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A DISTURBING TREND

by Corbey Jones, Assistant Editor

I've changed atmospheres this year; I moved out of the public school system and took a post with a private Christian school. At the end of this first week of school, I feel like I have stepped through a time portal. After nearly twenty years in public education, imagine my surprise when during the morning announcements I saw students immediately stand, without having to be told, heard scripture reading, prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison with my students, and joined them in pledging allegiance to our nation's flag. Then after a few announcements, encouraged by the administration, I started my instruction for the day with a five minute devotional. It nearly separated my head from my shoulders when I saw students listen intently and even heard one sixth-grader say "Amen!" Then, to experience seeing students pick up their pencils and engage, taking ownership of their own learning, was almost too much to take.



Corbey Jones
Asst. Editor

In case you're thinking, "Well that sounds normal to me," let me assure you, in the average American school it's not. Having taught for years in some of our inner city public schools, let me describe what I have been used to. A voice would come over the intercom asking everyone to stand for the pledge. I would have to get everybody to stop talking and then make them stand up. Most would refuse to raise their hands to their chest and absolutely no one would repeat the pledge. Following the pledge a moment of silence was called for and often I would have to threaten students to close their mouths. A scripture reading or devotional? No! Of course not. That's too controversial. Then, when it came time to get started on the day's lesson, it was often a battle of wills to get anyone to engage. That scenario is repeated day after day in the countless municipal schools across this country.

The former environment is a picture of the past for most of American education. An environment that over many generations developed what was the greatest learning atmosphere on the planet. The latter, sadly, is far too familiar in the present. Anti-American, anti-Christian progressives have done their job. They have transformed a great institution into a chaotic monster in just a couple of generations. But all hope is not lost. Alternative educational opportunities for our Christian children are much

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

2021 National Meeting Held in Texas



Missionary commissioning service on last night of annual BMA meeting

Think Globally... Act Locally...

The 72nd Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America convened at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahatchie, Texas, on August 2-4, 2021. Pastor Richard Smith welcomed the Association. Farley Street Baptist Church, along with Heritage Baptist Church and her pastor Bro. Sam Bradley, did an outstanding job of hosting.

The theme for this year's meeting was to Think Globally & Act Locally and this was stressed throughout the meeting, including Monday evening's President's message from Bro. Jeff Swart.

Prior to the message an opening concert by The Martins, proved to be a great blessing. The concert was sponsored jointly by Lifeword and the Missions Department.

Four new churches petitioned membership. Three were welcomed on Monday evening - Refuge Church from Missouri, New Beginnings from West Virginia, and The Bridge from Texas. The messengers later voted to rescind the

more available and diverse than ever.

Whether it is private Christian schools or home schooling or online education, God's people have choices. While we are slowly, but surely being pushed out of government schools, thank God for wholesome and Godly alternatives.

Message From New BMAA President

The 72nd annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America is now history. We had a great meeting at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahatchie, Texas. Pastor Richard Smith, as well as their church staff and members, are to be commended for a job well done. They were such gracious hosts and we thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful facilities.



Justin Rhodes

Bro. Jeff Swart spent the past three years serving as President of our association of churches and he did an outstanding job. Many tough decisions had to be made over the past year and a half due to COVID 19. We owe our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Jeff for leading through this difficult time.

I would personally like to thank the association for giving me the honor of serving as President this next year. I love our association of churches and I pray that our best days are ahead of us. Join me in praying for the work of the Departments and Agencies of the BMAA. Also pray for each of our churches and pastors across the BMAA. Pray for me and our other officers as we begin preparations for our next meeting which will be held April 18-20, 2022, in Springfield, Missouri.

Charles Attebery presented his last report as director and urged donations. Those monies continue to accrue interest that benefits the various departments and ministries. Dr. Steve Crawley was elected as temporary director.

Moral Action

Dr. John Adams shared his personal report and recounted developments in our nation over the years. He also shared some harrowing experiences he had while traveling to Washington, D.C. representing the BMA.

New Beginnings Church from West Virginia due to their application was entirely done online, for lack of information about the church, and no messengers present. Harvest Church from Gulfport, Mississippi petitioned also, but three letters of objection were presented. A committee of three individuals from Mississippi were appointed to investigate the matter. A report was later presented to the messenger body and the Association voted to accept the church. (The committee report is printed elsewhere in this issue).

Officers

New officers elected are President Justin Rhodes of Mississippi; First Vice-president Cliff Johnson, of Arkansas; and Second Vice-president Charles Johnson, of Texas. Jerome Cooper of Arkansas, and Greg Medenwald, of Mississippi, were reelected to serve as recording clerks.

The annual message was brought by Bro. Luis Ortega of Lifeword.

Reports

The final enrollment report showed 321 churches represented with 165 by letter only. With 331 messengers and 94 official visitors recorded, the attendance was well over 400 with many local folks attending the concert, message, and other sessions.

BMAA Foundation

continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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National Meeting from front page

Baptist Publishing House

Current director Dr. Charley Holmes reported that BPH is financially stable and operates in the black. He also shared that many other groups are seeking sound literature and are buying ours. He noted the publishing of the new Baptist Associational Church Manual with a revised and expanded section of Cobb's Church Manual. The new manual is being translated into Swahili, Spanish, and being used in the Philippines. Jordon Tew, also spoke and emphasized that "what we do is for the local church."

BMA Seminary

President Dr. Charley Holmes deferred to Seminary Dean Dr. Philip Attebery to present the bulk of the Seminary report in honor of Attebery's 20th anniversary as Dean. All degrees at the Seminary are now available online and undergraduate degrees are now offered in Spanish. The Seminary's reach for students is worldwide.

Lifeworld

Director Donny Parrish reported that Lifeworld is now in 123 countries of the world in over 120 languages. They have 42 writers who contribute to Lifeworld's content and by the end of 2021 he is expecting that new visitors to Lifeworld online will exceed 3 million. Parrish noted that they are expanding their facilities to be able to do more video work. To do this they are converting current warehouse space to studios and building new warehouse space.

October 24th is Lifeworld Sunday and the date set for special offerings.

Missions

Missions Director John David Smith reports that we currently have about 400

missionaries in 75 countries. He noted that ChangeMakers are the bulk of those serving. This has doubled it the last 5 years and he expects it to double again in the next 10 years. We currently have 76 American missionary personnel serving in both the U.S. and overseas.

Coordinating Council

Chairman Paul White gave a positive report showing cooperation and progress in each department with each one cooperating within their means.

Future Meetings

Bro. Jerome Cooper from the Committee on Arrangements confirmed the next two annual sessions. 2022 will be held in Springfield, Missouri, with the 2023 meeting at Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas. The cancellation of the 2020 meeting due to the pandemic caused the slight adjustment in meeting locations.

The 2022 Annual message will be brought by Bro. Richard Smith with Dr. Gary O'Neal as the alternate.

More Efficient Meeting Plans Suggested

At the close of the recent 2021 Annual meeting, Baptist Progress Editor Jerry Fulton shared his concern over 'the planning and carrying out of the annual meetings'. He shared that the meeting could be streamlined to eliminate requiring the process be relearned year after year, the places selected for the meeting be more appealing, and the registration process made more efficient. With regard to his concerns he made the following motion...

"I move that the Coordinating Council consult with the arrangements committee, the enrollment and finance committee, and the director of conference ministries to determine a more efficient and effective way to plan and carry out the annual meetings of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and present recommendations to that effect at the Association's 2022 annual meeting."

The motion was approved.

2021 Officers

Left to right - President Justin Rhodes of Mississippi; (not pictured) First Vice-president Cliff Johnson, of Arkansas; and Second Vice-president Charles Johnson, of Texas. Jerome Cooper of Arkansas, Greg Medenwald, of Mississippi, and Randy Shepherd



Legacy Missionary Recognition

Service Highlighted

At the recent annual meeting Missions Director Dr. John David Smith recognized five missionaries and families for their service. The criteria for the Legacy Awards are at least 30 years of service, faithfulness, and integrity. Smith said their beliefs, values, lifelong risks, caring and accountability are all considered.

Those recognized this year were Doyle & Linda Moore, Jerry & Sue Kidd, Phil & Lujauana Knott, and late Darlene Carey. Smith also mentioned the service of long time missionary Don Newsom who recently passed away after 43 years of service in the Philippines. He will be honored at next year's meeting.

Each honoree was present and addressed the Association with the exception of Darlene Carey. She passed away while serving in China. Her sister, Donna Carey Hensler, was present and spoke about Darlene's life commitment to Christ and service as a missionary.

Legacy Awards Presentation



Jerry & Sue Kidd



Doyle & Linda Moore



Darlene Carey's sister Donna Carey Henslet accepting award



Phil & Lujauana Knott

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

Is Voddie Baucham Right? Part Two

I hope you had the opportunity to read Part 1 of this article. If you have not, please go back and grab the July 15th edition of the Mississippi Baptist to access it. In this article, as a long time youth pastor I want to give you my answer to the question posed. I am sure that some will have an opposing view to my position, and that's ok. But here we go...

In my opinion, youth ministry is far too valuable to simply eliminate. Let me give you three reasons why.

First, there are many teens in youth groups that don't have a Christian home. Baucham's

two years later was saved and baptized.

One of our own here at Central, Hollie Burdick, was not raised in a believer's house. God used a youth pastor, Danny Ballard, at Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, Mississippi, to reach her. Her husband, Justin Burdick, said to me when discussing this with him: "I can't tell where I would be right now if



Anders Lee

"...as far as I'm concerned, we aren't eliminating youth ministry at our church, it's too valuable!"

main position is that parents should disciple their teens. I don't disagree, you saw that in my last article. However, consider the multitudes of teens who need Christ who are NOT in a believer's house. I could give you many examples from my days as a youth pastor. One in particular is Greg Fowler. His parents were great people, hardworking; they taught him values, loved him to the end of the earth, but they were not in church at all. Greg got invited by Jon Sandlin to a PAC the House night we had. It was an outreach tool of our ministry. He came, connected, and subsequently about

Vardaman Street had eliminated youth ministry." Danny Ballard is now a missionary in the Philippines for the BMA and the Burdick's are here with us serving at Central! Great youth groups win teens to Christ!

Second, in some "Christian homes," parents are not truly walking with Christ. It always broke my heart to see a teen who was sold out to Jesus, get broken hearted about parents who did not have the same passion for the Word and Church as they did. Those kids rarely heard of Christ at home, they were just brought to church. That type of kid can't depend on those par-

ents to disciple them. Yes, those parents need to change. Part of church ministry is challenging them and equipping them to do so. However, you can't wait around half of a teen's existence in your youth group for their parents to come to their senses. You have to seize the day and invest in that kid! In other cases when there was a great parent setting. As a youth pastor, I backed away and let parents be parents. It's that simple. Great youth groups disciple teens!

Third, many teens are from broken homes where there is abuse. At times in my ministry it was painful, but providential that a teen came to our youth ministry, and we saw that they needed intervention. Sometimes kids like this fall through the cracks in a large school. Here in Desoto County we have 9 High Schools and each class in these schools have between 350 and 550 kids. My daughter will graduate with almost 550 seniors in 2022. It is a reality that one or two in that large of a group will be overlooked yet needing help. In a smaller group, like a youth group, those kids are better identified and can get help. I use to tell our teens all the time, if you need me or one of our leaders at any time... YOU CALL... YOU TEXT!!! We are here for you! Guess what? I got those calls & texts from those kids. Not only that, but there are times when a kid needs to talk, needs to know the truth about something and they just can't bring themselves

those who were opposing the Apostles in Acts 5. He said to them Acts 5:39; "If it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice." Clearly through the years, God has used youth ministry in numerous ways. Do local churches need to change some things to make their youth ministry better? Sure! Eliminate it? Not in my opinion! Baucham espouses to the thought that youth ministry is unsuccessful and even said it's detrimental to teens. WOW! I can't fathom that! Especially knowing what God has done in the youth ministries I've been connected to!

to open up and talk about that with their parents. A good youth guy will break the ice on that subject and then turn them back to the parents. That's ministry, helping kids and parents. Like Eph. 4: 11 & 12 says we are called as pastors to "equip the saints." Great youth groups love help, and protect teens!

I could give you more examples, but let me say emphatically, why eliminate something that is being used by God? I think of Gamaliel's advice to



He holds to the position that it isn't "biblical." That is that you don't find this being done in the bible. There are a lot of things

Church organized as a local New Testament church and members from Farmington in Corinth were there to endorse their involvement in the work done in Gulfport and offer continued support to Bro. Brian and Harvest Church.

Finally, it is clear that though some mistakes were made around the organization of Harvest, both from Farmington and Bro. Brian that neither intent to deceive or purposely subvert the Articles of Cooperation of the BMAA were the intention of either party. Naivety in the church planting process, the incredible difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and an immense desire to be part of a special work that was seeing immediate fruit all played a part in making some procedural mistakes. However, Harvest was and, it appears, continues to be supported by Farmington Baptist Church in Corinth and the believers there since they have offered no statement or challenge to Bro. Brian and Harvest Church.

In June of 2020 Farmington did give their endorsement to Bro. Brian in business meeting, and were informed of his intention to take up the pastorate of Harvest Church in September. This was one of the first gathering that Farmington had as a body of believers due to the Covid-19 pandemic that had kept many churches from in person gatherings beginning in March and continuing for much of the year. This does not excuse some of the mistakes that were made, but Bro. Brian again expressed sorrow in that area.

In September of 2020 Harvest

that local churches do that are not biblical. There wasn't Sunday School in the bible. There weren't greeters for worship services. There weren't bulletins. There weren't church buses. There weren't pews and in most cases there weren't buildings. I think you get the point.

Listen! Any ministry that is winning people to Christ, discipling them and sending them out into the world to lead others to Christ is needed and valuable! I am not saying all youth ministries are that... but youth ministries like that should not be eliminated. If there is a bad youth ministry, I would say don't eliminate the ministry, but perhaps eliminate the youth pastor over it if he has failed in leading. Harsh, but sometimes true! We might also note on this subject that when Paul exhorted the overseers at Ephesus there was a plurality to that group. We don't know what that leadership looked like and who each leader served. Jesus sat and taught the little ones and took time with them. Who's to say that in the early churches that some of the elders didn't do the same? I am not saying that's biblical fact, but it is certainly not an unrealistic thought.

Baucham also asserts that in looking at youth ministry we should "follow the money." He insists that youth pastors shouldn't have specialized training for youth ministry and that there is big money in being a youth guy these days. Personally, I never made big money being a youth guy and ours here at Central does not either. That's not a grudge on my part, that's just a fact. My needs were met and I was thankful. I think when God calls a brother to serve in this capacity that it isn't wrong to support his financial needs as scripture leads us to do. Speaking of money, it is clear that you can follow the money with Baucham's ministry. It is a big outfit. I'm not saying he is a hireling or a Joel Osteen, but he sure isn't hurting in the back pocket!

As I said in the last article. Do your own research on the subject. Every local church should do as they are led, no doubt. I respect Voddie, but as far as I'm concerned, we aren't eliminating youth ministry at our church, it's too valuable! In fact, we just had a young lady named Adrianna get saved. She's from a tough situation, Breanna Clayton, one of our youth workers led her to Christ!

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

Report on Challenged for Membership

Dr. Kevin Clayton and Brothers Greg Medenwald and Jason Goodwin met with Bro. Brian Atwood on August 3, 2021 to investigate the challenges made by Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso, MS; South Forrest Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS; and Washington Baptist Church in Neely, MS to the inclusion of Harvest Church, Gulfport, MS, into the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Also in attendance for that meeting were Bro. Sam Freeman, interim-pastor at Washington Baptist Church, Brothers Vernon Newnan and Justin Rhodes, Big Creek Baptist Church, and Bro. Jeff Swart, the president of the BMAA.

After listening to the questions and concerns from the challenging churches present, and the answers provided by Bro. Brian Atwood this report is ready to give a time line of events as they

transpired concerning the organization of Harvest Church.

In January of 2020 Bro. Brian Atwood was asked to come and meet with a group that had began to gather in Gulfport, MS. In March 2020 this group had officially decided to begin the process of organizing into a local New Testament church, and Bro. Brian had spoken to the Trustees at Farmington Baptist Church in Corinth, MS about his intent to help them achieve that end. He had even expressed the hopes that by September the church could organize and he would then leave Corinth to pastor the church in Gulfport. The Trustees expressed their support to Bro. Brian and gather their approval of his involvement and work, but they did not at that time take action as a congregation to sponsor Bro. Brian.

In May of 2020 Bro. Brian baptized new believers from (sic) that had come to Christ due to the work being done in Corinth. Bro.

Brian did not believe at the time that he was in error, because of the support of Farmington and the excitement of what God was doing in Gulfport, but did express his regret that this has become such an issue for other local churches. He said that given the opportunity he would do things differently, because it was never his intention to cause disunity.

In June of 2020 Farmington did give their endorsement to Bro. Brian in business meeting, and were informed of his intention to take up the pastorate of Harvest Church in September. This was one of the first gathering that Farmington had as a body of believers due to the Covid-19 pandemic that had kept many churches from in person gatherings beginning in March and continuing for much of the year. This does not excuse some of the mistakes that were made, but Bro. Brian again expressed sorrow in that area.

In September of 2020 Harvest

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

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 2:3

In every unit I have served with in the U.S. Army, a Chaplain's Assistant was assigned to me. We were called the Unit Ministry Team. Many were excellent in their duties. Some were mediocre, while others were quite insufficient. One of the many things that is required of Chaplain Assistants, is to complete all administrative missions that the chaplain asks of them. One particular Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) assigned to my Unit



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Our college is on the rise. We must not permit our forward progress to come to a full stop at that impassible wall...

Ministry Team, would often not complete the mission and for an NCO, his excuses were disturbing to me. When asked about an uncompleted task, his replies became repetitive; someone had told him it could not be done, he had to wait, or leave and come back another day. After a while, it became evident that his NCO skills in accomplishing a mission were very weak. An NCO is expected to possess the capability of accomplishing the majority of his assignments, not to make excuses for why they couldn't be done. Sure, sometimes the task really could not be accomplished, however, with critical thinking skills, tact, and tenacity, the majority of obstacles should have been able to

be overcome.

In order to help him see the situation as I did, I described his behavior as walking down a trail when suddenly he comes up against a solid wall that blocks him from reaching his destination. Rather than analyzing whether it could be scaled, or circumvented, or even dug under in order to keep on with the mission, I explained that at this point he was just sitting down. He was not thinking through the problem and seeking a solution, but would just sit there for a while, and return to me with the excuse that a wall was in the way. Of course, I then would have to work the dilemma for him, and find a way to complete the task that had been assigned

to him.

The military has a saying about meeting a mission, "adapt, improvise, overcome". On the battlefield, obstacles and enemy resistance is to be expected. In order to accomplish the given mission, service members are taught to think through the problem and find a solution. It may be a very difficult path forward, but that will not stop a good soldier from pressing forward with the mission.

We at Southeastern Baptist College often come against formidable obstacles that slow our progress, but the Lord has brought together a spectacular staff that works as a team to fearlessly face presenting issues, think through the problems, and then to "adapt, improvise, and overcome". The college has made much progress, and now we have come upon a wall that hinders our future growth. We must find a way to overcome our housing needs. It is very disturbing to have to turn away students who desire to attend our college, simply because we have no dorm space. We must keep our forward

momentum going. Please pray that we will find people who believe in the future of SBC and will give generously for the building of new student residential halls.

If you are wondering what came of that NCO, well he finally learned to adapt, improvise, and overcome. He developed into a very fine leader and eventually achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. I am very proud of him and his humble spirit that allowed him to overcome his professional weaknesses. He became proficient at an important skill that enabled him to experience a very successful career in the U.S. Army.

Our college is on the rise. We must not permit our forward progress to come to a full stop at that impassible wall simply because we don't step out on faith and respond to God's leading, urging us to give to this great Christian institution. The Lord's hand is on SBC. He is moving forward and we must keep up with Him!
Equipping the Saints
Dr. Carson

Late Registration

Hurry up! It's not too late! Late registration ends Thursday, August 19. Classes begin Monday, August 16. Contact us at 601-426-6346.

Student Loans

Whereas SBC does not participate in the U.S. Government's guaranteed student loan program, several institutions such as Sallie Mae have recently begun providing private student loans to individuals. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information at 601-426-6346.

Positions Available

- Adjunct Accounting Professor: The applicant must possess a Master's Degree in a related field or be studying toward a Master's Degree in a related field.

- Part Time Librarian: The applicant must possess a Master's Degree in a related field or be studying toward a Master's Degree in a related field.

Résumés may be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440 or emailed to jwalker@southeasternbaptist.edu. Feel free to call us at 601-426-6346.

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located in the same location where the Light-house Café was formerly. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come support SBC and Holloway's!



Available For You!

Coffee with the President

An SBC alumnus suggested we begin a "coffee with the president" program where we invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.



Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Thank you Brother Brandon Clark for recently allowing Dr. Carson to fill your pulpit at Pine Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi!



In addition, Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message.

You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Day 2 of Fall 21 registration



Newly renovated President's House is occupied for the Fall 21 Semester



Coaches Lopez and Ulmer help furnish a dorm room in the newly renovated President's House



Andre Weaver of Citronelle, Alabama signs as a Charger



Fall 21 Baseball signing

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



Gone Fishing

The hot days of August remind me of fishing. JB loved fishing, and he was skilled at it. I only liked it if I were catching fish on my ole-timey pole with a cricket on the hook. I was still happy not catching fish if I had a mystery to read.

He could fish for hours enjoying casting and fly fishing. He made it look so easy, but I could do it right only in our backyard. When I got in the boat, I was a natural disaster; he did a lot of ducking. He loved to say, "You've trying too hard." I never did learn how not to try hard. Just give me a pole. Or a good mystery instead.

JB and I went fishing a lot even though I had never been fishing because Daddy didn't fish or hunt. And he certainly did not like for his daughters to get in a boat. When JB and I were going fishing at his honey hole, we always got a lecture (and the look) about the dangers of being in a boat, even JB's beloved john boat.

One of our expeditions to the honey hole resulted in being surrounded by moccasins, which finally made sense of Aunt Merriam's always cautioning us to be careful. (I probably haven't mentioned JB's fear of snakes, but he fell off the bed one night trying to escape a snake in his dream.) The next time we went fishing, JB was armed. Even though he used a lot of ammunition, not one snake even got nervous. I was nervous because you don't want to see someone shaking with a gun in his hand and be in the boat with him. I could see the snakes in the boat and us in

the water.

That didn't happen as I imagined it. One fishing trip, though, as we were leaving the pond and he was pulling the boat onto shore, he dumped me out! As the water closed over my head, I thought of the snakes. With mud to my knees and mayhem in my heart as I surfaced, I threatened to shoot him if he ever told Daddy about the incident. He didn't even crack a smile.

On the Sunday after the church fishing trip a few months after Daddy died, I heard the guys at church snickering. They had heard the story finally. Of course, he told the story his way: I fell out of the boat. Men! At least, though, he never told Daddy.

Another reason I think about fishing in August is because I was convicted of my lost condition during a fishing trip one Wednesday with JB at the honey hole. Remembering that several of the disciples were fishermen and all were called to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:18-22), I think it was just like Him to call me during a fishing trip. How thankful I am I heard that call and was saved that evening. I thank God for using Bro. Ed Steele and Westover to help me realize even some church members need salvation.

And all Christians are called to be fishers of men. At a summer revival service one year, Bro. Steve Crawley introduced us to



Carolyn Hagler

Evangelism Explosion. Two of our men immediately wanted to attend the training in Memphis. I had some obstacles I wanted the Lord to overcome before I even mentioned going. You know how the Lord can be: He met every need.

I did not know, at the time, that I would be 1 of only 3 women out of the group of 33. And the other 2 were with their husbands! I've noticed that I seldom know all the details when the Lord puts me under conviction to do something. That was certainly true with EE.

If you've ever seen the EE outline, you know it is a lengthy, thorough, and excellent tool for presenting the gospel. Yet when I learned that I had to know it 100 percent at the training, I kept telling myself that I couldn't possibly compete with the younger Frank. But I kept telling myself that if the older guy Dan could do it, I could, too.

They weren't worried, though. But I practiced and practiced and practiced. And worried and worried and worried. I also listened to our practice tape over and over on my way to Memphis.

I thought before Memphis that the memory work was the hardest part of the training. I learned, though, that being the only woman in our group prayer sessions and in our witnessing team was also challenging.

The hardest part came in the evening. We were always served a meal and then would hit the

streets. We went out in groups of three to knock on doors and talk about Jesus to whoever opened the door. Every evening, I was so nauseous I couldn't eat; when asked, I would say "I'm not very hungry." Yeah, right!

But I was with great guys every evening, and they were great witnesses and examples



for me. The last evening, a young lady listened to me, but heard the Lord's calling. I learned that fear shouldn't keep us from doing something the Lord wants us to do and He's still saving the lost regardless of us. Don't make assumptions about anyone. I saw a pastor, an EE trainee, saved in Memphis. We need to go fishing more.

After Memphis, Westover started an EE program. We had lots of experiences, but I've got to admit my favorite story involved a snake. Sounds like the Garden of Eden, doesn't it?

My trainee and I visited a trailer close to the church. After asking him to sit to my right, I

noticed he was unusually quiet. After visiting with the couple and determining they were born-again Christians, I got ready to leave. I stood up and asked my partner to pray. That was when I spotted the snake looking at us from an aquarium next to him. I asked him later when he saw the snake. "From the moment you told me to sit beside it." He doesn't let me forget it, but he certainly prayed eloquently that night. Amazing what fear can do! The snake story reminds me of JB except he would never have sat down.

My favorite necklace reminds me of fishing, too. One of the few pieces of jewelry I wear is a James Avery pendant of the sign of the fish, the ichthus. When I wear it, it reminds me that Jesus called all His believers to be fishers of men.

It also reminds me to "Remember the Fish," (Rodney Griffith, Greater Vision) especially when I face a challenge or life gets hard. If Jesus can turn 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread into a meal for over 5,000 with lots of leftovers (Matthew 14:13-21), He can certainly take care of my needs and yours. While remembering the fish, hang your "Gone Fishing" sign on your door and go!

Until next time, I remain in His grin.



"Just Load the Wagon"

By: Fonda Norris, EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry Coordinator



"Don't worry about the mule, just load the wagon." I'm not sure if any of you have ever heard that old saying before, but I have it on good authority that it originated in Alabama. Since Brother Rocky Goodwin was born and spent his childhood in Alabama and he's the one that I heard that from I'll have to say it's true at least from my perspective.

You may ask what does that

have to do with a praise report from EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry? That phrase sums up my feelings this year more than any other that I can think of when laboring to get a shipment together in the middle of a pandemic. Meaning, I have worried about how we would get a shipment assembled with all the restrictions that we have faced and borders closed. But our Faithful

Father kept nudging us along to "just load the wagon."

Although progress was slower than usual we kept working throughout this year and we officially have finished 16,000 Shepherd's Bags are boxed and stored in our shipping warehouse awaiting shipment. At this time we're not sure when we can ship.

Another praise report is that we were notified last week that the 16,000 Shepherd's Bags that were picked up in the spring are officially on the way to Ghana. Praise again! Join us in praising Him that even in the midst of a pandemic He has allowed EIM to have 32,000 Shepherd's Bags to be used as a tool to preach the Gospel to thousands of children this year.

As you all know, EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry is full time all year long. However, due to the pandemic and with many borders closed please help us pray to know when to begin work on our next container. But praise God we are ready to start back to work "loading the wagon" when God opens the door.

Pray for EIM! We love you all.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS NEAR END

A huge thank you to all who have already participated in this year's Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month! Our Special Emphasis continues through the end of August for focused donations from churches and individuals.

As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.



MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

The Inner Life of a Moral Person

II Timothy 2

The moral person's inner life must be correct in order to respond to his accountability to God. The text shares the message of the Apostle Paul with the younger man Timothy.

I. The Character of Purity – To Be an Example

(II Timothy 2:2) – “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

It seems obvious that the church more often confronts the world through the everyday lives of Christians than through worship services and organizations

of a gathered congregation, as important as such gatherings are.

A pure and circumspect walk is vital. Paul refers to those passions and desires which are so tempting in verse 22. They war against the soul of the Christian and are destructive to the holiness of a believer. This verse has negative and positive words. Negatively, the word flee says for the Christian to run away from such ugly passions which can cause serious scandals. Ask God to forgive and go on with your Christian journey. Positively, the word follow tells Timothy to act his part well in the Christian life.

II. The Character of Wisdom – To Prevent Strife

(II Timothy 2:23) – “But foolish and unlearned questions

avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.”

The Christian moralist must avoid meaningless discussions. Satan would have each one to waste his energies on foolish questions. He wishes for the Christian to take small things for great and great things for small. Four times in I and II Timothy Paul admonishes Timothy of this hazard.

“Unlearned questions... do gender strifes.” These questions will break the peace of the individual and will slow the progress of the gospel. You must know that there is no possibility that you will be able to avoid all strife and discouragement.

As a Christian, the best way to react to strife and discouragement is to pray for wisdom, work hard to overcome obstacles, and always confront the problem, never running from it. Practice the discipline of learning from difficult experiences. They are often God's way of preparing Christians for greater service,



Dr. Adams

and they may occur often.

III. The Character of Patience – To Meet Other's Needs

(II Timothy 2:24) – “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.”

The true temper of a moral person must be gentle, patient, and instructive. “Be gentle unto all men,” cultivating a spirit of love. The Christian should desire to be kind and considerate toward all people. “Apt to teach” shows the capacity of the leader to instruct the ignorant. Some will listen and heed the message, while some will be obstinate. “Patient” tells the Christian to bear with infirmities and weaknesses.

IV. The Need of Compassion – To Win the Lost

(II Timothy 2:25, 26) - “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at this will.”

Compassion is the key to the

Christian moral person's inner life of victory. His heart should never be stony or indifferent. He must be ready to instruct sinful persons in a meek and humble spirit. The sinner may be ignorant of the Word of God, wrongly informed by well-intentioned friends, or deeply prejudiced from earlier false teachings. A compassionate talk by the Christian may bring such a person to repent of his sin and accept the true doctrine of faith.

The Lord Jesus was compassionate toward the woman at the well. He loved her soul as He spoke in John 4:10: “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

The Christian learns quickly that the single most dynamic word in his language is salvation and that the source of salvation is Jesus Christ. Don't judge people who fail so harshly, but forgive and help all men to recover. You may never know what God was doing in helping a woman or man to recover from sin. God so loved us, the world.

National Women's Missionary Auxiliary President's Report

by Charlotte Johnson
National WMA President

Greetings from the National Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA). The WMA meeting was held at Heritage, Waxahachie August 3, 2021. The theme for the meeting was Share the Vision, and the theme's scripture was Acts 26:19-20. Praise and worship were led by Judy Wallace with Linda Strickland



WMA President Charlotte Johnson

at the piano. Texas State WMA President Johnnie Ross welcomed the ladies to Texas. Lydia Dunlap, National Miss GMA, shared scripture from 1 Corinthians 12:13-20. Judy Wallace and Charlotte Johnson helped Lydia with her demonstration of being one body. Judy Wallace led the WMA theme song Called and the opening prayer

was led by 1st Vice President Charlotte Johnson.

National President Jodi Rhea called the business meeting to order. The officer's recommendations were as follows: 1. The treasurer disperse funds totaling \$7,333.76 received from the Texas Baptist Missionary Loan Association held under the “Focus Memorial Endowment” evenly between “Missionary Care” and the “Darlene Carey Academy” 2. The treasurer disperse funds totaling \$125.00 being held under “Spanish Printing” to the “Editorial Bautista Publication”

There was a motion and seconded to approve reports in the program booklet as printed. It carried. Kelly Williams, project promoter, awarded First, Springhill, Louisiana as the highest contributor who gave \$3,613.00 to the project. The total given to the project of missionary care was \$48,689.20. The project for 2021-2022 is the Darlene Carey School. The total given to this project, since April, is nearly \$6,000.00.

The National WMA has given over \$1.6 million dollars to projects all across the world through supporting missions, building projects, publications and youth ministries. Cindy Allen announced the theme for

National WMA Officers



2021-2022 as Intentional and theme verses, Ephesians 5:15-16.

Brenda Hornaday installed the officers for 2021-2022 using the theme Sharing the Vision. Officers elected are president, Charlotte Johnson (Texas); 1st vice president, Brenda Hornaday (Texas); 2nd vice president, Cindy Allen (Texas); 3rd vice president, Kelly Williams (Arkansas); recording secretary, Jessica Haden (Mississippi) and Jodi Rhea (Oklahoma); treasurer, Janet Widger (Missouri); assistant treasurer, Sara Buckley (Missouri); media director, Alicia Johnson (Texas); editor, Jackie Ricks (Texas); historian, Tracy Goede (Missouri); director of youth programs, Laurie Hicks (Arkansas); assis-

tant youth director, Katy Nix; GMA/YLA, Hayley Rasco (Texas); Sunbeams Promoter, Sandra Kizer (Texas); assistant Sunbeams, Linda Dertinger, (Mississippi); song leader, Judy Wallace (Arkansas); pianist, Linda Strickland (Arkansas); project promoter, Beth Caldwell (Mississippi); project committee, Diana Morris (Texas) and Connie Reifsteck (Missouri); salary expense committee, Glenda Chamberlain, (Texas), Sherry Laminack (Arkansas) and Pat Duncan (Arkansas); inspiration resource committee, Pat Quesenbury (Texas), Kirby Pool (Texas) and Valerie Fish (Arkansas); advisory committee, Charles Johnson (Texas), David Kizer (Texas) and Randy Rhea (Oklahoma).

Mrs. Hornaday then introduced the conference program. Judy Wallace introduced the keynote speaker, Sabrina Clayton. Special music, Go Light Your World, was sung by Valerie Fish.

Door prizes were given to those in attendance. Total attendance was 114, with several missionaries in attendance.

The ladies of the BMA are encouraged to join our conference each year, even if you do not have a WMA. All ladies are invited to attend if you have women's ministry in your church.

For more information about the ladies organization of the BMA go to nationalwma.org website. Offerings can be sent to Janet Widger, P. O. Box 23, Salem, Missouri, 65560. After a delicious catered lunch, the afternoon session reconvened. The following break sessions were offered to the ladies: Share the Vision through Gospel Music by Judy Biggers; Share the Vision through Women's Ministries by Pat Quesenbury; Share the Vision through the Written Word by Jackie Ricks; and Share the Vision through Community Outreach by Penny Jacobs.

Please encourage your ladies to attend the WMA meeting at the National BMA meeting next April. The National WMA officers will be glad to speak at your meetings and you can find their information on the website.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

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264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-508-9697

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

Big Push Needed!!

State WMA Project Deadline Near

by Marilyn Welborn

The deadline for our State WMA project is approaching. Bro Sam Freeman and the renovation of the BMA publications building into a BMA training facility in the Philippines is a very needed project. Please help by giving one last big push to reach the goal that has been set. Funds are to be sent to: Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 by September 25th.



Time Is Slipping Away

National Meeting Photos



Dr. Scott Caron stated it was a blessing to promote the Baptist Missionary Association of America Chaplaincy Department during our recent annual meeting. He introduced three chaplains currently serving under the endorsement of the BMAA. Pictured L-R: Army Chaplain Chris Grizzle; Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Wes Hulvey; Texas State Guard Chaplain Ryan Burchett; and Dr. Carson also serving with the Mississippi State Guard.



Messengers and visitors at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahatchie, Texas

COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULTS

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Don Brown

A Particular Time in Our Lives

My 55th high school reunion was held the weekend after our national meeting in Texas. I did not get to go due to travel time and family obligations. I was also really tired from the national meeting. 500 miles from home and going and sitting and eating and sitting and sleeping, etc. You get the picture I'm sure.

I remember and really enjoyed the 50th reunion. There were so many folks that I recognized and remembered, but there were also so many old people there. Some I did not remember and certainly did not recognize.

One thing about my class of 1966, they seem to never slow down and always act like they are in the 'prime' of their lives. When I have to share my age with someone I tell them my age

in years (on the outside) and always add, "But I am 16 on the inside". I well remember those teenage years and in my mind I am the same person. Of course I find out rather quickly at times that I am really 73 on the outside. That usually happens when I try to do something that I have always been able to do, but find

that it is not as easy as it use to be OR that it is now impossible.

I find out that physically I am no longer in my 'prime'. That has gotten me to thinking. I may not be able to do some things, but I certainly am able to live life and be involved in anything that I wish. Therefore I declare that I am in that Prime Time of Life!

I think we should all have the attitude that whatever age, whatever physical condition,

whatever situation we find ourselves in we should make it our Prime Time.

With that said I challenge our senior citizens to live, act, and adopt the attitude, or theme if you will, of *Prime Time With A Purpose!* All of God's children should be 'purposeful' in our daily and spiritual lives.

Ask yourself this question, "What is my purpose." For the purpose of discussion, we are to worship and serve our God! In the next few issues I will present some ideas about being purposeful.

Every morning without fail my wife asks me, "What is on you agenda today?" I usually have an answer, but some days I have to say, "I have no agenda today. We will take care of whatever comes up."

I finish with this question to you dear reader "What is on your agenda?"

We will talk about this more in future reports. God bless you all.

Conference Note: As of this writing all conferences are on schedule and being planned. Covid cases are spiking and we pray that this is a temporary thing. I am vaccinated! I hope you are! Be careful! Be mindful! And be relying on our God to care for His own. Amen.



Prayer by Eric Johnson for Legacy Award Recipients

National Senior Adult Conference



November 15-17, 2021

Chateau on the Lake, 415 N. State Hwy 265, Branson, Missouri 65616

Cost - \$135 per person until October 1st
\$145 per person after October 1st

Chateau on the lake room rate: \$129 per night

Conference speaker:
Pastor Kirk Shelton
Conference worship:
Travis Sellers
Conference emcee:
Donny Parrish

Conference Concert:
Lauren Talley
Conference Concert:
Brian Free and Assurance
Show: Branson Belle Showboat

THE TEACHER'S CORNER

HELP FOR THE
CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

If Prayer Changes Things

Our pastor must have preached a sermon on prayer the day before. I remember being on the school playground the thought came to my mind, "If I really believed that prayer changes things, my life would be different." I was about eleven years old, but still thank God that His Holy Spirit got me to thinking about the significance prayer could and should have in my life.

I began to pray more often and throughout the day. At first, my prayers focused mostly on me and asking God to help me be successful in school, athletics, etc. However, as time went by, I began to realize that prayer should focus more upon others' needs and for God's will in all areas.

How does this relate to teaching? I think it is essential for teachers to pray about their study, but mostly to pray about and for their students, learners, and disciples. I must admit my consistent weakness regarding prayer for those I teach, but let us be encouraged to give prayerful attention to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those we teach.

If prayer changes things, would your teaching be different? If prayer changes things, would those under your teaching be different? I am convinced the answer is "Yes!"

Dr. Philip Attebery has served as Academic Dean at BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas since 2000. He also teaches church ministry courses. He may be contacted at philip.attebery@bmats.edu.



Philip Attebery

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Duties of the Deacon

The following was written in 1808 by Rev. Mr. Rhodes as a circular letter to the "The ministers and other brethren, who compose the Georgia Association." I have included, (for space) only a portion of the letter. The subject of the letter was "to address to you a few admonitory remarks on the official duty of a Deacon."

In the beginning portion of the letter, the duties of a deacon were generally addressed as being the following: 1) The table of the Lord (preparations for the Lord's Supper), 2) The table of the poor (Under this heading, the writer divided the poor into the following three categories; first, the world's poor or those too lazy to work; second, the devil's poor or those who have spent good living in gambling, drinking, etc.; thirdly, the Lord's poor "or those who, industriously and frugally, endeavor for a support, but still are in want.") According to Mr. Rhodes, it is the Lord's poor we are responsible for. 3) "It is the duty of the Deacon to attend to the temporal needs of the Minister. This, though a very plain, is a very much neglected duty."

Following these general divisions in the letter, Mr. Rhodes transcribes what apparently transpired at an Association meeting where this discussion took place. Mr. Rhodes recorded the following sentiment, which is far too often prevalent. The sentiment was expressed in

the letter by the following, some "thought it rather dangerous to give liberally, lest they should make their minister proud, and so hinder his usefulness." To this, Mr. Rhodes records a scathing rebuttal which I have included.

"Bro ___ rising soberly said, he had attended to what had been said on the subject, and was grieved in spirit to hear so many objections to the discharge of a reasonable and just duty; he feared that a spirit of pride and covetousness had disposed them to serve themselves of the good things of God, without returning him one thankful offering; he wondered how Christians could expect the continuance of the blessings of life, who are more abusive of, and unthankful for them than heathens, who never use any of a new crop till they have offered the first fruits to the Great Giver of all good. To the brethren, who are so afraid of spoiling the minister by liberalities, he said, 'are not your sons and daughters as lovely, and their souls as precious in your sight as your minister? If so, why do you not govern them by the same rule; and when the sons request superfines (extremely nice/overpriced) to wear, high priced, gaily horses, fifty or sixty dollar saddles to ride, and the daughters lustrestring (luxury ma-



Jason Howard
Director

terials/the best) dresses with trails form 3 to 5 ft in length, fine bonnets and feathers, and other costly equipage of dress, why do you not say, no, my lovely children, these will make you proud and ruin you! No: your families can be and appear in all the fashionable elegance of dress, and your boards loaded with all the luxuries of life, without adverting to the evil consciences of such conduct.' I would,' said he, 'that brethren be consistent.'

Dear Brethren, the spirit and result of the above are often seen in the face of your subscription papers. There we see annexed to some names ten dollars, to others five, others one, and others nothing, some giving and others withholding more than is meet; by which it much oftener happens that the preacher is like the colt tied where two ways met, than likely to be exalted to the abundance of our liberality. And indeed, if any of you think the standing and usefulness of your minister, depend on his poverty, we would advise you to be liberal to him that he may be proven and stand in his true light; and especially we recommend this measure, as thereby you will have done your duty, and relieved the poor minister of God on the one hand, or have detected a hypocrite, freed the church of a pest, and the world of an imposter on the other.

The faithful servant of Christ, instead of being naughty, would be humbled by the abounding of your liberality. O how relieved and comforted would the poor minister be, if his brethren were to say to him, as

a late, meek, old minister did to a young one in his start - 'Go on brother in the cause of your Master, and be not anxious about the family, for they shall never suffer as long as I live.' But we speak not with respect to want, or that we desire a gift; but that ye may have fruit which may abound to your account, to praise and honor at the coming of Christ, the chief shepherd. Phil. 4:11-17.'

Finally, dear brethren, emotions of grief have been excited by the frequency of complaint in your letters. We exhort you to quit you like men - resist the evil of the day - be separate from the world - do your duty - honor you high calling - love the brotherhood - and strictly trust in God. And then you will have a just right, though troubled on every side, not to be distressed; though cast down, not to be in despair. - Yea, considering him who suffered such contradiction of sinners against himself, you will be strong and valiant in your minds; and especially knowing all things work together for good to them who love God.

Lord God Almighty? Grant to thy servants all that grace which shall possess them all of well-informed, well-governed and pious minds, of useful lives, honorable characters, and triumphant deaths? To these petitions, dear brethren, we add but one word more, the appropriate and solemn word, Amen."

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