

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 2024

www.ms baptist.org

Volume 78 No. 4

BMA of America Coordinating Council Report

April 16th, 2024

The BMAA Coordinating Council is recommending the following changes to our Statement of Principles of Cooperation. These changes are in response to the mandate given to the Coordinating Council in the 2021 annual meeting to “determine a more efficient and effective plan to carry out the annual meetings of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.” These changes will create more flexibility for the annual meeting schedule, allow the nominating committee to present nominees for all committee and board positions, and eliminate the annual call for department and agency directors.

We also recommend the BMA America Financial services, per their request, return back to a nine-member board of directors. This will help reduce operating expenses, while still maintaining enough safety to have a “multitude of counselors” oversight.

Then, we recommend the Coordinating Council provide an orientation annually for the chairman of our boards and agencies. The orientation will be led by the Coordinating Council chairman and Executive director of the BMA America Financial services to provide resources, information and training.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Richard W. Smith

Chairman of the Coordinating Council

Recommended Changes to the

Statement of Principles of Cooperation
Strikethroughs indicate removal of current wording. Bold indicates recommended changes in wording.

Article VII-Officers

Section 3

B. Department of Lifeword Media Ministries: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect an executive director of Lifeword Media Ministries . . .

C. Department of Missions: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect a president of missions . . .

Continued on page 7

Presidential Search Committee

The Southeastern Baptist College Board of Trustees has organized a Presidential Search Committee. If you know of a person/s interested, have them contact Brother Glen Pace, Chairman of the Board, at 601-520-5376 or mrpmg@yahoo.com.

Missionaries Announce Changes in Ministry

from Cris, Alicia, Benjamin, Asher,
and Judah Samson

Editor’s Note: Alicia and her family are well known to Mississippi Baptists. Her home church is Goodhope, Columbia. Our people are supportive of the Samson family and their ministry. We keep them in our prayers as they seek the Lord’s direction.

2023 was a great year! A lot of things happened. A lot of changes came our way. Sometimes change can be an unwelcome and unpleasant experience, but for us, this has proven to be a pleasant one.

We first arrived back in the Philippines in May of 2023. We knew what we would be doing once we returned, but we didn’t know exactly what it looked like and from where our work would primarily be done. Before leaving the Philippines in 2022 to return to the U.S. for a complicated pregnancy and the birth of our 3rd son, we had begun working with a pioneering church plant in the city of San Carlos in the northeastern corner of the Negros Island. We had looked for housing in this area on multiple occasions and could not find anything available except for small one room apartments. We knew this wouldn’t work for our family so we had settled on the idea of living in one city and driving to San Carlos as often as possible until, Lord willing, we could find proper housing for our family.

Although we were committed to this idea, it did not work nearly as well as we thought it would. It turned out that Cris would often travel alone while the boys and I stayed behind for them to attend school. The drive was 2 ½ hours one way and weather conditions, at times, would not allow Cris to travel by motorbike on the

days that he was scheduled to travel. Before long, we began carrying a heavy burden regarding our ministry and the work that we longed to be a part of.

In our absence, Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo were living on the field and continuing to spearhead the work, but for us, we longed for more. We decided to look for housing once again. To our surprise, we began finding multiple places available. We were in shock! As of October 2023, we have been living in San Carlos City and it could not feel more like home.

It didn’t take long for our life in San Carlos to settle into a routine. The boys began attending their new school while Pastor Cris, Pastor Sander, and Pastor Romeo began meeting together twice a week for discipleship training and prayer meeting; Bible studies were scheduled in 2 different villages on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; and children’s outreach programs were being conducted in 3 villages on Saturdays.

Then came the holiday season. The Christmas season was a very special time. Little did we know that a new ministry would soon fall into our laps.

At the start of December, we began having many visitors at our gate in the evening time. Groups of kids, teens, adults, or a combination of different age groups would walk the streets of the neighborhood stopping at each gate to sing Christmas

carols. They were not singing for the mere pleasure of singing and blessing our hearts, but instead, they were singing in hopes of receiving a generous monetary reward. At first, I couldn’t help but feel that this was going to get annoying after a while, but then

the Lord softened my heart. I shared with the Cris the possibility of allowing the carolers to sing for us and us giving them a “small” monetary donation if they were willing to allow us to share the Gospel with them in return. Of course, he was more than willing to do so, and we could never have imagined what this was going to turn into.

Every night for the next month, at least 3-5 groups of people would visit our home. We greeted them and welcomed them, letting them know that we would be happy for them to sing for us. Before allowing them to sing, we always informed them that we would like to share the Gospel with them in return. Not one group rejected our offer. We do not know the full effect of our time spent with Christmas carolers, but we do know that many people heard the Gospel message of Jesus’s saving grace. We also know that between 15 and 20 people publicly expressed receiving Christ as their Savior because of our time spent sharing with them.

Continued on page 10



Seminary President to Retire

Dr. Charley Holmes has indicated he will retire at the end of the 2024 academic year. A statement from Holmes is as follows “ I hereby submit my resignation effective at the end of the Spring 2024 graduation ceremonies on May 11, 2024.”

The board of trustees have indicated they will elect a search committee at their April 16th meeting during the annual BMA of America meeting. More information will be shared in our next issue.



Dr. Holmes

2023 Annual Yearbook Disbursement Information

from Sam Oglesby, Clerk & Ted Quinby, Asst. Clerk

The 2023 Annual Yearbook for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will be made available at the registration table at the mid-year BMA State meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday May 21, 2024, at Southeastern Baptist College and again at the annual BMA State meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday October 22, 2024, at Campground Baptist Church.

Copies will be mailed out to any church that contacts the State Clerk, Sam Oglesby, by email at pastor_1@comcast.net or State Assistant Clerk, Ted Quinby by email at ted.quinby@bmats.edu and requests a mailed copy. A current and correct mailing address must be provided. Or an email address may be provided, and we will be glad to forward a digital copy.

While we desire to make the availability of these as easy as possible for all churches desiring to acquire copies, we must also be good stewards of the resources God has given us to work with. Considering that, we are no longer blanket mailing out copies to every church as in the past. The cost of postage, envelopes, address labels and printing now nearing \$1,000 and steadily going up. A large number of these are being returned to the post office as undeliverable with return postage due. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this manner.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman
Danny Bartlett - Pat Davis
Corbey Jones - Joseph Bain

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960

P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000
Phone 601-426-3293

Price

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
Church Plan - \$ 1.50 Per Month per Family

Published monthly by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Postmaster

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

Special Emphasis Update

Wow! Just Wow! What a gracious people you are for helping this work go over its 2024 Special Emphasis goal. The Lord always provides what is needed. Through the years you have been consistent in letting the Lord use you to bless this work. It is humbling to receive the offerings you have sent in. They are an important part of our support needs.

Below is an update of our 2024 Special Emphasis receipts. We appreciate each and every gift to this department. I need to apologize to Forked Oak Church near Booneville. They have faithfully supported this ministry and we left them out of our earlier list. If anyone who gave is not listed or if there is an error in this list please let me know. We want to make sure that each gift is acknowledged.

Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Ballardsville Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$200.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise	\$400.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$165.00
Big Oak Baptist Church, Fulton	\$100.00
Buffalo Baptist Church, Mclain	\$300.00
Central Baptist Church, Southaven	\$550.00
Anonymous	\$500.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland	\$500.00
Day Star Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$601.25
Divine Grace Baptist Mission, Long Beach	\$158.28
Donald Phillips, Rolling Fork	\$1,000.00
First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel	\$350.00
Forked Oak Baptist Church, Booneville	\$500.00
Frank Panzrino, Tupelo	\$100.00
Good Hope Baptist Church, Overt	\$500.00
Good Hope Baptist Church, Moss	\$100.00
Just The Crumbs, Sumrall	\$300.00
Larry Henderson, Lucedale	\$100.00
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$150.00
Magnolia Heights Baptist Church, Forest	\$80.00
Melba Dunn, Carriere	\$50.00
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$50.00
New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary	\$75.00
Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	\$250.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis	\$87.45
Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel	\$100.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union	\$200.00
Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$25.00
Rowland Mills Baptist Church, Burnsville	\$100.00
Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive	\$1000.00
Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel	\$56.50
Tombigbee Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$1000.00
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$164.00
Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$275.00
Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$200.00
Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pascagoula	\$100.00
Total	\$10,537.48

Vicksburg Church Seeking Pastor

Oakland Baptist Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi is searching for a fulltime pastor. Those wishing to inquire about the church and this position are asked to contact Wendell Moore at 601-218-1792.

Part Time Children's Ministry Director Sought

Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall is seeking a part-time director of our children's ministry. Below is information from the church.

Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

A Great South Senior Adult Meeting

Over 200 Senior Saints gathered at Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso, Mississippi, on March 5th. Despite the possibility of really bad weather, those senior saints braved the looming storms to worship and fellowship.

We actually had a thundering rain storm, but that was during the message by Bro. Buddy Johnson (and it did not slow him down or impede our worship).

The senior adults enjoyed worship in song led by Bro. Brandon Wilson, the giving out and receiving some great door prizes, some special recognitions of our oldest saints - both the hims and the hers!

Another great lunch was served by Mack's FishHouse. There seem to be something about older folks and Catfish with all the trimmings!

Our afternoon service was highlighted by the drawing for our Grand Prize (just good ole cash) and a great gospel concert by the group New Ground.

Our speaker for the day, Bro. Buddy Johnson, presented us with the need to help our first mission church in the country of Chile acquire their own worship facility. They are currently having to rent where they can when they can. Our folks gave a total of \$2,188.10. What a love our people have for missions and the work of the Lord and our BMA Association.

A challenge to our senior adults was made encouraging them to adopt a personal mission project, either locally or

with a particular ministry that is either locally or world-wide. An easy example of a personal project was presented by Mrs. Barbara White. She holds a "widows luncheon" each year around Valentines Day for those ladies who have lost their valentine. She emphasized the need to minister to those to whom you can be a special blessing.

What a blessing it is to work with our senior adults and see their love for the Lord and His work.

North Senior Adult Conference Set

The 2024 North Conference is set. We will meet at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church near Fulton on May 14, 2024. Pastor Tim Holsonback and the good folks of Mt. Pleasant Church are always gracious hosts. Bro. Donny Parrish of LifeWord Ministries will be our speaker and he will present us with a missions challenge. We urge our churches and senior to come with a great love offering for this project.

The church will prepare the noon meal of catfish and all the trimmings. There will again be door prizes, preaching, music, food, fun, and great fellowship. Our afternoon concert will be by the group Avenue. They were the featured group at our South conference last year and they blessed our hearts.

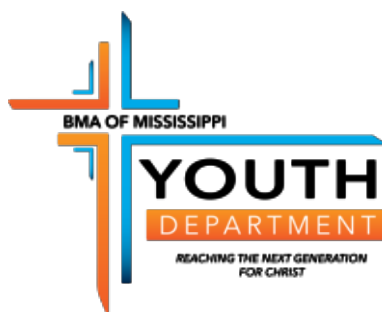
We will have a great day and encourage all of our senior adults to attend. Invite your friends and neighbors and encourage all those in your church to attend. These meetings are always a great blessing. I look forward to seeing each of you there.



Don Brown
Director

A great day of worship, preaching, singing, prizes, and recognition. What a grand ole time senior adults can have!





ANDERS LEE

ANDERS LEE - DIRECTOR - 901-343-3293 - ANDERS.LEE571@GMAIL.COM - bmamsyouth.org

THE RALLIES PRIMED US FOR CAMP

This past month we had two youth rallies in the North & South. In the South we had 168 in attendance, in the North we had 115 in attendance and one young man got SAVED! Pray for Imlay Johnson as he begins his new walk with Christ! We had over 210 teens at both events! That's what we exist to do, reach teens for Christ!

I want to thank Magnolia in Hattiesburg and Mt Pleasant in Fulton for rolling out the red carpet and serving all that came! WOW! Their people served all the teens like they



were their very own! THANK YOU to both churches!!! They did an amazing job hosting! To top off serving, both churches



PAID for the meals! They did this of their own accord, and it saved us money! That's incredible and much appreciated!!!

A huge shout out to Allan Carson and the praise team from Midway First Baptist. They did a great job leading our teens in worship at the South rally! Man, those folks can sing & play! I also appreciate Bro. Jacob & Mt Pleasant for lining up Bro. David to lead worship at the North rally!

Both rallies seemed to prime everyone for the upcoming teen camp this summer! It was great to see so many who came to camp last year and since the rallies some are planning to come to camp now! Everyone is getting pumped for camp, including me!!!

CAMP IS DRAWING NEAR - DEADLINES SOON!!!

In just three short months, Kids Camp will be over with, and Teen Camp will be fast approaching! Yes, you read that right. It seems we just got done with RENEW and BOOM... camp is almost here! Visit our website for all the information and to register your group! www.bmamsyouth.org

DEALINES are coming! The deadline to register for **Kids Camp is May 15, 2024**. Remember, only 200 can attend this camp. At this writing we have over 120 registered, so register quickly if you are going! The deadline to register for **Teen Camp is May**

30, 2024. Currently we are nearing 280 registered for this camp.

You must pay a registration fee when you register for either camp! If you need information don't hesitate to contact me.

LATRELLE WINDHAM SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPDATE

My thanks to everyone who has already sent in offerings for the special emphasis! Individuals, churches & associations have been participating. At the time of writing this article we have a little more than **\$8,300 in hand**. This is wonderful, no doubt. Some have told me the check is in the mail. So, we know we have more coming in. Our goal is \$30,000!

One may think that is too lofty, but the goal is necessary to help us with the two major camps this summer. We have done all we can to keep costs lower for parents sending kids & teens to camp. This economy is killing the wallets of families. It is also raising prices at the two camps we are using. It's a double-edged sword. So, if



you have been praying about giving to this special emphasis and haven't done so yet, give as you are led and blessed to do so!

You can give by going to our website (www.bmamsyouth.org) and clicking the donate button. Giving this way will put the money directly into the youth department's account. You can also give by sending the offering to Mrs. Brandy Riley, 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel MS 39443. Again, we thank you for investing in the future of the BMA of Mississippi by helping with our camps!

JOIN THE "SAY IT" CLUB

As I go all over the state, I literally have folks SAY to me how much they love our kids & teens in the BMA of Mississippi. I know they mean that and that's a blessing!

Now you can do more than just say that ... you can "SAY IT" by joining the "SAY IT" Club. S.A.Y. stands for "Sponsor A Youth!" Give \$50 per youth or kid to the department to help cover the overall camp costs. You can sponsor 1, 2, 5 or more as you are led. How to sign up?

1. Email me, Director Anders Lee, at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com.
2. Send your name, address & cell number.
3. Mail your sponsoring gift to Mrs. Brandy Riley, Financial Secretary, 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel MS 39443.
4. Indicated which you want to sponsor, a kid for Kids camp or a teen for Teen Camp.

This is more than just a financial gift. We will match you with a kid or teen and you will be able to write to them or text them spiritual encouragement as they go to camp and then throughout the year! You will be investing in & mentoring them!

Yes... we all, me included, say we love our BMA kids and teens, and we do...



If You Say it...THEN SAY IT!

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

Dr. Gerald Kellar's Book of Sermons Now Released on Amazon

Dr. Gerald Kellar's book of sermons *In His Service* has been released on Amazon by his daughter, Jerrie Sue, and his son-in-law Tony Cleaver. The book is available as an eBook or paperback.

This book of sermons by Dr. Gerald Kellar is packed with 140 of his all-time best sermons that he preached all over the world and in hundreds of revivals across the United States. *In His Service* is a busy preacher's source book. What a great gift for your pastor! It is a devotional starting place for any Christian worker. Turn page after page to read positive Bible outlines of sermon topics from the Scriptures.

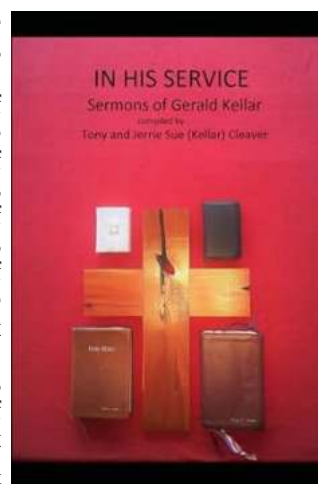
Gerald Kellar was not only the father of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, but was also the prince of preachers among his brethren. He left a legacy of sermon outlines in his first book *In the Midst of the Years* (1953). He later followed that with another, *Pulpit Treasures* (1978). After his death in 2001 his daughter and son-in-law found a shoebox full of written sermon notes. Some were simple outlines; some were almost full manuscripts.

This book *In His Service* contains outlines and sermons from these three sources: *In the Midst of the Years*, *Pulpit*

Treasures, and of course the shoebox. Each sermon is identified as to its source. They are arranged in order of the primary passage of the sermon text with the order of the English Bible. There is also an index at the end of the book. Dr. Kellar always acknowledged the ideas of some of his sermons were not original with him but came from many sources.

This book coincides with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of which Dr. Kellar was the inaugural president. He provided the guiding vision of what is now a world-class seminary with a world-class faculty serving not only his denomination but also the world in its ministry.

The title is taken from Gerald Kellar's signature line with which he always signed his correspondence.



You asked and we listened!

BMA Global is excited to offer you the 2024 Profile and Prayer Guide, a 68-page booklet that features our international missionaries, American church planters, regional coordinators, ChangeMakers, locations, photos, ministry descriptions, praises, and prayer requests . . . all this available for purchase on the BMA Global website for \$5 (includes shipping).

On the banner of the home page, select the picture that takes you to a page where you can download a digital copy for free or order copies of the booklet. We hope this is a beneficial tool for you and your church, plus your personal prayer time, as you support God's global mission.

Visit bmaglobal.org to order your physical copies or download the free digital version. If you have questions, contact Sidney Vines, Relationship Coordinator, at sidney@bmaglobal.org or 870-826-7757.





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

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

We were recently blessed by a significant donation to Southeastern Baptist College from the estate of Bobby and Dovie Thornton. This was the second of three tranches of their estate which are provided to the school for the purpose of helping future students with their tuition. In addition, we were notified that another estate has named SBC as the recipient of a sizable donation to be received in the near future. What a great blessing for our students and also for the financial stability of the college. For those reading this article, I ask that you pray regarding your estate plans and include SBC in your will. This is a great way to ensure your college remains financially viable as a conservative Christian Bible college.

So many Christian colleges have closed in recent years due to the economy and loss of students. SBC, however, is blessed with a proven growth pattern. You can help your college continue to grow and become an even greater Christian influence upon America and beyond as we raise up students who are grounded in the Word of God and dedicated to reaching the world for Christ!

At SBC we believe that every student is a witness for the Lord whether they are in a ministry degree path or earning a business degree. Each of our students will graduate from your institution with a solid Christian World View to apply to their future



Dr. Scott Carson
President

employment. When we are asked how many are ministerial students, we are quick to reply that they all are! Every one of SBC's graduates earn a minimum of a minor in Bible. There are very few Christian colleges that can claim this achievement and Southeastern continues to lead the way forward in well grounded, Bible educated alumni.

As we approach mid-April, the staff becomes extremely busy with our outreach ministries. Please take note of the adjacent flyers and announcements regarding these exciting events. Here is a listing of the many programs you can be part of while supporting the college:

The Annual Southeastern Gospel Fest, April 19-20

The Annual Laurel Area National Day of Prayer Breakfast, May 2

The Annual SBC Sports Banquet, May 2

Graduation, May 10

The Mid-year BMA of Mississippi meeting, May 21

The Alumni, Donors, & Friends of the College Dinner, May 21

The Annual SBC Scholarship Golf Tournament, May 23

Summer Semester Begins, May 28

As you can imagine, the workload is very demanding just for one of these programs, but with them being back-to-back projects, our dedicate and very talented staff are able to make amazing things happen despite the amount of work. SBC is blessed to have such a great group of employees who not only meet each challenge with excellence, but with a wonderful and positive disposition! I pray I will see you at many of these very special events!

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Scott R. Carson

THE RALLIES PRIMED US FOR CAMP

This past month we had two youth rallies in the North & South. In the South we had 168 in attendance, in the North we had 115 in attendance and one young man got SAVED! Pray for Imlay Johnson as he begins his new walk with Christ! We had over 210 teens at both events! That's what we exist to do, reach teens for Christ!

I want to thank Magnolia in Hattiesburg and Mt Pleasant in Fulton for rolling out the red carpet and serving all that came! WOW! Their people served all the teens like they were their very own! THANK YOU to both churches!!! They did an amazing job hosting! To top off serving, both churches PAID for the meals! They did this of their own accord, and it saved us money! That's incredible and much appreciated!!!

A huge shout out to Allan Carson and the praise team from Midway First Baptist. They did a great job leading our teens in worship at the South rally! Man, those folks can sing & play! I also appreciate Bro. Jacob & Mt Pleasant for lining up Bro. David to lead worship at the North rally!

Both rallies seemed to prime everyone for the upcoming teen camp this summer! It was great to see so many who came to camp last year and since the rallies some are planning to come to camp now! Everyone is getting pumped for camp, including me!!!

CAMP IS DRAWING NEAR – DEADLINES SOON!!!

In just three short months, Kids Camp will be over with, and Teen Camp will be fast approaching! Yes, you read that right. It seems we just got done with RENEW and BOOM... camp is almost here! Visit our website for all the information and to register your group! www.bmamsyouth.org

DEALINES are coming! The deadline to register for **Kids Camp is May 15, 2024**. Remember, only 200 can attend this camp. At this writing we have over 120 registered, so register quickly if you are going! The

deadline to register for **Teen Camp is May 30, 2024**. Currently we are nearing 280 registered for this camp.

You must pay a registration fee when you register for either camp! If you need information don't hesitate to contact me.

JOIN THE "SAY IT" CLUB

As I go all over the state, I literally have folks SAY to me how much they love our kids & teens in the BMA of Mississippi. I know they mean that and that's a blessing!

Now you can do more than just say that ... you can "SAY IT" by joining the "SAY IT" Club. S.A.Y. stands for "Sponsor A Youth!" Give \$50 per youth or kid to the department to help cover the overall camp costs. You can sponsor 1, 2, 5 or more as you are led.

How to sign up?

1. Email me, Director Anders Lee, at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com.

2. Send your name, address & cell number.

3. Mail your sponsoring gift to Mrs. Brandy Riley, Financial Secretary, 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel MS 39443.

4. Indicated which you want to sponsor, a kid for Kids camp or a teen for Teen Camp.

This is more than just a financial gift. We will match you with a kid or teen and you will be able to write to them or text them spiritual encouragement as they go to camp and then throughout the year! You will be investing in & mentoring them!

Yes... we all, me included, say we love our BMA kids and teens, and we do... now we can "SAY IT!" Join others who are already committed to investing in our kids!

LATRELLE WINDHAM SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPDATE

My thanks to everyone who has already sent in offerings for the special emphasis! Individuals, churches & associations have been participating. At the time of writing this article we have a little more than **\$8,300 in hand**. This is wonderful, no doubt. Some have told me the check is in the mail. So, we

Southeastern Chargers Athletic Highlights



Kylee Madden Commits to SBC



Long Time BMA Employee Retires

Southeastern Baptist College hosted a retirement luncheon this week to honor Mrs. Sandy Tidwell. With 15 years of service in the Missions Office and 23 years at Southeastern, her dedication is truly appreciated. SBC will always cherish her unwavering commitment and love. Mrs. Sandy's bright smile will be greatly missed! Wishing you all the best in your retirement!

Editor's Note: Bonnie and I have known Sandy Tidwell for more years than we care to acknowledge. Meeting her first when she worked at the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department and then as she moved to Southeastern College. Sandy always greeted others with a smile and a willingness to help and serve. She has been a loyal employee, worker, and dedicated Christian lady. May the Lord continue to bless her as she moves on to other life adventures.



Sandy Tidwell on left and with her family on the right



Below - SBC faculty and staff celebrate Sandy's service



SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

EMCEE: **JOSH FRANKS**

PRESENTED BY Southeastern Baptist College

APRIL 19th & 20th, 2024

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH CONCERT STARTS AT 6 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

BIBLETONES

JEFF & SHERI EASTER

JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS

KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER

DOWN EAST BOYS

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH CONCERT STARTS AT 5 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM

BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

MICHAEL COMBS

GREATER VISION

INSPIRATIONS

MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR | \$25 NIGHTLY

YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS ON THE WEBSITE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
607 WEST 5TH STREET
LAUREL, MS 39440

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
601-426-6346
WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 2, 2024 7:30AM
SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
BREAKFAST PROVIDED

SPEAKER:
DR. CARY KIMBRELL
PASTOR OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

RSVP BY TEXT TO 601.428.4462 BY APRIL 26

LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD



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

What's in a Name?

Words are fascinating to me, but I can't tell you why. I'm wondering if my interest comes from my love of reading, which exposes me to an average of about 80,000 words per book. With most of my reading done on electronic books, I appreciate the ready access to dictionaries that define unfamiliar words for me. Even the ease of checking definitions, taking notes, pronouncing words, and using other tools makes my electronic bible appealing—or maybe it's the ability to increase the size of the print.



Carolyn Hagler

I even enjoy word games on the computer; my favorite one is Words with Friends, which I play with relatives and friends. My competitive nature makes it hard to accept losing constantly to a certain niece; I tell myself that she has found a way to cheat—which makes me feel better even though it's not true.

but jailer and prisoner are antonyms" (Merrill Perlman, *Our Funny Language*).

And then try reading, "The bandage was wound around the wound."

Don't get me started on electronic devices that check your writing. I know some of you have sent messages that were not what you intended; sometimes you have even sent inappropriate words through the unwanted help of your "smart" device. I'm sure you'd rather see a nonsensical message like the following:

"Eye have a spelling checker

It came with my pea sea

It plainly marques for my revue

Miss steaks eye kin knot sea"

(Anonymous, *Ode to the Spell Checker*).

Our peculiar language results in a lot of mistakes speaking and writing. That's why I constantly look for errors or a better way to express an idea, and I've got to admit that I step on my last nerve sometimes. You also might be sorry if you ask me to proofread your writing unless you want lots of suggestions.

I find it interesting, too, that we use unusual names for groups of things and people. You probably haven't wondered about it, but did you know that a group of crows is called a murder? Or a group of widows is called an ambush? While a group

"I've always thought how special it was for God to change Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Isaac, among others. But names meant something in the Bible. I wish more people would remember the importance of names when they name their children."

My interest in words could be because of the difficulty of our English language and our "murdering the King's English" often, both in writing and speaking. Even royalty has a problem sometimes. The former Prince Harry said, "The decision that I have made for my wife and I to step back is not one I made lightly" (Howard Fenci, Hennes Communications). Do you know what his error was?

A poem I love helps us to see some of the difficulties of our language and the humor in our blunders:

*"We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, and two are called
geese,
Yet the plural of moose is never called
meese.*

*We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say
methren.*

*Then the masculine pronouns are he, his,
and him;*

*But imagine the feminine...she, shis, and
shim"*

(Anonymous).

English is also full of contradictions: "English is the only language where you drive in parkways and park in driveways. It's also the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital. The word queue is just a Q followed by four silent letters. And jail and prison are synonyms,

of apes is called a shrewdness, a group of baboons is a troop.

But doesn't it make life interesting?

Even the strange names of towns can give you pause for thought or even a chuckle. In Mississippi, we find towns named Whynot and Red Lick. And people in Texas named one town Cut and Shoot and another one, Uncertain. And Louisiana has a town named Waterproof. Don't you love it? And on every trip to Branson, Missouri, we drove through a town in Louisiana named Transylvania, with its own bat water tower.



I'd like to sit down with those people and learn more about their selection of names. But I'd also like to talk to Adam about his naming of the cattle, fowl of the air, and every beast of the field (Genesis 2:20).

I don't know exactly the task that Adam faced, but it makes me wonder what you and I would have done. I don't really care how many he named or how long it took him, but I find it awesome that God formed them and brought them to Adam to name.



William Shakespeare would say, "What's in a name?" (*Romeo and Juliet*). But I know that names must be important to God because He gave new names to some of our biblical characters. I've always thought how special it was for God to change Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Isaac, among others. But names meant something in the Bible. I wish more people would remember the importance of names when they name their children.

While we're told that a good name "is rather to be chosen than great riches" (Proverb 22:1) and "is better than precious ointment" (Ecclesiastes 7:1), we know that goes deeper than just the name. But I like to think that a good name starts a person on the right path and is a reminder of character.



I'm thankful that I'm still known as a McKey because it reminds me of my daddy, who was a man of character. I never wanted to disappoint him while he lived, and I certainly want to exhibit the traits he passed on to me and my sisters. Sister No. 1 and I still nudge each other often about his expectations of us.

My sisters and I were named by Daddy, but some special people were named by

God Himself--none so special, though, as that baby, the Son of God, born to Mary. While He's known by many names, "There's just something about that name. Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain...Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name" (Bill and Gloria Gaither, 1970, *There's Something about That Name*).

We just have to cherish the precious name of Jesus because "no other name can save or heal; no other name can cleanse and feel...No other name but Jesus (Lanny Wolfe, 1974, *Cherish That Name*). One thing I know is that His very name can separate believers from the lost or the pseudo Christians. I know people who say they "believe" in God and even call themselves Christian, but just ask them about Jesus. It's true that "the devil still hates it [the name of Jesus]; the world still opposes it" (Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Names of Jesus*).

Other names, too, stir up special images in my mind. What about you? Just hearing the words mother, father, and veteran provokes warm thoughts. I think of the hospitality and generosity of my mother, the love and protection of my father, and the pride and unselfishness of many of the veterans I've known.

So, names (proper and common) are important to all of us. But the most important thing to me is that the One who made the stars calls me by name. He knows me better than anyone else; yet He loves me more than anyone else ever has. I don't



understand what Jesus meant when He said He'll give those that overcome a white stone with a new name written in it (Revelation 2:17), but I'm looking forward to that day. Until then, I'll answer to the name, Follower of Jesus, knowing I'm in His grip.

Come and Dine!

You are cordially invited to join us for dinner at the BMA of America National meeting. Dr. Charley Holmes will reflect on 25 years as president of BMA Seminary.



When: Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Where: Heidelberg/St. Moritz rooms - Chateau on the Lake
Cost: \$40/person - Contact Keri Southern to order tickets at 800-259-5673 or president@bmats.edu. Seating is limited.
Deadline to order tickets: April 5, 2024



Coordinating Council

From page 1

D. Baptist Publishing House: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect an executive director of the Baptist Publishing House . . .

E. BMA America Financial Services Agency: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect an executive director of BMA America Financial Services . . .

F. Moral Action Agency: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect an Executive Director of the Moral Action Agency . . .

G. Daniel Springs Baptist Camp: Annually, When necessary, this association shall elect a Camp Director of the Daniel Springs Baptist Camp . . .

Section 4
All presiding, clerical, department, and agency officers are elected by nomination and standing vote unless otherwise stated in this Statement of Principles of Cooperation. The election of presiding and clerical officers shall be during the fifth finally scheduled business session of the annual messenger meeting. Department and agency officers making annual reports shall be elected immediately after their reports have been made to, and received by, the messenger body. When necessary, department and agency officers shall be nominated and voted upon immediately after the applicable department or agency's report has

been made and received by the messenger body.

Article VIII Coordinating Council Section 1. The Coordinating Council shall consist of seven (7) members: the three (3) presiding officers, the immediate past president and three (3) elected from the floor on a staggered basis for three (3)-year terms and may succeed themselves one (1) time. The immediate past president shall serve as chairman. Four (4) members of the Coordinating Council shall constitute a quorum.

Article XX-Nominating Committee

Section 1 This association shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of seven (7) members, four (4) of whom shall constitute a quorum. In annual session, the association president and vice-presidents shall present nominees for the nominating committee, giving due consideration to representation from various regions of the association. In annual session, presiding officers must also make allowance for nominations to be received from the floor.

Section 2
A. To present to the association as nominees the names of persons to serve on all other standing committees (except the Missions Advisory Committee), boards of trustees, the Coordinating Council, as clerical officers, and on any other committees . . ."

Article XXI-Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the messengers of the churches shall convene on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following the

third (3rd) Sunday of April, at such place as the messengers may choose two (2) years in advance. The date and/or location of the meeting may be adjusted, if necessary, by vote of the messengers at least one (1) year in advance.

Section 2. There will be six (6) sessions of the association. The initial session will convene Monday evening at 7:00 and is to be a worship service planned by the presiding officers. Included in this session will be the president's message and introduction of the theme. The second session will begin on Tuesday afternoon at 3:00. The third session will begin at 7:00 Tuesday evening and will include a worship service with the annual message. Business may be conducted at the discretion of the president. The fourth session will

begin Wednesday morning at 8:30, and the fifth session will start Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. The sixth session will start Wednesday evening and will include the Missions Department report.

The association will include a minimum of three business sessions. The first session will include opportunities for general business and presentation of proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and/or Doctrinal Statement.

The second session will focus upon department and agency reports, including the election of directors. The third session will be available to address continuing or pending business if necessary.

Article XIV BMA America Financial Services

Section 1. This association shall elect a BMA America Financial Services board of trustees consisting of fifteen (15) members, nine (9) nine (9) members, five (5) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII - Coordinating Council

Section 3. The duties of the council:

E. Provide an annual chairman orientation for the chairman of departments and agencies at the annual BMAA meeting for resources, information, and training. The orientation will be led by the Coordinating council chairman and the Executive director of the BMA America Financial Services.

BMA OF AMERICA CHAPLAINCY

In coordination with BMA Missions, the Chaplaincy endorses and cares for chaplains, both civilian and military, as they carry the Gospel

Dr. Scott Carson, Director

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

601-426-6346 - Email - scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

For God and Country: Serving Through BMA Chaplaincy

by Chaplaincy Director
Dr. Scott Carson

As Director of the BMAA Chaplaincy Department, I want to thank you for your faithful support of this important ministry work. As endorsing agent, I am responsible for approving our ministers of chaplain programs in industry, institutional, or military settings with many chaplains in each area. The chaplaincy is a unique field of divinely called and dedicated workers charged with the spiritual care of the church and the unchurched. The following is a sampling of those endorsed chaplains and the great work that they perform:

Stephen Willis, re-endorsed into Texas prison system



Dr. Scott Carson

Ryan Burchett, Texas State Guard border mission

Anthony Kennedy, Arkansas National Guard chaplain candidate
Chaplain Chris Grizzle, Family Life Chaplain, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

Captain David Cline, U.S. Navy senior chaplain at Parris Island, SC

Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Guthrie retired, U.S. Army.

Matthew Dean, Navy Reserve and Veterans Administration, Biloxi, MS

All of our chaplains are dedicated to serving the Lord in these agencies while faithfully representing BMAA churches.

The BMAA Chaplaincy Department continues to place qualified ministers into various organizations. I regularly receive inquiries as many of our ministers sense a calling from the Lord to serve Him in these unique fields of ministry. God is using BMAA ministers to bring the gospel to



those who may not otherwise have a pastor. The opportunity to bring Christ to them is supported by both the institution they serve and their endorsing department.

Ministry contributions help the chaplaincy department remain in contact with chaplains and their families, provide chaplain recruiting opportunities, represent the BMAA, and participate in senior level strategy sessions to maintain endorsements into those institutions.

Again, God bless you for your continued support of this ministry to both civilians and those who serve in the military. To support BMAA Chaplaincy, send contributions to BMA Global designated to the Chaplaincy Department, PO Box 878, Conway, AR, 72033, Memo: Chaplaincy Department...

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH

IVAN PARKER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SHADY GROVE
4514 Highway 15 N. Laurel, Ms 39443

SATURDAY APRIL 13TH
6:00 PM
Free Admission, Love offering will be received

Central Baptist College Invites applications for the following position Executive Vice President

Primary Responsibilities: Day-to-day operation of the institution, including budgetary and personnel management.

Qualifications: 1) Earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution; 2) Administrative, organizational, planning and communication skills at the executive level; and 3) Active membership in a Baptist Missionary Association church.

Deadline for Submission: May 31

To be considered for the position of Executive Vice President, interested candidates must send a cover letter, resume (including references), and a statement of faith as PDF attachments to Board Chair Kirk Shelton at pastorkirk@icloud.com. Electronic submissions only. Background check required.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
MISSIONS
OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
 Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
 Chris Yager, Director



Chris Yager

Up Coming Events

- June 8th: South Boot Camp: Revitalization Saturday
- July 27th: North Boot Camp: Revitalization Saturday
- September 22nd – 24th: South Acts 1:8 Conference
- September 25th -27th: North Acts 1:8 Conference

You don't want to miss out on these events! They are designed to be a help to you and your church. Your investment of time and resources will be well worth it!

Hindrances to Revitalization

As I speak with pastors and church leaders all over the state, there is a unanimous consensus concerning our need for revitalization within our churches. We "see" the evidence of decline happening in our churches, local associations, and state association. Numbers are dropping; participation is waning; and enthusiasm is missing. Decline is real, and revitalization is necessary.

But there is a subtle hindrance that creeps into hearts and keeps us from acting upon what we see. As a matter of fact, this hindrance convinces us to overlook and

ignore the evidence by continuing in our status quo. This hindrance is not unique to the BMA of Mississippi nor is new to our day. It is the age-old hindrance of pride!

Pride is the hindrance that gets in the way of revitalization. We see the need, but pride tells us that we are ok, in a good place, or that revitalization is for other churches not ours. It causes us to overlook our situation and continue in the status quo that is leading to decline. Pride doesn't just cause us to look at our ministry with rose colored glasses. Pride will infect us in the negative to think that revitalization won't work here; that it cannot be done. This

paralyzes us into doing nothing, and nothing will only increase the rate of decline in the church.

The reality is that two-thirds of all churches in America are in full decline. Allowing the hindrance of pride to keep us from acting upon reality would be foolish and ultimately damaging to the Lord and His church. Pastor, church leader, church member, can I implore you to set aside any pride that is hindering you or your church from seeking the Lord? Will you begin by asking the Lord to open your eyes and change your heart? Will you then agree with God that He can and desires to help your church thrive again?

Your mission's office is here to be a help to you in this process! We want help your church experience the joy of seeing God move again in your church, local association, and state association. We are here to assist you in the revitalization process just as we are here to help missionaries plant new churches. We need healthy churches so we can plant healthy missions.

As a whole, let us not allow the sin of pride to hinder us from being the churches and association that God has designed for us. I am praying for you!!

RLF Update

On our Facebook page (BMA of MS Missions and RLF), we have uploaded two "commercials" that are available for you and your church to share, like, or even show at church.

We would love for all of the BMA of Mississippi to know more about the RLF and how they can benefit from the opportunities within the fund. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us. We would be glad to answer your questions. If you would like us to come to your church to talk more about the RLF and/or the opportunities in your mission's department, we would be honored to come to you. We are excited about what God is doing in the RLF, and we want you to be a part of it!

May the Lord bless you this month,
 Bro. Chris Yager

Canaan Lanf Mission Report

By Scott Brocius

Greetings from Canaan Land Baptist Mission. Spring is just around corner! It's my favorite time of year. It's the time of year where everything rejuvenates and is in full bloom. Reminds me of Salvation, how Jesus washed all my sins away and I became a new creature. It's just something about this season that inspires me!

We at Canaan Land are looking forward to an exciting new season. We are in the process of establishing our by-laws and getting everything in order to organize as a New Testament church. We ask that you pray for us, and we strive to follow God's will for us during this time.

As always, thank you so much for your support. It means the world to us to have supporters who pray for our mission. Your prayers are being heard and answered. We are excited for our Easter service which will be at 8 am Easter morning. Weather permitting, we will be outside for our services. Please join us if you're able. Please continue to lift us in prayer.



Scott Brocius

pray for D'Artagnan's growth in his new life. As we were leaving, one of the prisoners said he was thankful that we came that night "because my friend was lost." I am grateful for this prisoner exhibiting the fruit of Christian love by being thankful for his friend being saved. When we share the gospel with the lost, we also encourage believers.

Lastly, we are thankful for a recent financial gift to our ministry that was earmarked for the purchase of bibles. With some of this gift, we were able to provide a giant print Bible to a prisoner named Micah who asked for one because it is difficult for him to read the small print of the Bible he had. Thank God for his desire to read God's Word. Please pray for Micah as he is due to be released in about five months. He is from Bay Springs and says that he would like to visit FBC Bay Springs once he is released. May God bring his church attendance to fruition that we may continue ministering to him.

Take the Step

Living Hope Baptist Mission Update
 by Sam Yager

As we have set out to be an outreach minded church, the Lord has blessed the labor of Living Hope Baptist Mission in bringing new people into connection with the church. It is incredible to watch God draw the hearts of people into greater fellowship with one another and into actions of service in His church. Watching God work in this way prompted the next step that needed to take place, which is helping these people to not just be connected to Living Hope but to be added to Living Hope.

With this goal in mind, we began preparing for a new members class that we named First Steps. In an attempt to schedule this class, we requested feedback from those expected to be a part of it. After waiting some time because schedules seemed to never work, I realized that in waiting to



Sam Yager

Jail Ministry Report
 Bro. Paul Spurlin

We are offering a praise report for three recent occurrences in the jail ministry: a prisoner called on Christ to save him, another expressed believer's love after seeing his friend pray to be saved, and someone gave to our ministry so that we might give to prisoners we serve.

On our February 16 trip to the Jones County jail, we had one pray to receive Christ. In tears at the end of the service during prayer request time, D'Artagnan exclaimed that he knew he was going to Hell. Bro. Ken Riley counseled with him as other prisoners were listening and as I was listening and praying. Then, D'Artagnan called on Jesus for salvation. Praise God and



Paul Spurlin

SPECIAL EMPHASIS
FOR APRIL AND MAY 2024:

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
MISSIONS
OF MISSISSIPPI

\$30,000 GOAL

REVITALIZE

This year's goal will greatly help in the launch and implementation our new REVITALIZE ministry that is geared toward helping you and your local church. For further information on this ministry, please visit our website: www.bmams.org.

Send all checks and donations to:
BMA of MS Missions
4226 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440

- Please note "Special Emphasis" on the memo portion of the check.



Current Supported Missions

Missions

continued from page 8

Take the Step

Living Hope Baptist Mission Update

As we have set out to be an outreach minded church, the Lord has blessed the labor of Living Hope Baptist Mission in bringing new people into connection with the church. It is incredible to watch God draw the hearts of people into greater fellowship with one another and into actions of service in His church. Watching God work in this way prompted the next step that needed to take place, which is helping these people to not just be connected to Living Hope but to be added to Living Hope.

With this goal in mind, we began preparing for a new members class that we named First Steps. In an attempt to schedule this class, we requested feedback from those expected to be a part of it. After waiting some time because schedules seemed to never work, I realized that in waiting to reach the many I might miss the opportunity

Salt Light Baptist Mission, Waveland, Mississippi

By Doyle Moore

Revival is in the air at Salt Light Baptist Mission in Waveland, Mississippi! From April 4th to April 7th, believers and seekers alike are invited to come together for a powerful and transformative revival meeting that promises to ignite the flames of faith and passion within each and every heart.

During this special time of revival, we are encouraged to examine our hearts and our lives, to seek forgiveness for our sins, and to recommit ourselves to living in a way that is pleasing to God.

As we gather in worship and praise, we are reminded of the incredible power and presence of God in our lives. Each evening, starting on Thursday, we will come together to lift our voices in song, to pray fervently for our community and our world, and to open our hearts to receive the Word of God. Our guest speaker, Brother Sam Freeman, pastor of Campground Baptist Church will preach Thursday evening April 4 through Saturday the 6th at 6:30 every night. Brother Jarrad Lee will bring the messages on Sunday morning at 11 am and after lunch in the afternoon. Come join us! You will be most welcome.



Doyle Moore

Presidential Search Committee

The Southeastern Baptist College Board of Trustees has organized a Presidential Search Committee. If you know of a person/s interested, have them contact Brother Glen Pace, Chairman of the Board, at 601-520-5376 or mrpmg@yahoo.com.

Estuardo Marroquin Hispanic Missions Coordinator

During the month of March, the Hispanic missions had important activities to continue fulfilling the commandment of our Lord Jesus to make disciples. One of these activities was the annual meeting of the Hispanic association Nueva Esperanza (New Hope). Hispanic churches and missions met on the first Saturday of the month and had their business meeting, worship time, and fellowship.



Estuardo Marroquin

At this meeting, the officers for the year 2024-2025 were elected. Pastor Leo Adan was elected as moderator, Evencia Adan as secretary, Carol Morales as assistant secretary, and Pastor Byron Morales as Treasurer. About eighty-five people from Hispanic churches participated in this meeting.

Another activity that took place during the month of March was the first GMA graduation at El Camino Church at Laurel. The church started the program in July of last year and now the first fruits of this program have been seen. El Camino Church in Laurel has a group of twenty girls and young ladies and nine of them have

graduated in the first level of the GMA program. The Church in Laurel is the first to develop the GMA program for Hispanic missions in our state of Mississippi and we pray that the other churches will be able to start this program soon. We thank everyone for your prayers and continued support to move forward with Hispanic missions.



Refuge Mission Report Bro. Josh Daniels

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi! God has been good to Refuge! We continue to work hard toward the organization of Refuge Baptist Church. As we do so we have been challenged by our Missions Department to complete our bylaws and constitution by this summer so we can continue planning the organization service. We will also continue to work with our mother church - Midway First Baptist Church and Pastor Blake McCain - as we prepare for the transferring of membership and receiving final instructions from them. As of now, we plan to host the organization service on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 3 pm. This date is special as it marks 5 years to the day that we had our first public service in the Kiln Library in 2019. We ask that you tentatively put this in your calendars and plan to come celebrate with us that day as we worship and praise the Lord for great works that HE has done.



Josh Daniels

Evangelism and discipleship continue at Refuge. This year alone, we have been able to see multiple professions of faith and baptisms. Many of these have plugged in and become regular attenders and are working towards building relationships within the family of Refuge. We have also started another round of new member classes with 14 people being a part of this.



An extra Sunday morning class has begun, and a young adult ministry is in the works. I am currently meeting with a few men and taking them through some discipleship classes with hopes that they will take others through it as well. On Tuesday evenings our ladies meet for fellowship and our men meet on Thursdays. This is becoming a favorite day of the week for those attending. We have come a long way since 2019 and continue to strive to make disciples.

Some of our activities and connections that we have been able to do lately have consisted of a hunting trip for men and young men, super bowl fellowship, new year's eve fellowship, and hosting a marriage conference. I have also had the great privilege of working at Hancock Middle School that has offered great opportunities for ministry and meeting people. We have around 7 teacher or staff families that now attend Refuge since beginning to work there and more ask about Refuge all the time. We have also seen some students begin to attend. God has also allowed me to help the school begin an FCA club where we are teaching the students to lead in reaching their campus for Jesus.

We do have a couple of main projects that we are working toward this year before the organization service. One of those is getting a church sign. We are raising funds for that and getting the details from the county on the regulations for putting in a sign. This will help visitors find us better. We also have need for a shed and mower. With a little over 6 acres to mow and take care of, we find ourselves in need of

equipment to keep up the grounds and a place to store it all. If you, your church, or association would like to help with this, please contact me, someone at Refuge, or our Missions Office to get details on how to give or who to send it to. We appreciate all



the support for the last few years. Help us finish strong.

Our desire is to tell our community of the hope and salvation found in Jesus, to help them grow in knowledge and application of the Word of God, and to equip them to then make disciples as well. We are proud to be a part of the BMA of Mississippi and look forward to many years of associated work together as a fellow sister church. May God bless and keep the BMA of Mississippi.



Philippine Missionaries

From page 1

Carolers were not the only exciting part of our December. Three large boxes of toys and gifts were sent to us from 2 of our supporting churches in the U.S. for us to distribute to children in nearby villages. During the last week of December, we collaborated with members of our mother church to conduct mini-Vacation Bible Schools in 3 different locations. During these 2 days, we were able to minister to over 100 children and families. We were able to distribute the gifts and toys as well as sacks of rice, sardines, spaghetti, and noodle packs to each individual family. We pray that the hearts of each person have truly been



blessed by these efforts.

The months of January and February have been much slower than that of December. We have been able to focus on relationship building and more in-depth Bible studies. Over the last year and a half, the outreach ministries here in San Carlos have been quite dispersed. Ministering here has been a challenge. The traditions and roots of Catholicism run very deep. It has

often been hard to reach adults because of this. Focusing on children has proven to be the right strategy for this area. Mothers are happy to have



their children engaged in learning about the Bible as opposed to wondering from place to place leaving their mothers to worry about their safety. These children's Bible studies have led to the development of relationships with the parents of the children in attendance and little by little the walls of Catholicism seem to be crumbling.

Please continue to pray for the efforts here in San Carlos and the hearts of the people to be receptive to the Truth.

Family Challenges

Before I leave you, I have a little more information to impart. Over the last few years, our family has faced quite a few challenges. As a result of this, we will be leaving the field later this year. We do not believe that this is permanent, but we honestly do not know how long of it will be. Our main reasons for leaving are to pursue Cris's U.S. citizenship, which is quite involved so I will spare you all the details, but is expected to take about 3 years. A second reason is for me (Alicia) to complete my medical licensing in the U.S. As many of you know, I attended medical school in the Philippines and graduated in 2017. For me to have a license to practice medicine as a doctor, I need



to complete a residency training program in the U.S. which will take between 3-5 years. This is the time in which we are currently looking at before revisiting a return to the field. We do not know what God has planned between now and then or if he will direct our hearts in a different direction by the end of this supposed time. What we do know is that we are open to His leadership, and we are willing to follow Him wherever He leads. After months of prayer and consideration, our hearts are at peace with the direction the Lord is currently leading.

With that being said, we will continue to be a part of the work in the Philippines. Cris will maintain communication with Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo as often as they feel necessary and financially, we will continue to support the ongoing work in San Carlos.

We covet your prayers as our life changes from our current field to our new field. I (Alicia) began my journey as a student missionary to a medical short-term missionary to a full time missionary 20 years ago as of June 2023. Transitioning back to the U.S. full-time is going to be a major life change for our family, but we are looking onward in anticipation for what the Lord has in store.

We will be returning to the U.S. in June 2024. After this time, we will be available to share with our supporting churches and other churches who may be interested about the ongoing work here in the Philippines.

Mississippi GMAs

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

National GMA Retreat Set for June 11-14

by Aileena Maynard, Corresponding Secretary

The national GMA officers had their second meeting of planning for this year's National Girl's Discipleship Retreat. This retreat is a 4-day camp for girls up to twelfth grade that takes place at Daniel Springs Camp on June 11-14. The theme for this year is the "Chronicles of Immanuel: The Lion, the Lamb, and the Stone Table," and the theme verse is Romans 5:8. We are going to have color teams at camp this year! Each girl will be given a color team at registration with a little something to match their color. We are also going to have a point system for each color team! Points will be earned by winning games or reciting the daily verse to your team's officer, so be prepared to memorize them when you get there! We are so excited for you to join us at Girl's Discipleship Retreat 2024!

150th ANNIVERSARY **SUNDAY**
HOMECOMING **MAY 19TH 2024**

WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

You're invited to join us for a day of celebrating what the Lord has done. We look back at the last 150 years to see what great things Christ has done and also look forward to what Christ is going to continue to do. First Baptist Church continues to serve the Lord and be a witness for Christ in the Henleyfield community.

10:30 AM—Main Service—Time of Remembrance.
Music by Answered Prayer and Message by Bro Justin Cameron. Lunch will be served.

1:30 PM—Concert—Answered Prayer.

First Baptist Church
of Henleyfield

Pastor:
Vernon Watts

575 Hwy 43 North
Carriere, MS 39426
(corner of MS 43 & Joseph
Burks Rd)

Phone: 601-916-2869
Email: fbchenleyfield@yahoo.com

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

www.macbma.net - Email fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

His Intent was Unmistakable...Elisha

I Kings 19:14-21

There is a time to make a firm commitment of our lives to a great cause and to decide once and for all that come what may we are not turning back. There is a time to let go of the past. There is a time to fix our eyes on the future.

Elisha went to his team of oxen after Elijah had cloaked him, killed the oxen, then cooked the meat using the yoke that had harnessed the oxen as fuel for the fire. His intent was unmistakable. He was never going back to his old life or world.

God never calls an idle man to work. Once putting his hand to the plow you dare not look back.

Elisha, though a great man with substance, could handle a plow. There is no disgrace in honest labour. So work.

Elisha listened to the voice of God through his man Elijah. Your work and occupation should not prevent you and me from hearing the voice of God. So listen!

Elisha returned to kiss his parents and make a farewell feast. Natural family endearments are respected by God. Elisha's parents do not want to hinder him. Those parents incur fearful responsibilities who hinder their children from responding to God's call. So love!

Elisha's past was broken, his own yoke of oxen was slain and the instruments of toil (plow, stock, reins) were consumed by fire. So burn!

Elisha's intent was unmistakable! He was never going back to the old.



Dr. John Adams

Recent State GMA Retreat Photos



mission:world

NEWS

INVESTING IN LOCAL PASTORS GLOBALLY

By Charlie Costa
BMA Global Middle East Coordinator
bmaglobal.org



The dictionary defines the word invest as “to expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or material result by putting it into financial plans, shares, or property or by using it to develop a commercial venture; to devote one’s time, effort, or energy to a particular undertaking with the expectation of a worthwhile result.”

Interestingly enough, the definition gives us more than the meaning of the words: It allows us greater insight into important realities when it comes to investment. If that is the case with investing in material things, how much more important is it to invest in people?

Please note the cost. Good investing is costly. It is the willingness to pay what it takes to achieve the desired result. Many times, the return is not immediate. Many times, it is not what we are expecting. Yet the willingness to pay what it takes is incarnational. Remember the investment in Calvary.

Pause for a moment and think about that. Was the return on investment quick and as expected?

This brings me to the second issue of not only cost but attitude. Patience is a virtue and also an attitude. Commitment to others and their success is also an attitude. It does take patience, effort, and energy to achieve the end result.

So with these facts in mind, the Middle East team held the very first Middle East-wide Baptist pastors conference last September in Lebanon. Forty-two pastors and their wives attended from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. BMA Global President John David Smith and BMA Global Vice President of Strategy and Training Larry Barker led the conference using the “Recharge” material translated into Arabic. At the same time, a parallel women’s conference was also held with Shelby Barker as the primary speaker.

Both conferences were a huge success as pastors listened, interacted, and asked questions. The wealth of Bro. Larry’s and Dr. Smith’s experiences enriched the discussions. Breaktime chats brought to the surface issues that have hindered the work of these pastors for years.

Have all the issues in our region been resolved? Has the return on investment been achieved? Not by a long shot. The journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. We are on the right track, but patience is needed.

There was a monetary cost, and the people of our Middle East churches provided that. There was also the cost involved of commitment, effort, and energy that Bro. Larry, Shelby and Dr. Smith paid. Ultimately, nothing of worth is free. (I see you nodding your head in agreement.)

I know the pastors will not forget that experience; in fact we are being asked to make this a recurring event. Maybe the best summary of it all is what one of those pastors said to me following one of the sessions: “Could you please ask Bro. Larry and Dr. Smith not to stop?”

Case closed.

mission:world

NEWS



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORS

By Stan Scroggins

Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator
bmaglobal.org

In 1976 the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College in the Philippines began training the first Filipino pastors. The college has gone through many changes, most recently achieving CHED (Commission of Higher Education) accreditation. In addition to offering degrees in theology and pastoral leadership, the institution also provides training in religious education and music. The most recent program addition is cross cultural church planting to prepare Filipinos to take the gospel to all of Asia Pacific.

Today, closing in on 50 years of training pastors and missionaries, the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College can be proud of training over 90% of all pastors of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines. As alumni these men share a sense of connection, tradition, and heritage that uniquely binds them together.

As educational institutions grow they will invariably and of necessity need to also grow their financial base. The number one way to do this is by adding programs and degrees, bringing in new students and therefore a new financial stream. But history has proven that in doing so the institution slowly and almost imperceptibly loses the vision of its original mandate: “training missionaries and pastors.” Today when one thinks of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and even Oxford University, it is not theology and divinity training that comes to mind, which was exactly the purpose and intention for the founding of each of these great universities.

Revelation 2:17 begins Jesus’ admonitions to the seven churches of Asia, the first one to the Church at Ephesus. In a 2017 article, Got Questions Ministry explained the Ephesians’ dilemma like this: “Surrounded by paganism and false teachers, the Ephesian church would have had ample opportunity to correct false doctrine and confront heretical teachers. If they did so for any reason other than love for Christ and a passion for His truth, however, they would have lost their way.” In other words they would have “lost their first love.” Many Christian ministries and institutions are no doubt doing good and important work focusing on education, feeding programs, health programs, housing, all of which are basically attempting to alleviate the human condition. But, too often these

ministries have “lost their first love”—the saving of souls, disciple making and church planting.

Training the next generation of pastors and missionaries must be the highest of priorities, especially for missionary sending organizations like BMA Global. The modern and renewed focus of disciple making is the key, but even more important is to which institution the mandate to do so is given. Mark Dever, celebrated founder 9Marks, avowed, “Seminaries are not made to make pastors. Churches make pastors.”

Training the next generation of pastors and missionaries in the Philippines is a church mandated responsibility. Care must be given to remember that the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College is a tool, an exceptionally good tool, available to Filipino churches to assist them in their preparation of their missionaries and their church planters.

How can the local Filipino church fulfill her mandate to raise up the next generation of pastors and missionaries? Here are a few suggestions, which many Filipino churches already do.

First, avoid the idea of making it the responsibility of the college to call preachers. God does the calling, churches do the sending. Send students who have been vetted, prayed over, and proven within the local congregation. Make it a priority to send students who have a confirmed call to ministry.

Second, provide informal training and internship experiences. Give young men opportunities to read, prepare expositional sermons, preach locally with constructive critique, sit in on decision making, sit in on pastoral counseling, and make pastoral visits.

Third, support the students you send for training. Training is expensive, so invest in the ministry of training students by supporting those you send. Today it is ever so easy to stay in contact with students at school. Contact them and pray with them.

Next, let it be known to the congregation the challenges students face: traveling far from home, home sickness, financial needs, material needs.

Fifth, don’t overlook mistakes, but don’t crucify the student who made them.

Lastly, let the local church be a student’s first class room. Let them see the best and the worst. Don’t let a prospective pastor make the same mistakes his sending church has made.

The best ministry preparation takes place where there is a partnership between the Bible College and the local church. The Bible College merely puts on the finishing touches to the young men the local church has invested in and already trained and mentored. Some things are learned in the classroom. Some things are learned in the local church.

Many churches in the Philippines are doing good work “raising up the next generation of pastors.” May God bless these and touch the heart of every pastor and congregation to do the same.

