splash"; Sidney Wines, "Loving Missionaries Well"; Cindy Allen, "Prayer"; Belinda Caudle for Hispanic Women.

This conference is for ALL women of the BMA churches.

## State Officers, Local Officers! You're Invited For Lunch!

The Coordinating Council of the BMA of America invites everyone attending the BMA National Meeting that serves in the role of a State Director or State Officer to join them for lunch on April 26 at the BMA Global Missions Center. Your Coordinating Council has a burden and a heart to help our churches maximize the opportunities that having thriving local associations afford our association. They not only want to enjoy fellowship around lunch with you, but they want to dialogue about how to make your local associations count for the Kingdom! So leaders, make plans to share a meal with your Coordinating Council at the National Meeting and spend time dreaming about what your local associations can accomplish for Christ!

The lunch will be provided by BMA Global Missions and Lifeword but we need to know if you are coming so that we can prepare! Please email Jennifer Harrell at [jennifer@lifeword.org](mailto:jennifer@lifeword.org) and simply say "I'm coming to lunch!"

## Former BMA Pastor Dies

Harold Douglas Smith was born January 21, 1937, and passed away on February 26, 2023 at the age of 86. In his early years he proudly served in the United States Navy. Harold was a man of great faith and was a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He pastored Baptist churches in Mississippi and Louisiana during 60 years of ministry, including: Shady Grove, Amite, Louisiana; Riverbend, Chalmette, Louisiana; Antioch, Picayune, Mississippi; New Bethel, Whitesand, Mississippi; Oak Grove, Franklinton, Louisiana; Corinth, Lucedale; and First Baptist Henleyfield, Henleyfield.



He is preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Senorita Perry Smith; His parents, Cecil Smith and Juanita Miles Smith; two brothers, Dale Everett Smith and Gary Paul Smith; one sister, Doris Cecelia Smith Ladner.

Left to cherish his memory are his three children, Debbie Aaron (Gary), Cherita Geraldson (Larry) and Douglas Smith (Leah); six grandchildren, Jeremy Aaron (Kamala), Jammeye Galloway (Brad), Crystal Geraldson, Daniel Geraldson (Nikki), Caleb Smith (Becky) and Rachel Dragon (Morgan); thirteen great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Funeral services and burial were held at First Baptist Church of Henleyfield.

## Southeastern Sports Schedules

**Upcoming Women's Softball Games. The Lady Chargers play their home games at Coca Cola Field, 2500 Airport Dr, Laurel, MS**

Wed., Apr 5, 3 & 5 p.m. @ Alcorn State  
Tues, Apr 11, 2 & 4 p.m. Home vs Xavier  
Wed, Apr 12, 3 & 5 p.m. Home vs Alcorn  
Sat, Apr 22, 2 & 4 p.m. @ Jones College, Ellisville MS

Monday, Apr 24, 2 & 4 p.m.  
Home vs Rust College  
Tuesday, Apr 25, 1 & 3 p.m.

@ Jackson State, Jackson, MS  
NCCAA DII Regional Tournaments TBA

**Men's Baseball Schedule. The Chargers play their home games at A.W. Watson (Black Cat Field), 2400 Queensburg Ave, Laurel, MS:**

Saturday, Apr 1, 1 & 3 p.m.  
Home vs Rust College  
Tuesday, Apr 4, Time TBA  
@ Blue Mountain College

Friday, Apr 7, Time TBA  
@ Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock AR  
Saturday, Apr 8, Time TBA  
@ Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock AR  
Tuesday, Apr 11, 1 & 3 p.m.  
Home vs The W

Saturday, Apr 29, 1 & 3 p.m.  
@ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa AL  
NCCAA DII Regional Tournaments TBA

**SOUTHEASTERN**  
*2nd Annual* **GOSPEL FEST**  
PRESENTED BY SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE  
APRIL 13 - 15, 2023  
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**2023 BMAA  
National Meeting  
Conway, Arkansas  
April 25-27, 2023**



Dr. Burnett (left), President of William Carey University, was a recent chapel guest speaker with the WCU praise band "Restoration" leading our students in worship



Dr. Carson enjoying a round of golf with SBC students (L-R): Baylor Wells; Mason Bonono; Dr. Carson; Robert Conner.

# BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440  
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: [missions@bmams.org](mailto:missions@bmams.org)

## Special Emphasis Months

by Chris Yager, Interim Missions Director

### Mission Possible

The Great Commission often seems to be an impossible command to fully accomplish. We get discouraged and feel as if there is no possible way to reach everyone in our Jerusalem, much less the uttermost parts of the world. The seeming impossibility of the command paralyzes us into seasons of inactivity in reaching the lost.

Let me encourage you as we begin our two months of special emphasis; the Great Commission is a command that can be accomplished! On top of that, it can be accom-

plished in our lifetime! It is the law of exponential growth. Think of it this way: if you double a penny each year over 33 years, you will make \$8,589,934,592. Now, translate that into people/souls! If one person is won to Christ, and that person wins someone to Christ, and then all three won people to Christ... in 33 years the world would be won to Christ: all 8 billion people on planet Earth!

We know that not everyone will accept Christ, but this illustration shows that the Great Commission is possible! It can be done! In 2023, let us not get discouraged and set aside our opportunities to fulfill Christ's command. Let us double down and revive our commitment again to reach our neighbor, city, state, and world for Christ. Let us renew our fervency in prayer for laborers to surrender to the mission field and let us be committed ourselves to the greatest cause that we have been given: the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Your Giving

Because the Great Commission is possible, your giving to help reach the goal of \$30,000.00 will aid your missions department in training missionaries, adding on more missionaries, and strengthening church plants. In addition, it is going to allow us to develop our church revitalization ministry. This is a ministry that we are developing this

year to help our existing churches and pastors with training, encouragement, and resources. Our desire is to be a help to our missionaries and to our pastors, to our church plants and to our established churches. We want to help you!

### Tuesdays at 7 am

You are invited! We have started a prayer and coffee fellowship on Tuesdays at 7 am at the Missions Office. Its focus is to pray for one another, our churches, missions, and more laborers to be called into the field. At 8 am, for those who can stay, we deal with principles of revitalization - a way to be challenged to move from surviving in ministry to thriving in ministry.

### Invest in Eternity

The Revolving Loan Fund is an awesome way to be a good steward of your money while helping the work of the Lord's church to be accomplished. We have competitive interest rates that will allow you to grow your personal investments. We are now offering a tiered rate system to be competitive with the rates that the banks are offering. Please call the office and invest your finances in Eternity.

I am so honored to serve you in this compacity. My hope is to be a blessing to you, your family, your church, and to your association. May the Lord continue to unite our hearts together as we strive together for the faith of the Gospel.



### Refuge Baptist Mission

Bro. Josh Daniels

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi! It is my honor to continue serving as one of your missionaries in Kiln, Mississippi. It is also with much excitement that I submit this report to you. Things are looking up at Refuge Baptist Mission!

I'd like to start off by sharing some of the ministry opportunities and discipleship that is taking place. Our men's discipleship group has been going great. We have had as many as 18 men and young men show up for fellowship & Bible discussion. The highlight was a man was saved a week ago!!! AMEN! We have also had Bro. Sidney Farmer and some of the members of South Forrest come down on 3 Sunday afternoons to lead us in evangelism training. This has been a great tool and step for us all. I highly recommend all churches to have something like this for your people. Very beneficial! God had also allowed us an opportunity to minister to our local middle school softball team. It has been a blessing to share the story of Esther with these young ladies over the last month. Their season ended with the coach praying and committing to follow the Lord! It was INCREDIBLE! Please be in prayer for us as we have a couple of outreach and evangelism opportunities ahead of us on April 1st and Resurrection Sunday in McLeod Park in Kiln.

As many of you know we are deep toward the ending of the building process. God has blessed the physical labors of everyone involved and has allowed the building to go up rather quickly and beautifully. There are still a few things to complete, but we are mainly striving to get to a functioning facility to use. We can continue working on the smaller details, designs, & frills. We are about 3 weeks away from having the building functional and ready to use. The plan is to have our first service in the new building on Sunday, April 16th at 10:30 am. All are welcome to come celebrate with us in the work that God is doing.

This mission has only happened because of God no doubt, but He has used many of you to help us get here. For that I am eternally grateful to you all. Hope to see many of you stop by through the summer to see the building and check out the work.



## GOAL FOR APRIL AND MAY 2023 \$30,000

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

### What does it mean to be Mission Minded?

- It means **Praying** for laborers and **Giving** so that the laborers can go!

Missions Mindedness realizes that it takes money to send laborers into the Harvest Fields (Philippians 4:15-19), it emphasizes reaching our Jerusalem (hometown) and Judea (state) as well as our Samaria (country) and the uttermost parts of the world (foreign countries), and it sees a personal responsibility for being involved in the going and sending parts of missions.

Would you **PRAY** for laborers, **GIVE** so that laborers are able to go, and **RESPOND** personally to the call of missions to your Jerusalem?

### CURRENT MISSIONARIES MISSISSIPPI

- **SCOTT BROCIOS:**
  - CANAAN LAND BAPTIST CHURCH
- **JOSH DANIELS:**
  - REFUGE BAPTIST CHURCH
- **SAMUEL YAGER:**
  - LIVING HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
- **ESTUARDO MARROQUIN:**
  - EL CAMINO/ HISPANIC MISSIONS
- **PAUL SPURLIN:**
  - JAIL MINISTRY

### INTERNATIONAL (BMAA)

- **MICHAEL POIRIER:** CANADA/ HAITI/ AFRICA
- **SEAN PASLEY:** FRANCE
- **SAM FREEMAN:** PHILIPPINES
- **JOHN MICHAEL POULIN:** LATIN AMERICA





# 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

## Roads Less Traveled

Don't you love driving on country roads free from traffic and stress and full of the sights and fragrances of spring?

Seeing the beauty of blooming dogwoods and the not-really-red redbuds reminds me that God gives us springtime to enjoy the kaleidoscope of spring after the bleakness of winter.



Robert Frost's line from *The Road Not Taken*, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference," nudged my memory of some trips on roads less traveled.

When we started traveling after our chauffeur, EW, died, I was a little, maybe a lot, paranoid about driving the RV; but those fears completely faded away on the most restful trip we took on the Natchez Trace. Sometimes trips are all about the destination, but sometimes trips are about the journey itself.

I can hear you men in particular saying, "It's too slow." Right? That's my point!

Instead of rushing to a destination, we decided to travel on the Natchez Trace just for the joy of being together with our dogs—Gabi 3, Scarlett, and Angel. The turtle-like speed limit with no 18-wheelers to



Carolyn Hagler



contend with made for a slow trip to enjoy and meet some fellow campers along the way. Starting in Natchez at the beginning of the Trace and meandering northward, stopping wherever and whenever the mood struck, we just enjoyed ourselves.

Rocky Springs (near Port Gibson) had been on my bucket list for years. I walked the path to the site and relived history. You probably know by now that historical cemeteries just call my name; I would buy a car sticker that says, "I stop

at old cemeteries" if I could find one.

Rocky Springs, settled in the 1790s, was a lively place with outlaws and General Andrew Jackson passing through. General Ulysses S. Grant even made his headquarters at the Rocky Springs Church



and left the residents with no livestock, food, or supplies. Yellow Fever then took its toll, and the boll weevil destroyed their crops. Today, it's a ghost town with the Church and the cemetery remaining. Because of some dedicated people, the Church is well maintained with services held periodically.

The only time we three sisters spent the night on the road was on the Trace. We were uneasy at first, but we learned that night that campers and RV'ers are kindred spirits. We met and fellowshiped with people from all over the country, who converged on the Trace.

One nursery that I had browsed through during Garden Days in Jackson was the Natchez Trace Gardens in Kosciusko. Of course, we had to stop. Exiting the Trace, we couldn't find it. (My sense of direction is best described as "lost as a goose in a snowstorm"). Unlike most men, though, I don't mind asking directions.

Because backing up an RV while towing a car is next to impossible, I pulled in at a service station and asked where the nursery was. The nice gentleman didn't say that I had driven by it but started his directions with "Turn around." When he saw the RV and looked at me again, he changed his directions. "Go to the end of this road, and you can make an easy turn to get back to the nursery." I think he profiled me and my driving!

We did make it to the nursery and really enjoyed all the beautiful plants and shrubs. When we got ready to leave, I asked Sister No. 1 to walk to the end of the parking area and see if there was an exit. She has never to this day forgiven me for doubting her. She kept saying, "Come on," and I kept saying, "Are you sure?" I think I even walked to see if I could really exit where she told me. But we were soon back on the road; but I did hear several times, "I'm not ever telling you anything again."

Next stop was Tishomingo State Park with its hills and breath-taking scenery. Sister No. 1 got the most exercise of all with my Gabi taking her for countless walks. We didn't count steps back then, but I'm sure she would have exceeded her goal.

We did take some time to visit Shiloh National Military Park, where nearly 110,000 Americans clashed. With sites like the Bloody Pond, Hornet's Nest, and General Albert Johnston's death site, history came alive.



I'm always reminded of sacrifices made for our country when I visit historical sites like Shiloh. With some 24,000 casualties and 19 states involved, I can only imagine the grief and disbelief of families who thought the war would last only a few short months. Mississippi finally has a monument to honor its troops who fought there.

We ended our Natchez Trace trip before we made it to Alabama, but we just put the rest of the trip to Nashville on our bucket list for another day.

Another trip we took on a less traveled road was to Poverty Point, Louisiana, the ruins of a large prehistoric Indian settlement. Off the beaten path for sure, Poverty Point is filled with history of the Indians.



Always looking for animals, we kept our eyes peeled for deer, snakes, armadillos, squirrels, Louisiana black bears, etc. We saw only a black snake at the snake crossing and an unusual skunk.



(Of course, the only skunks I had ever seen were roadkill.) I could tell you about all the other animals we saw, but I would need to admit we drove to the Wild Country Safari Park to see them.

We did the driving tour at Poverty Point numerous times at the breakneck speed of 15 mph. It

was amazing to see what the ancient builders, who lived between around 1730 and 1350 B.C., accomplished with no wheelbarrows, wagons, or pack animals. These people moved enough material to build a pyramid the size of the largest pyramid in Egypt.

Of course, the most interesting thing about Poverty Point is its mystery. The people are known to be ancestors of Native Americans, but the real mystery is the size and age of the mounds, ridges, and plaza. They are among the largest native constructions known in eastern North America, but they are older than any other earthworks of this size.

But the best part for me was walking to a small family cemetery on top of one of the mounds, Sarah's Mound. Only two tombstones remain, one of Amanda Malvina Dawson Van Ressaer and Sarah Wilson Guier, both women dying in the same month in 1851. That's a mystery, too.



Taking the roads less traveled on the Trace and to Poverty Point dims because of another road less traveled: the Highway to Heaven. The old song, "Walking up the King's Highway," dismisses the popular though untrue notion that all paths lead to heaven. Jesus Himself told us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). We know that road is less traveled because Matthew 7:14 calls the gate small and the way narrow that leads to life, "and few there be that find it."

All of us travelers on the King's Highway started our journey at the cross. No other way is possible. The length of our journey and our experiences may differ, but we know that He is with us on this road to Heaven. So, as you see spring springing forth with our destination still ahead, invite someone today to start the journey on the heavenly highway.

Celebrate with me that we're *In His Grip* on this road not traveled by many. Happy Resurrection Day. Praise God. He arose!

## The Garden Tomb In Jerusalem



He is not here, He is Risen.  
He is Risen Indeed!

## 2023 National Day of Prayer



### Breakfast

May 4, 2023 FREE! 7:30 a.m.

Southeastern Baptist College Gym  
4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Jamie Altman, Lead Pastor**

**Bethlehem Community Church**

RSVP how many are coming in your party by **TEXTING** (601-428-4462) by April 27 (but if making a last-minute decision, please come!).

# Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS

## O, What A Day!

What a day it was for those senior adults who took to the road on March 14 and traveled to the South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso. We had a great day!

As anticipated we had great singing, Heaven sent preaching, wonderful Christian fellowship, God's southern fried catfish for lunch, numerous door prizes, grand prizes, surprises, special recognitions, and a blessed afternoon Gospel concert.

Whew! And the blessings are more than we can number or mention. The Senior Adults took up a



Don Brown  
Editor

generous offering for two ministry projects - our State Youth Department and BMMI, Baptist Medical Missions International.

This was our second year of bringing special offerings for some special ministry projects. Our senior adults and churches gave \$4,371.00 which was divided between these two ministries. We have already sent a check to each one for \$2,185.50 each. What a blessing to those ministries and what a blessed opportunity for each giver.

May the Lord bless each of your whose hearts were opened to ministry.

## North Conference Up Next!

Our North Conference will be held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fulton on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

We have a good program planned. State Youth Director Anders Lee (who also spoke at the South Conference) will be our speaker. We will again ask our churches and senior adults to bring offerings for BMMI and the State Youth Department.

Mt. Pleasant is a great place to meet and the members and pastor always do a great job. The church will again be in charge of the food.

We will be recognizing some who have been in the ministry for 50 years or longer. Along with door prizes, special prizes, special recognition, great food, good congregational singing, some surprises, etc.....we will also have an afternoon concert by Michael Booth of the Booth Brothers Gospel group.

It is shaping up as another great meeting. Make your plans now to be at Mt. Pleasant Church on May 9, 2023. Pastor Tim Holsonback and the good folks of Mt. Pleasant are looking for you to be there!

## Mississippi WMA Ladies

WMAofMS20@gmail.com  
President Dawn Freeman  
cdfreeman7327@gmail.com  
601-325-7226

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith  
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443



Dawn Freeman  
President

Hello Ladies!  
From Dawn Freeman  
WMA President

First, I am sorry for it taking me so long to write an article for our paper. Starting something new takes me a while to process how and when to get it done. So please forgive my delay.

I was able to attend the Mississippi GMA retreat this past weekend, and it was a great weekend. There were so many talented young ladies in attendance. I hope to see even more young ladies there next year.

Please plan to come to the Midyear WMA meeting, May 22. Donna DiSalvo, second vice president of WMA of Mississippi, is planning a meeting that will encourage you. I will have more

details about the meeting in April

The date for our Ladies' Retreat has been set for September 8-9, 2023. It will be held at Lake Tiak O'Khata. Our speakers will be Sabrina Clayton and our missionary from India. I am looking forward to this retreat. Be in prayer for our speakers and start planning now to attend.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the ladies of your church. I want to see the lady's ministries of all of our churches work in our district and state WMA, because together we do more. You may contact me by email at [cdfreeman7327@gmail.com](mailto:cdfreeman7327@gmail.com).

Because He lives,  
Jude 24-25

## A Great Senior Adult Day at Big Creek



## Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter  
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428  
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

## 2023 Mississippi GMA Girls Retreat

This year's 2023 Mississippi's State GMA Girls Retreat was held at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, on March 17-18. All 92 campers and counselors joined together to rejoice in the goodness of God. Bro. Buddy and Mrs. Taffy Johnson were our speakers furthering our knowledge on how Jesus is great yesterday, today, and forever from Hebrews 13:8. While at camp, the campers enjoyed creating crafts, playing games, and even throwing pies in the officers' faces! Moreover, each girl and counselor left with a brighter light to shine for the Lord.

As we kick off the new year, we also introduce our new officers. These girls are all hoping to be great leaders and help set an example for every younger girl. The new year's theme is "Highway To Heaven" with Matthew 7:13-14 being our theme verse. Our project for this year is the Bible Institute in Mexico. Please be in prayer for our upcoming year as our advisory council and officers help to make the 2024 retreat the best one yet. Can't wait to see you there!



(From left to right): Ruby Hickman (Second Vice President, Pianist), Payton Thompson (First Vice President), Abigail Jenkins (Corresponding Secretary), Amberlee Shaw (Committee Member), Rayleigh Phelps (Committee Member), Kara Bond (Historian), Olivia Spradley (Secretary), Emily Carroll (President), Helen de Jesus (Committee Member), Abby Marroquin, not shown (Committee Member)





# mission:world

## NEWS

# LEAVING RAKE MARKS

BY: Stan Scroggins, Asia-Pacific  
Regional Coordinator  
bmamissions.org

**M**issionaries are an independent breed. It just goes with the territory. However, living in cross-cultural settings, often with no familiar personalities to interact with and having to make all decisions on your own, can lead to the mistake of becoming detached and sequestered. Of course there are biblical teachings that show us how to avoid these missteps.

A recent article entitled “Why Did Jesus Send Out His Disciples Two by Two” by Mark Roberts gives a wonderful example of why Christ employed the strategy of shared ministry. “Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits” (Mark 6:7). Shared ministry can be identified in many ways. Married couples, missionary collaborators, team sending, accountability partners, and mentorships are practices by modern missionaries to prevent seclusion and isolation that often leads to missionary burnout.

When Donna and I arrived in the Philippines almost seven years ago, we benefited from the work of many missionaries who had gone before us. Each left his or her own individual legacies and we quickly picked up on those we would benefit from most. Things like an established local, regional, and national association structure and mission planting embedded into the DNA of every local church. Donna and I have certainly had a “shared” missionary strategy. We’ve worked side by side, complementing each other in our particular areas of God-led ministries. Serving with BMAA missionaries Doug and Diane Lee also inoculated us against the infectious “rogue missionary” virus, which plagues many missionaries. We’ve discovered that partnering with Filipinos, helping them with tools and not getting in their way, has been the most fulfilling of our Lord’s shared ministry formula.

Establishing an exit strategy is important for shared ministry to be successful. Without one, missionaries invariably assure ultimate mission failure. Having an exit strategy was certainly one of the foremost topics in our early pre-field preparations. I remember then International Missions Director Phil Knott saying, “The most beneficial thing you can do is to know your exit strategy now, before you arrive on the field.”

We knew our term on the mission field would be short compared to those “lifers” like Doyle and Linda Moore, Ray and Faye Freeman, and Don and Linda Newsom. So maybe for us it was easy to go in already thinking of our exit strategy, knowing we had a short seven-year window. But modern missiologists now coach missionaries to plan everything they do with an exit strategy in mind, even twenty, thirty or forty years down the line.

In Christian mission if you don’t have a plan you can be sure the devil does. No missionary would ever desire that their life’s work for Christ would end with their departure. Here is a story I once heard about a park ranger whose job it was to clean up camp sites after the campers left:

*Bill, why don’t you follow me around today and let me show you the ropes? “Sure thing,” he answered. Bill observed the seasoned ranger’s attention to cleaning the grills, removing charred wood from campfires and raking leaves and trash from every used site. Coming up on one site, obviously not used, Bill expected to keep walking on to the next location. With*

*no trash to pick up and no ashes to clean out, the older ranger proceeded to take out his rake and scrape across the dirt of the camp site. “What’s all the fuss?” Bill asked as he continued, “This place wasn’t even used.” “Well Bill, people just like to know someone’s been here by seeing the rake marks in the dirt.”*

That is what our exit strategy has been about, preparing our field, or camp site, so that those who follow can pick up where we left off and advance the cause of Christ for the next generation. How did we do it?

Church planting is the best exit strategy. While we’ve been here we’ve partnered with many of our local churches, helping with their local church planting. We are so glad to have partnered with the following churches:

- Karis Baptist Church in E.B. Magalona and their missionary in Mandalag
- Dos Hermanas Baptist Church, Missionary Kevin Berayo, and his three missions in the mountains of Ahgu
- New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, Missouri, along with New Testament Baptist Mission and Missionary J.R. Suico in Tigbawan, Leyte
- Ati Baptist Tribal Church and Pastor Roter Sinceda
- First Missionary Baptist Church in Talisay and now daughter church in Badiang with Pastor Ezra Leyson
- Miranda Grace Baptist Church and its new mission in Mandalagan with Missionary Pastor David Perez
- Kusol Mission in Hinigaran and Pastor Loreto Lopez

We didn’t have to come and reinvent the wheel. We found some “rake marks,” recognized someone had plowed before us, and picked up the rake to scrape out some new streaks.

Being part of the teaching ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College is an example of using our exit strategy to prepare this invaluable institution to continue to train future missionaries, pastors, and teachers of the Philippines and even the entire Asia Pacific region. Achieving accreditation for the college, refurbishing and even rebuilding well-used facilities, and partnering with the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in America to upgrade our teachers’ credentials with masters degrees has all been part of securing the legacy this institution has meant to the Lord’s work here for many years to come. An exit strategy we developed, even before leaving for the field, was a plan to secure the Bible College’s financial future. The Darlene Carey Christian Academy is part of that plan. The academy, in just a few years, will be in a position to provide at least a third of the Bible College’s budget and will certainly be a huge part in the Christian education of thousands of Filipino children.

Finally, our shared ministry will be part of our exit strategy too. Even though we no longer will be living in the Philippines, for the rest of our lives Donna and I will be working to promote missions and always with a focus on the work God called us to and the people God gave us a love for. Third John 1:4 will be our clarion call: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” And maybe, prayerfully, someone will come after us and find our “rake marks” left behind.



## MISSIONS WORK IN MINNESOTA ENTERS NEW PHASE

BY: Michael Strong, Church Planter  
Minneapolis, MN  
bmamissions.org

**G**reetings, brothers and sisters in Christ! I am excited to report back to you about the work God is doing in Minnesota. We are seeing people come to Christ, others commit (and some re-commit) themselves to Christ, and a growing group of people from diverse backgrounds take new steps of faith as they prepare to meet King Jesus face to face one day. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as your partner to these beloved Minnesotans.

We are currently working in Minneapolis, and God is helping us begin to reach the 31,397 people that live in our ZIP code. Our primary means of reaching people is through relational evangelism that results in Bible studies. We consistently kept roughly 20 different Bible study and discipleship groups active over the last year. The number continues to grow as more of our people step out in faith and start new groups. We expect that number will continue to increase exponentially. Some of the more exciting results in the last year include eight new salvations accompanied by baptism. Almost 100% of those baptized have followed through on their commitment to Jesus by joining intentional personal discipleship groups led by our church leaders.

We are also broadening our missional scope by reaching out to the community through various service projects. We take being the hands and feet of King Jesus seriously and look for ways to love our neighbors and equip and mobilize our people to do the same. We have been teaching the church how to serve the people closest to them and how to share the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. This has broadened our impact and is leading to growth in missional interactions. We live as a family and do a lot of life-on-life together. This allows us to serve each member's family and friends together. The uniqueness of our blood-bought community showcases how different the church is from the world. We are seeing a growing number of people who are beginning to associate with our group and attend functions we host.

God is giving our people compassionate hearts. They have been speaking up in recent months and we have heard them loud and clear: They want to use their gifts to serve their neighbors. Some desire to cook. Others desire to help with house repairs. Some desire to share their testimony at schools. Some desire to help with the children in the church. One member has increasingly embraced the role of greeter! They clean up, share, and volunteer in the community in many ways. As you may imagine, their hearts are bigger than their pocketbooks. We have been relying on partners to provide the necessary supplies to reach out to the community. The need and desire is growing in our church. We are praying for new partners and increased commitments from existing partners in the coming months as we deploy our people in groups to reach the city and call lost sheep into the fold.

We have been intentionally small to this point because we wanted to invest significantly in the core group of the church. We believe in

regenerative church membership. Our worship services are focused on helping believers see and worship God in the Scriptures. We also use those times to equip these saints to experience spiritual maturity and to form Christlikeness in them. After our services we send them out full of the gospel and encouraged to share the hope they have with others. We believe this will result in a disciple-making movement that will lead to a church planting movement as we raise and train up leaders. We are now at a point where growth could happen a bit more quickly, and this will bring new challenges. We are excited about the opportunity to seek God and rely on him in the coming months as he helps us navigate the changes he will bring into our church and our lives.

I am so thankful to share what God has done in 2022 with you and I look forward to updating you in the near future on what God continues to do. If you are interested in partnering with us or receiving our newsletter, please reach out to me via email: [mike@nccmpls.com](mailto:mike@nccmpls.com). Thank you for partnering with us to take the gospel to Minnesota!



# mission:world

## NEWS

## Ordinary Faithfulness in Church Planting

BY: Thomas Mobly, Church Planter  
Oklahoma City, OK  
bmamissions.org

**H**ave you ever been waiting for God to do the “next big thing” in your life, in your church, in whatever context you’re in? When my wife and I moved to Oklahoma City in 2017 (where I am originally from) with our friends Nathan and Lynzie Brewer, there was so much excitement in the anticipation of what God was going to do in this new chapter of our lives. We had never helped plant a church before. We weren’t even the ones who came up with the idea to plant Grace Harbor Church in OKC. We were the ones invited in. Nevertheless, we were willing and eager to go and be a part of something new and exciting!

Over the past five years of planting a church we’ve been blown away many times by how God moves in big ways. There are so many stories I could tell you that would probably leave you speechless and in awe (seriously, ask me sometime). These big displays of God’s greatness fill us with excitement and wonder, and they humble us, as they should! But over the past five years not every single day has been filled with the big displays. There has, by no means, been a lack of God’s greatness, but the truth is that much of church planting work requires faithfulness from us even in the days that are seemingly ordinary.

There’s something about the ordinary that may cause ministry to seem disenchanting at times. Things can become routine and stale when the big displays aren’t always right in front of us. But I believe God has not called us to become complacent in the ordinary. The work of church planting is sometimes a long season of digging up dirt, putting down seed, and watering.

It’s the kind of work that allows us to walk alongside a mother and wife who is suffering from an illness that never seems to go away despite how many doctors she sees. It’s the kind of work that lets us witness this family grow in their faith through suffering as they and their small group continue to pray for healing.

It’s long term relational investment in meeting with our Afghan refugee neighbors right here in OKC. It’s working with an Afghan Christian man God brought to our church with the vision of planting Afghan churches here in town. There are about 1,000 Afghan refugees in OKC. About a quarter of those are within five miles of us.

It’s ministering to a brother in Christ who is struggling to find purpose in his life right now because his work is just not providing it, and everything in his world is changing around him. But it’s also seeing him faithfully serve his family and church family, using his gifts to minister to others behind the scenes.

Ordinary ministry work is walking with God-fearing parents who have a child that is dismissing faith in Christ completely. It’s prayerfully and consistently building relationships with neighbors in our city and right next door, living out and speaking the truth of the gospel. It’s making sure we don’t forsake the discipleship happening right at home with our own

families.

There is an older brother at our church named John who has spent most of his life in the work of ministry and pastoring. He’s now retired and ministering in a different way here at Grace Harbor. John grew up in Illinois on a farm. He often tells us that the work of ministry (and in my opinion, church planting specifically) is similar to farming. He says sometimes the work we’ve been called to do is to plow and pursue. We plow in the fields God has given us, planting and watering, all the while eagerly pursuing the will of God and waiting to see him give the growth.

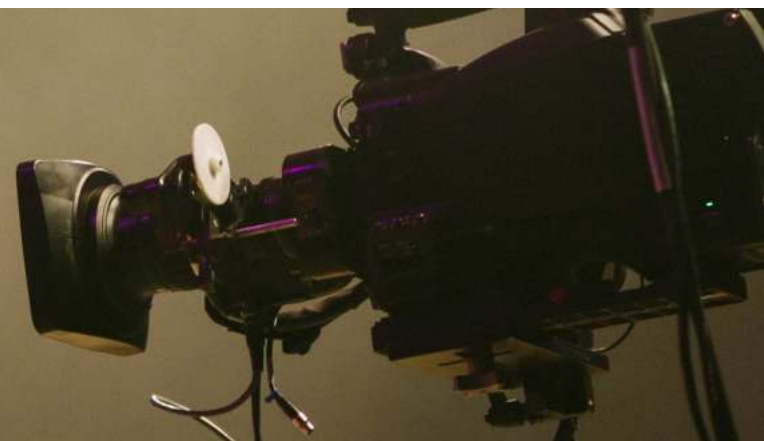
Church planting, I am finding, requires faithfulness in the little things—in the ordinary. But I am also finding faithfulness in the ordinary brings joy and fulfillment in our work. Because while we have been called to be faithful in the ordinary, God’s faithfulness to build his church is anything but ordinary. In addition to the big displays of God’s greatness, it’s within the small, sometimes unattractive and difficult, uneventful times that God is working in extraordinary ways as well.

When we started planting we did have a somewhat big vision for Grace Harbor Church. But thankfully God has graciously course-corrected us in that vision while sustaining us in our slow growth over the past five years. For some the sixth year of a church plant is when the vision you began with is coming into full bloom, but in some ways for us we believe God is giving us a new and fresh vision for Grace Harbor Church—one that he has cultivated and faithfully grown within us and the people here at Grace Harbor.

It’s because of God’s grace, faithfulness and never-ceasing love for us that I am so very thankful to be doing the work of church planting, pastoring, and ministering here in Oklahoma City . . . even in the ordinary.



Lifeword<sup>®</sup>  
NEWS



# Overcoming Opposition in Myanmar

BY: Heather Harrison  
Lifeword  
lifeword.org

**D**espite extreme hardships and uncertainty in Myanmar, God has been faithful to Lifeword's global partner, Rama, in his efforts to share Jesus Christ. The military in Myanmar, since staging a coup in 2021, has carried out a brutal nationwide crackdown. This has made sharing the gospel message difficult, and many believers have been killed. Most forms of communication are tapped and commandeered by the military, but Rama and his team are able to send and receive Lifeword programming to a playout center in Singapore to beam the programming back into Myanmar. Even though they are not free to gather and worship, they are still meeting in small numbers, leading Bible studies in nearby villages, sharing gospel tracts, and visiting people house-to-house. In the midst of such opposition, there are still many who are being baptized and disciplined.

Rama continues to share the message of Christ through YouTube, Facebook, and the radio. He has heard from several who, after listening to his messages, have repented of sin, idolatry, and false beliefs. As Rama has been faithful to the call to minister to these people in spite of such opposition, God has also been faithful to his work and to show Rama some of the impact his efforts are having on the people.

Allow us to share some of that fruit with you:

One man from the Yangon Division called Rama and said he's been caught in a cycle of drinking and disconnection from believers. He listened to their radio program, felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and asked for prayers that he could change, telling Rama, "Your radio program is a blessing." Another man from the North, who had been listening to the radio program for several years, came to the mission church for worship for months, declaring his faith in Jesus Christ and rejecting all other gods. He passed away shortly after his conversion. Rama praises God that this man's eternity is forever changed.

One man, clearly caught in sin, reached out to Rama after hearing his message on Facebook about the thief on the cross. "If I repent before I die like the man on the cross, will God forgive me?" he asked. They continued discussing forgiveness and how life is unexpected. Another man who was also listening to Rama's messages on Facebook came to faith in Christ and contacted Rama to say thank you. They were even able to talk over the telephone. Two other men contacted Rama through Facebook asking how to be saved and came to know Christ as their Savior. One woman messaged Rama through Facebook saying that she had been doubting her salvation, but after hearing his message she gained assurance of her salvation and felt such peace.

As you can see, Rama and his team are living through unimaginable difficulty, but the message of Christ is still growing and changing lives. This is just some of the fruit of Rama's partnership with the faithful God who called him. We are grateful for your partnership with Lifeword which enables missionaries like Rama to proclaim Jesus Christ to a broken world.

