

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

August 15, 2018

www.ms baptist.org

Vol. 72 No. 16

Guthrie Selected for Promotion

By Dr. Scott Carson
BMAA Chaplaincy Director

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Kevin Guthrie was recently notified that he has been selected to be promoted to Colonel! Kevin will make the third BMAA endorsed Army chaplain to make this rank. Chaplain Guthrie currently serves in the Pentagon as the resource manager for the entire, world-wide U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. He serves on the staff of the Army's Chief of Chaplains and often provides reports and briefings regarding the financial cost and related issues of chaplain ministry to the most senior leaders in the Pentagon.



It has been said that only one in ten chaplains within their cohort year (when they joined) will achieve this rank. It is truly a phenomenal achievement and a reflection of his personal character and quality of ministry he performs. And, it is most certainly a strong indicator that the Lord's favor rests upon Kevin and family. Though his selection to become a Colonel is administratively "a done deal", the actual promotion may be months away in the future in accordance to the customs, rules and regulations of the Army. Also, since his scope of responsibility will greatly increase, a move to a new job will more than likely accompany his pinning on the eagle rank. Keep the Guthrie's in your prayers. Congratulations Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel-Promotable) Kevin Guthrie!

The goal ... build growing, developing, and maturing

Preach Tithing

by Dr. Allen Tilley

"Pastor, all you do is preach on money!" Like all exaggerations, that is not true. However, I never apologize when I do. Pastors are often hesitant to preach on finances because of statements like the one above. If you don't preach on tithing, let me share four reasons why you should start.

It's biblical. From reading Malachi 3:8-10, we learn God certainly didn't have a problem with preaching about tithing, and neither did Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14. During his earthly ministry, Jesus expected and commended tithing (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42). As preachers of God's Word, we must preach the entire counsel of His Word, not just the parts that people like. Don't let the doubters distract you from delivering God's truth.

It builds spiritual growth. The goal of every pastor is to

build growing, developing, and maturing believers (Ephesians 4:11-13). One part of that growth is learning to trust God with the tithe. God has designed us not as hoarders but as conduits through which His generosity flows (Luke 6:38). When people give, they live life with an eternal perspective, not a selfish perspective (Mark 12:17).

It promotes ministry. When church members tithe, the church has a greater ability to be generous for the Kingdom. More can be done to reach the lost, disciple the saved, comfort the afflicted, and evangelize the world. More can be given to associational departments, extending the reach of the church. Free from the worry of finances, greater things can be accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ.

It honors God. Whenever people and churches tithe regu-

larly and systematically, they obey God's Word, bringing Him honor and glory (John 13:17). Words are cheap; actions always speak louder than words (Mark 7:6). Part of the evidence that the believer's life is being transformed is when he cheerfully gives to the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:7).



Allen Tilley

Pastor, before preaching on tithing, you first must be a tither. You cannot expect your people to go where you are not willing to go. By modeling the principle of tithing before your church, you will inspire them to tithe, making your church a generous giving church (from Baptist Progress)

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. You may contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.

Church To Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula will celebrate its 60th anniversary on September 9, 2018. Former members, pastors and friends are invited to this special day of celebration.

On August 14, 1958, fifteen people met for the purpose of discussing the organization of a church or mission. Spencer Memorial Baptist Church in Pascagoula had agreed to extend an arm to the new church. After three organizational meetings, on September 6, 1958, the Emanuel Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Mississippi, was organized into a New Testament Church.

The following were the charter members: Bro. and Mrs. A. B. Lyles, Bro. and Mrs. T. H. Harris, Bro. and



Woodlawn Church, Pascagoula

continued on page 2

"We Are Free" Rally

Mark your calendar for a Rally to benefit the "WE ARE FREE" Ministry. This ministry was established to speak on behalf of the victims of human trafficking.

The Rally will be held at the First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel, Mississippi, on October 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. There will be hamburger plates for sale, arts and crafts, and fun activities for the kids. The visionary who started this ministry will speak later in the evening.

History tells us that slavery is a part of history. There is absolutely nothing we can do about what has been, BUT there is something we can do to alleviate the pain and suffering of these children who are being held in slavery of the most hideous nature.

With that thought in mind, please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Rally on October 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.



Don Brown

2018 Annual Church Letter Available

The 2018 BMA of Mississippi Annual Church Letter is available online at BMAofMississippi.com. A link to the file is on the lower right hand side of the home page of this site.

You may download a copy by clicking on the letter. The BMA of Mississippi meets for its 2018 Annual session at Southeastern Baptist College on October 23. The WMA and Brotherhood meet on Monday evening October 22, with the WMA hosting a banquet at FBC of Shady Grove at that time.

The association business session begins on Tuesday the 23rd.

Wiggins Church Seeking Pastor

Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins, is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor with a heart for Christ and people. Potential candidates should firmly believe and support the doctrinal statement of the BMAA. We are seeking a pastor who can lead the church to win the lost to Christ, encourage and challenge Christians in growth and maturity through biblical preaching, and discern God's direction and plan of growth for VSBC. If you believe God is leading you to pursue this position, please send a resume to VSBC Pastor Search Committee, Post Office Box One, Wiggins, MS 39577 or via e-mail vardamanstreetba@bellsouth.net.

Thoughts, Opportunities, and Suggestions

National Missions Director John David Smith just turned 50 years old! Our family has known the Smith family for over 45 years. His dad was our pastor when John David was just a small boy (about 45 years ago). He has grown into a dedicated worker and leader in the Lord's work.



John David Smith

John challenged himself to ride 100 miles on his bicycle in 12 hours or less on his 50th birthday. It seems as we all begin to experience the ageing process we challenge ourselves to stay in the best physical condition we can. As we get older it becomes evident that health becomes one of our main concerns.

Well, he did it! Congratulations to John David Smith!

He took this opportunity to challenge supporters to give \$100.00 each to help support "Changemaker Missionaries".

These missionaries were previously referred to as **national missionaries**, and they serve as missionaries in their native countries. Spread out over nearly 80 nations globally, it is often difficult for them to raise funds due to their lack of exposure.

According to a news release from the National Missions Office "A recent donor has pledged to match every dollar given toward the "ChangeMaker 100."

What an opportunity to raise funds supporting these dedicated workers who are ministering in their home country.

Bonnie and I have pledged our \$100.00. It is on its way to the Missions Office in Conway, Arkansas. Would you accept the challenge from Dr. Smith and give your \$100.00 to help support those who are ministering in their home countries? What an opportunity to support the Gospel!

More Opportunities

I recently visited the campus of Southeastern College and found a buzz of activity. Students were signing up, choosing dorm rooms, and taking care of registration business. Volunteers and employees were working hard to get

ready for the Fall semester. Photos on pages 4 & 5 of this issue highlight these efforts.

President Carson lists a number of goals met recently and other needs of the college. Their goal of \$30,000 for their annual Special Emphasis is very reachable and is certainly needed.

Great strides are being made at Southeastern under the leadership of Dr. Carson. Let us rally to the needs of the school, as many have already. Make it a point to call the school at 601-426-6346, talk to Dr. Carson and how you can help. He will be glad to give you a project.

Congratulations Woodlawn

As you can read on our front page, Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula will be celebrating their 60th anniversary in early September. I have many fond memories of Woodlawn and the folks there. We lived on the coast in the 70s and fellowshipped with them and grew to love them.

We developed great friendships at Woodlawn that continue to this today - (some we are almost related to). :->

We look forward to being in this celebration service.

Woodlawn

from page 1

Mrs. Toxie Stewart, Bro. and Mrs. A. B. Chandler, Mrs. Ruth Naquin, Mrs. Ruby Holifield, Bro. Leo Ellis, Bro. Lynn Chapuis, Miss Marjorie Chapuis, Mrs. Lois Ray, Miss Gayle Stewart, Mrs. Jeanette Harrison, Mrs. Edna Keene, Miss Beverly Keene, Mrs. Rexaline Ashley, and Bro. Farrell Stewart. Meetings were to be held at the Armory Building.

On October 2, 1958, Bro. L. S. Walker

was called as full-time Pastor and moved on the field on December 1, 1958. On November 5, 1958, the name of the church was changed to Woodlawn Baptist Church. Ground breaking services were held on April 5, 1959 for the building of a church at its present location. The first services were held in the new sanctuary on March 27, 1960. In 1961 a parsonage was built (which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.) In November 1979 plans were made to build a new sanctuary. On July 19, 1970, dedication services of the new sanctuary were held.

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



When the sign said "If you park here, you preach today!" I thought it was a joke...

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

I'm Becoming My Dad

"I'm becoming my dad," I calmly told my wife as she was getting a glass of water from the kitchen. "I said, I'm becoming my Dad!" At this point, she emerged from the other room with a Lizzy Borden glaze in her eyes and told me to stop shouting. Apparently, my calm voice had caused her to be startled and she had dropped the glass she was holding. "Oh, I didn't think you heard me," I said. She murmured something about the first three times I had told her. At least she said something to that effect, my lip reading skills not being the best in the world.



Bro. Chuck Lee

There was a time when I had to work hard at ignoring people when they

talked to me, but now it has become a simple process. Mom used to tell me I needed to clean the wax out of my ears, but I know that is not the problem as I just had a check-up from my doctor and she said I was healthy as could be expected for a person who doesn't exercise and has a pension for chocolate snack cakes. I actually didn't hear her say this, I just happened to catch a glimpse of my chart that she had carelessly laid on the table as I was getting my blood pressure checked. I probably need to switch to a doctor that doesn't have

It's the little things in life that make me happy. I said, "It's the little things in life that make me happy!"



such a warped sense of humor.

Without the constant drone of endless chatter to clutter my auditory orifices, I am left with more time to listen to my inner psyche and reflect on why people keep ignoring me when I speak to them. I obviously need a mid-life crisis to spice things up in my life, but I think that ship has sailed, which is probably for the best since I am prone to seasickness. I find that I say, "I'm sorry, could you repeat that" every time I speak with someone on the phone. It is actually kind of fun, especially with a telemarketer. Sometimes I don't even start listening until at least the third

time someone has to repeat what they have said. It may have become a habit, but like my dad, I just don't care.

Becoming like my dad is not a bad thing, other than the loss of hair, but then again, with less hair comes less time combing. It's the little things in life that make me happy. I said, "It's the little things in life that make me happy!"

I have noticed that the older dad gets, the more excited he gets about going home to be with Jesus. After living eighty some odd years on this earth, I think he has figured out that the things we place so much value on here pales in comparison to what is over there. As I pass another mile marker on this highway called life, I, too, find myself listening for my GPS lady voice to tell me that my exit is just ahead on the right. That is one voice that I know I will hear loud and clear.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

Trusting The Wrong Thing

by Bro. Grover Laird

For a number of years this editor was given the privilege of providing the layout and graphic work for *The Revivalist*, a publication produced by Bro. Grover Laird. He no longer provides a mailed copy, but an electronic version is still available online at groverlaird.com. We have a large library of Laird's 'short messages' that he put in each issue of his publication. We will feature some of these in coming issues. Pray for the Laird's and learn and be blessed by his writings.

"My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from him." (Psalms 62:5)

Life is filled with needs that we cannot supply, problems that we cannot solve, burdens that are too heavy for us to carry and opportunities that are too big for us to take advantage of. The only way we can make it down here is to obtain some help that is beyond us. And

the help we must have is the help of the Lord-- the grace of God. We must trust the Lord.

But what do people do who do not trust the Lord? The answer is, God in mercy watches over them, taking care of the things they must have to make it down here. When Jesus was speaking of treating people better than they were due to be treated He said, "That ye may

be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45) The Psalmist also said, "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." (Psalms 145:9) The Lord brought people into this world, and He will be good to them as long as they are here. He has also made accessible to them a way of salvation that will insure eternal happiness.



Grover Laird

If they will not accept God's plan of salvation, after the Lord has been patient and merciful, they will have to assume the full responsibility for their

sins. They will therefore spend eternity paying for their sins, existing without God's mercy and grace they once had. Speaking of this the Bible says, "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

But what about God's children? Some seem to depend more on this world and what it can do for them, than they depend upon the Lord and what He can do for them. Well, Israel did this and it greatly displeased the Lord - "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!" (Isaiah 31:1) More than displease the Lord, it turned out to work against them rather than help them - "Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion." (Isaiah 30:3)

While the Lord will take care of His children now and later, we will have a far better life here if we will live it leaning on Jesus - "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7,8)

When we have taken everything under consideration, it seems we would all say to ourselves, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him." (Psalms 62:5)

You may contact the Lairds at
Bro. & Mrs. Grover Laird
7030 Dorsey Evergreen Rd
Fulton, MS 38843

ANNOUNCING THE DANNY PITTS LECTURE SERIES

With Dr. Gary O'Neal as guest speaker

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE,
4229 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH
LAUREL, MS 39440
601.426.6346
WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU

- Aug 20, 7 p.m. Pre-lecture Message @ 1st Baptist Church of Shady Grove MS
- Aug 21, 22, 23, 7 p.m. Danny Pitts Lecture Series on the Campus of Southeastern Baptist College

Join us for this special and free event!

Southeastern Baptist College

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

*Serving Christ
With A Biblical World View
In A Christian Atmosphere*

Special Fall Semester Issue

President's Perspective

"I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude." Psalm 109:30

For this article, I just want to praise the Lord! He is magnificent and His working on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College is, for me, jaw dropping. He continuously brings us more and more blessings each day!

We are in the middle of student registration. The offices of our recruiter, registrar, financial aid, library and bookkeeper are filled with new students. We are on target to have nearly 100% growth in student population for the Fall Semester. The renovations of the dormitories are rapidly coming to completion and soon will be filled to capacity with residents. Already, two in-classroom courses are filled to capacity. The excitement is building and the faculty and staff are ready!

In the last couple of weeks we were contacted by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). They were looking for a good news story for a show that is hosted by Rob Lowe. They heard of the many great things God is doing on our campus and SBC was chosen to be the featured subject for a nation-wide program. PBS will be on our campus sometime in September to begin recording the show.

We have wonderful supporters who have responded to our request for help

in cleaning, working with dorm renovations, landscaping care, providing much needed refrigerators, demolition in the gym, volunteering to coach our teams, and providing the school with a much newer riding lawn mower.

With the assistance of the Mississippi Department of Education, we are now approved through the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) to provide on-line courses in 48 states! This agreement enables us to expect continuous expansion for our on-line campus presence. We have also received the "go-ahead" from our accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), to proceed with fielding a minor in Sports Management beginning a year from now.

We recently were notified that Bestcolleges.com has listed SBC from among all accredited higher learning institutions as the third best college in Mississippi! And we maintain our Gold level status as a veteran friendly school for 2018.

We were blessed to have the prayer group from Parkview Baptist Church here in Laurel, visit us with a time of prayer and a complete tour of the school.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

*I invite you or
your church
group to tour our
campus and see
for yourself what
God is doing
here!*

I invite you or your church group to tour our campus and see for yourself what God is doing here! I recommend you give us a call for an appointment as we are really busy lately! But we would be honored to have you visit us!

Pray for the staff and faculty as we move forward into this seismic shift from no on campus students over the last couple of years to near full capacity! We will have many unanticipated requirements to address and resolve. It

will take much wisdom and, in some cases, additional help to keep us organized. God is on the move on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College and we must keep up with Him! I'll say it again, "Praise the Lord!"

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:8
Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Registration: It's Not Too Late!

Classes begin August 14, however, late registration is accepted until August 23. We offer in classroom and online courses in Bible, ministry, business and general education. You can work towards a two year Associates of Arts degree or a four year Bachelor of Science degree. Transfer of compatible credits are welcomed. We remain one of the most inexpensive accredited colleges in the nation! Contact Coach Phillips or Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month continues through August for focused donations from churches and individuals. BMA of Mississippi churches should have received materials to assist them in the college's fundraising campaign. Our goal is to raise \$30,000. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity. Thank you to all the churches who sent their special emphasis offering early which assisted us in finishing fiscal year 2018 in the black!

**Our goal is to
raise \$30,000
for Special
Emphasis**

Good things just keep coming! God is on the move on the campus of SBC! We have been notified that we will be featured nationwide in a short "Good News" story on PBS, hosted by Rob Lowe. Filming will occur sometime this September. Look for future announcements for when it is scheduled to be aired.

God Will Supply!

Renovations continue in preparation of the huge influx of students for the fall! Each project incurs a large expense, but the work must be done and be completed prior to the Fall semester. Every dorm room will be filled this Fall Semester!

1. The men's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; bathroom renovations; HVAC unit and duct work for the entire upstairs. See the adjacent pictures of our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Brother Leon Carmical and Mrs. Carmical hard at work.
2. The women's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; kitchen updates; bathroom upgrades; upstairs renovations.
3. Gymnasium: Demolition of previously added rooms and renovations of locker rooms.

Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Southeastern Baptist College announces the first Danny Pitts Lecture Series with Dr. Gary O'Neal as guest speaker to be held on the campus of the college. Mark your calendars for August 20-23.

August 20: 7 p.m., Preconference Service at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi

August 21-23, 7 p.m., Lecture Series at SBC Campus

See the flyer in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist.

Food Donations to the Dorms.

Here's an idea: churches, church ministries and individuals can donate food for the dormitories. While purchasing food, think purchasing long shelflife individual microwavable meals that don't require refrigeration (until cooked). It would be great to have the dorm shelves in the common areas loaded with food as they move into their assigned rooms. Contact Coach Phillips to coordinate your delivery date (870-378-7203)



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE
CARSON'S ARMY

Levels of Donor Giving

General - \$10,000 \$833 per month over 12 months \$461 per month over 24 months	Colonel - \$7,500 \$625 per month over 12 months \$312 per month over 24 months
Major - \$5,000 \$416 per month over 12 months \$208 per month over 24 months	Captain - \$2,500 \$208 per month over 12 months \$104 per month over 24 months

Please fill in the following information and return to Southeastern Baptist College to enlist in Carson's Army.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

At which level would you like to enlist?

<input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonel
<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift	<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month
<input type="checkbox"/> Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Captain
<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift	<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month



THANKS
for your faithful
support!

National Television

continued on next page

From Previous Page

Alumni Association

We continue to rediscover our former students and list them in the SBC Alumni Association. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

The Chargers Basketball Schedule

The season schedules for the Men's and Women's Varsity Games and Men's Junior Varsity Games begin in October and are posted on our newly updated sports website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>



Above - Sandra Carmical diligently cleaning a newly donated dorm refrigerator.
Below - Brother Leon Carmical, SBC Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Pastor of First Baptist Church of Calhoun, MS assembling dorm furniture.



VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members.

SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Enlist in the Army!

Brother Chris Floyd is recruiting for Carson's Army! This enlistment includes a pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this

publication. Praise the Lord! We now have a General, two Majors and a Captain enlisted!

Available to Preach

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

Statewide Goal: \$ 30,000

GOAL REACHED!

- August 26th — \$ _____
- August 19th — \$ _____
- August 12th — \$ _____
- August 5th — \$ _____
- July 29th — \$ _____
- July 22nd — \$ _____
- July 15th — \$ _____
- July 8th — \$ _____
- July 1st — \$ _____

Our Church Goal: \$ _____

Southeastern Baptist College

- Gold Award Military Friendly School for 2018
- OnlineChristianColleges.com #6 Most Affordable Online Bible College for 2018

Special Emphasis:
July/August



Above - Delight Jefcoat working on landscaping
Below - Dear McArthur preparing for Fall



Above- Justin Rhodes laying carpet in men's dorm
Below - Coaches looking forward to season



Ad barred over image of Bible

ONENEWSNOW - Social media giants are not the only businesses discriminating against Christians, as one billboard company in Southern California is refusing to run an ad for an evangelist – simply because he is holding a Bible.

For 28 years, world-renowned evangelist Greg Laurie has been holding evangelistic crusades in Southern California, where he has led tens of thousands to Christ and encouraged millions in their faith.

This year's SoCal Harvest hopefully will bring more of the same, but when the event takes place, it will not be credited to the Irvine Company, which is the owner of the Southern California mall called Fashion Island.

Laurie told Janet Mefferd on American Family Radio that he asked to put a billboard up at the shopping center.

"They signed off on the art – they printed it, they installed it and it was up ... and it was great," Laurie recalls. "And I took a few photos of it, and we posted it on social media."

The ad donned a silhouette of Laurie holding a Bible in his hand – as if preaching – and it did not even have a cross or the word "Bible" on the book ... it was just a silhouette.

However, Laurie soon got a call from Irvine Company, reporting they had received some complaints – and requesting that the image of the Bible be removed from the picture. The Christian leader says he made efforts to accom-

modate the request.

"We immediately gave them a new piece of art, which was totally generic – no image of a Bible," Laurie recounts. "And then [on] the day of the installation, they came back and said, Well, we're not going to put that up, and the



other one's coming down – and we're not going to put up anything. They did refund our money."

Given his evangelistic outreach's history, Laurie has no concern that removing a couple of billboards is going to hurt SoCal Harvest much, but he is concerned about what it says about America's culture at the moment.

"I'm not angry with the Irvine Company," Laurie assures. "My concern is, 'So, is this where we're at in culture now?'"

He then pointed to his advocacy of the First Amendment in America.

"I see ads all the time that offend," Laurie asserted. "I see billboards for things that offend me, but I don't boycott it and try to stop it – it's free speech. And now, all of a sudden, I can't even hold up a Bible, and more to the point – a black book?"

"My concern is, 'So, is this where we're at in culture now?'"

is this where we're at in culture now?"

He then pointed to his advocacy of the First Amendment in America.

"I see ads all the time that offend," Laurie asserted. "I see billboards for things that offend me, but I don't boycott it and try to stop it – it's free speech. And now, all of a sudden, I can't even hold up a Bible, and more to the point – a black book?"

Lesbians charge chaplain for abiding by his beliefs

ONENEWSNOW - A military chaplain endorsing agency is concerned about the United States Army's treatment of one of its chaplains who is being punished for his beliefs about marriage.

Chaplain Scott Squires is a Southern Baptist who received an endorsement by the SBC North American Mission Board to become an Army Chaplain.

However, Squires is now being charged with dereliction of duty for following the guidelines of his faith that marriage is a union between one man and one woman.

Phil Wright – a retired Army chaplain who now serves as Executive Director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty – explained that Squires refused to facilitate a marriage retreat involving two lesbians.

"But he did get another chaplain who could teach with a same-sex couple involved to do the training, but the couple signed up, and then they didn't show up," Wright pointed out. "And then on top of that, they filed a complaint after the training was over against chaplain Squires, saying he discriminated against her and her partner because of their same-sex union."

Wright said that Squires has obtained the services of First Liberty Institute.

"First Liberty is defending chaplain Squires on the basis that chaplain Squires followed Army procedure and North American Mission Board procedure, and that you can't force a chaplain to violate his conscience, which is what it seems like the investigator wants him to do by providing for this same-sex soldier," the Christian leader informed. "He did provide – he just couldn't do it himself."

Wright maintained that the findings of the case will be submitted to a two-star general who will make a ruling.

Avoiding the church comparison trap

by Dr. Thom Rainer

Comparing your church to another church can be one of the worst things you do as a church leader.

To be clear, I am not referring to learning from other churches. We can always learn from our peers and our sister congregations.

But comparison for the sake of comparison is bad. Let me share a few thoughts about this issue to expand upon the concern.

We should focus on what God is blessing in our churches. Do you remember the words of the Apostle Paul in

Philippians 4:8? "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy – dwell on these things."

We are not dwelling on the things of God when we compare our church to others. We are dwelling on what we don't have. The Word of God mandates to focus on the blessings God gives us, including the blessings of our congregation.

Comparisons only make matters worse. There is little good that can come from comparing our church to others. When we do so, we are taking one of two postures. The first is one of jealousy; we wish we had what someone else has. The second posture is one of ingratitude, which leads to my next point.

Our continuous disposition should be one of joy. Just a few verses preceding the text in Philippians 4:8 I noted above is a double command to rejoice.

Indeed, it is a command to be in a constant mode of joy: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). We should take great joy in the calling God has given us right now. He has you in the exact place He wants you to serve. Rejoice instead of comparing.

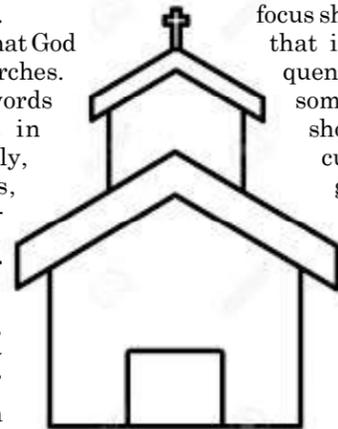
Comparisons give us a short-term perspective. When we compare, we long for something we do not have. Our focus shifts to a place and a calling that is not for us. As a consequence we often desire to be somewhere else. We develop a short-term perspective for our current calling. Our congregations need leaders who are willing to serve for the long haul. The green grass of the other church is often brown once we get there.

We are not showing love for the bride when we compare. Marriages begin to deteriorate when a husband or wife compares his or her spouse to someone else. "If only my spouse was like that person," we may think. Such thoughts show dishonor to our spouse. The church is the bride of Christ. We are not showing love or honor to His bride when we compare her to others.

Learn from other churches. It is always healthy to be in a learning disposition.

But don't compare your church with others in a negative sense. Nothing good can from it.

Rejoice in your present calling. Such an attitude will transform your leadership and, as a consequence, transform the church to which God has called you.





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

A Gift That Keeps Giving

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

Some Ways to Give

- Cash
- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- IRA Rollovers
- Bequests

Thoughts From Nahum

by Dr. Tony Cleaver

Nahum 1.3 *"The Lord is slow to anger but great in power...His path is in the whirlwind and storm, and clouds are the dust beneath his feet."*

What a high concept of the Lord of Armies! How magnificently Nahum sets the Lord apart from all other things--even concepts about things. For some God is not high and lifted up. He is not exalted. God for many tends to be in some "buddy-buddy" model. Well, God is not your buddy!

Our current century modeling of things is made in great part by the computer and its applications of fantastic quickness. Yet all the world trembles at something the computer cannot model. Who can withstand His power? Who can name or even imagine any equal? Even though computer modeling makes possible many things, it is not a match for the One who conceived a computer before computers were even thought of in the mind of humankind.

Yes, thanks be to Him whose power is great, but more to the point He is slow to anger with that power toward us who live here on this planet who are of dust. Celebrate His awesome mercy and grace in daily living!

Nahum 3.5 *"I am against you."*

Wow! The Lord of Armies said this about the capitol city Nineveh and its

country Assyria many years ago. Yes, today it is a desolate place! Dear Reader, do you want the Lord of Armies to be against you? Of course not! You want Him to be for you, with you, supporting you, and caring for you. You want Him to be upholding you with His all His strength, not pushing against you with all His might.

How much energy does it take to overcome someone--even a strong nation? When the words are spoken by the Lord of Armies, "I am against you," it doesn't take very much of His energy to completely obliterate even a people at the zenith of power. No, you don't want the Lord of Armies against you as an individual. Life is too fragile. Life has too many opportunities of ill health, bad events, and unwanted circumstances that cannot be imagined.

The Lord of Armies sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus is for us as we come to repent of our sins to believe in Him. Let Jesus be for you!



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstrncleaver@embarqmail.com

6 Years Down Memory Lane

Doug and Diane Lee
Missionaries to the Philippines
Contact Information – Town and Country Sub., Talisay City,
Negros Occidental, Philippines – Phone 601-427-0128 email
doug@musicsservicesinc.com diane@musicsservicesinc.com

Seven years ago, we were elected as your BMA missionaries to the Philippines. It was a dream we had been praying about for 23 years. We were elected as 100% self-supporting, which simply meant we had to raise all of our support. There were people who were skeptical of us going to the field with no guarantee of a salary and II Corinthians 5:7 became real to us. "For we walk by faith not by sight."

Our motto became "Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible." After one year, we took a giant leap of faith and moved to the field. After six years, we are still walking by faith and God miraculously and marvelously supplies our needs each month through His people. He has expanded our work at BMABC from just teaching music to administration and teaching many other classes. God has opened doors for us to begin mission points on other islands. All honor and praise goes to our Heavenly Father for using two unworthy servants in His great kingdom. Keep us in your prayers as we begin our 7th year on the field.

Our Pastor Visited

We are blessed to have Bro. Bo Moeller as our new pastor at Mill Creek Baptist Church, Picayune, Mississippi. Bro. Bo arrived to survey our ministry to see what ways Mill Creek could become more active in the ministry here in the Philippines. Since we arrived on the field 6 years ago, we have been blessed to have had our pastors involved in our ministry. Thank you, Bro. Arthur Lee and Bro. Bo Moeller for the great support you have given. There has never been a day in which we were ever in doubt that our home church and its pastors were not committed to the Philippine Ministry.



Bro. Bo Moeller, right, visiting our field

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President **Beth Caldwell**

166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary **Mrs. Shirlene Smith**
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

State WMA Project Funds Deadline

Dear Ladies,

Although it is 90+ degrees in the shade, schools are gearing up to start soon and (hopefully) Fall will not be too far behind. With the coming of Fall also comes the deadline for our State WMA Project monies for this year - Carl Sookraj and his ministry with orphans in Peru. Children in need should always touch our hearts as they touched the heart of Jesus. What a wonderful project for women!

All our money needs to be received by Shirlene Smith before September 28, 2018. Her mailing address is Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443

Thank you for all your hard work for this project!

Marilyn Welborn
Linda Smith
Mississippi State WMA Project Promotors

The Sookraj Family



Children in need should always touch our hearts as they touched the heart of Jesus.

"We Are Free" Rally

Mark your calendar for a Rally to benefit the "WE ARE FREE" Ministry. This ministry was established to speak on behalf of the victims of human trafficking.

The Rally will be held at the First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel, Mississippi, on October 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. There will be hamburger plates for sale, arts and crafts, and fun activities for the kids. The visionary who started this ministry will speak later in the evening.

History tells us that slavery is a part of history. There is absolutely nothing we can do about what has been, BUT there is something we can do to alleviate the pain and suffering of these children who are being held in slavery of the most hideous nature.

With that thought in mind, please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Rally on October 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

What God Hath Promised

God hath not promised
skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways
our lives through.
God hath not promised
sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
peace without pain.,

But God hath promised
strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer,
Light on the way;
Grace for the trial,
help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
undying love.

-copied-

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promises." II Peter 3:19

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

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

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

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

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

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

Professor: Jesus wants 'abundant life' so abortion is OK

OneNewsNow - A religious studies professor at a North Carolina university is under fire after claiming Christians should support abortion.

In an op-ed posted on the school's website, Elon University Professor Rebecca Todd Peters says she doubts there is a dominance of Christians opposed to abortion and that abortion is a moral act.

Elon University is a private liberal arts college of 6,800 students located in the city of Elon.

Tami Fitzgerald of the North Carolina Family Values Coalition couldn't disagree more.

"She calls it a profoundly moral act," responds Fitzgerald, "and it is the most immoral act in the history of the world I would think."

Peters goes on to state there is nothing Christian about requiring women to "justify" their reasons for an abortion and includes the statistic that three-fourths of abortions are not performed after rape or incest, a prenatal problem with the fetus, or to save the mother's life.

Peters also states that the abundant life that Jesus talks about can only be fully realized if Christians support the decisions women make in choosing to have an abortion, according to Campus Reform.

Fitzgerald says parents need to think twice before sending their children to Elon.

"As a parent," she tells OneNewsNow, "I would be very cautious about Elon University if they have professors like Todd Peters, who are willing to write articles that would attempt to justify abortion on moral grounds and actually use the words of Jesus out of context."

East Central Meeting

State Missions Director Larry Geraldson brought a wonderful message at our August meeting. Our next meeting is September 8, 2018 at Calvary Baptist Church in Leakesville, Mississippi which will be our annual meeting. We encourage all churches to attend to care for our business and plan for our 2019 year for the Lord's work.

Tiger Creek News

Hello from Tiger Creek. We've had a busy summer with vacation bible school and it was a great VBS. We just finished up Revival and that was a great time also. Bro. Dennis Knight was our speaker. We have a lot of members that are sick so when you pray remember Tiger Creek in your prayers. The ladies of our church have been busy getting the shoe boxes ready for shipping. Take care and remember to keep your eyes upon the eastern sky.

Brenda Overstreet

212TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI *Together As One; United For A Purpose* Ezra 3:1

Below is the tentative schedule for the 2018 annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi

Monday, October 22

6:30PM WMA Banquet (First Baptist Shady Grove)
7:00PM Brotherhood Meeting (Southeastern Baptist College)

Tuesday, October 23

9:00AM WMA Business Meeting (SBC Chapel)

SESSION ONE

9:30AM Music
9:40AM Call Meeting to Order
Scripture & Prayer
9:45AM Enrollment Committee Initial Report
9:50AM Constitutional Changes (if necessary)
10:00AM Election of Officers
10:10AM MidYear Meeting Location-Speaker
Annual Meeting Location-Speaker
10:15AM Sidney Farmer (Missions Coach)
10:20AM Commission on Senior Adults
10:35AM Moral Action
10:55AM Nominating Committee Report
11:05AM Music
11:15AM President's Message and Theme
12:00PM Dismiss for Lunch

SESSION TWO

1:30PM Music
1:35PM Scripture & Prayer
1:40PM Vote on Constitutional Changes (if necessary)
1:45PM Ed Duval (Missions Coordinator)
1:50PM Commission on History and Archives
2:05PM BMA of MS Children's Home
2:25PM Baptist Music Fellowship
2:30PM Bob Burch (Missions Coach)
2:35PM Brotherhood Report
2:45PM WMA Report
2:55PM Southeastern Baptist College
3:15PM BMA of MS Youth Department
3:35PM Estuardo Marroquin (Missions Coordinator)
3:40PM BMA of MS Missions & RLF
4:15PM BMA of MS Publications
4:35PM BMA of MS Foundation
4:45PM Guest Reports
5:00PM Salary Committee Report
Clerk's Report
Final Enrollment Committee Report
Appoint Enrollment Committee
Miscellaneous Business
5:30PM Dismiss for Supper

SESSION THREE

7:00PM Worship / Annual Message
Adjourn / Dismiss
Wednesday, October 24

SESSION FOUR

9:00AM If Necessary

Registration Table
Tuesday Morning 8:00AM
Tuesday Afternoon 1:00PM

*Each church must register messengers and receive ballots