

“According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.” 1 Tim 1:11

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Can COVID-19 Stop Us?

by Jordan M. Tew
*Assistant to the Director of
Baptist Publishing House*

Dear friends, I am concerned about the current state of our churches. Consider what has become “normal” for us: we are barely meeting for weekly worship, some congregations have eliminated singing praises to our Lord, most churches are not actively going out into their communities to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, and Sunday school classes are off the table in a growing



Jordan Tew

number of churches. What in the world is going on?

Now before anyone takes offense at these words, let me assure you I understand there are churches and individuals who have decided to cancel various meetings and have made changes to better protect their health and safety. I applaud that, and I understand those decisions are difficult for churches and individuals to make. I also understand there is a need to abide by the law of the land, if possible and if it does not go against the commands of the Bible.

However, an ongoing lack of corporate worship, evangelism, and Bible teaching can never



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become “the new normal.” God’s Word and His mandate to His churches have not changed. Are we being faithful during these days? Are we preaching the Gospel as we ought? Are we worshipping as the Bible instructs us? Are we baptizing and taking the Lord’s Supper? Are we neglecting anything God has commanded us?

I wonder if COVID-19 is the biggest obstacle we will face in

our lifetime? I would assume it is not. If this virus proves to be an ongoing setback for our churches, then how will we respond to the other trials Christ has promised we will face? How will we handle famine, nakedness, and sword or persecution, hatred, and false prophets (Romans 8, Matthew 24)? Will we stand on the promise that Hell itself will not prevail against us or will we merely limp along until Jesus returns?

The truth is, God’s people have always assembled and ministered despite trials. In the roughly 2,000 year span since Jesus walked on this earth, His churches have faced persecu-

tion, plague, war, starvation, terrorism, economic instability, and governmental opposition. How we handle our current situation will impact our children and our grandchildren directly.

God’s people are well-acquainted with suffering and difficult times. In fact, we have often thrived under harsh conditions and God has used times like our own to usher in great outpourings of salvation and revival. We have not been called to comfort or safety. We have been called to faithfulness. Will COVID-19 stop us? Perhaps a better question is “Can COVID-19 stop us?”

Consider the words of your Savior and the Cornerstone of your church: “lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Everlasting Smile Shoebox Ministry 2020

by Angela Rice

This year, more than ever, we are excited to send our Christmas shoeboxes. In each shoebox, there are many fun things that children will enjoy. These boxes are packed with LOTS of love and many prayers are prayed over them. But the most important thing that we can give any child is the opportunity to know Jesus. Our prayer is that through the ministry of Everlasting Smiles, we will open doors for our missionaries to tell families about Jesus and that the Bible inside each box will bring them closer to him.

We are moving forward with our shoeboxes and are ready to receive them. However, this year we have a few changes we want to share with you. Because of Covid-19, we are being careful to do our part and follow guidelines that different locations have put into place. We



are thankful that we now have four regional drop-off stations for your boxes.

Local drop-off stations at churches listed on our website, bmamissions.org/Christmas-shoebox, are still accepting boxes, but we have added additional regional stations as well. These stations will serve as our Conway location does: to pack your shoeboxes and get them ready for shipping. Regional stations will deliver those ready-

to-ship boxes to Conway. What a blessing!

The regional drop-off station for Mississippi is Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. The contact person at SBC is Anderle Foster. Her cell number is 601-344-8656 and the college number is 60-426-6346. As you prepare to deliver your shoeboxes, we would ask that you please contact your drop-off station and set a time for delivery. This will not only speed up the process, but will allow all of us to follow the appropriate CDC guidelines for each location. These might include limiting the number of people delivering the shoeboxes, practicing safe distancing, and wearing a mask as required by that location.

We appreciate you so much for your involvement in this ministry. If you have questions, please reach out to Angela Rice, angela@bmamissions.com or 214-498-3041.



Clarification From Coordinating Council

Editor’s Note: *BMA of America Vice-president Mark Livingston has assumed the pastorate of a church not affiliated with the BMA. Chairman White’s remarks are in response to this event.*

What happens when an officer or committee members leaves the BMAA? I hope to answer some questions I have personally been asked concerning this subject. Regardless as to whom the person might be, when they leave our association and are no longer a member of a BMAA church their positions automatically become vacant and will be filled at our next annual Association meeting or as stated in our articles of agreement.

Paul White, Chairman
BMAA Coordinating Council

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Delayed Delivery

Our July 15, 2020, issue of the Mississippi Baptist was delayed in delivery due to handling by the Postal Service. We are sorry for this delay, but when our papers are delivered to the Post Office we depend on them to process them in a timely manner. I typically received my personal mailed copy the next business day after the paper is mailed. I received my copy of the July 15th issue 8 days after it was mailed.

After speaking to officials at the Post Office I learned that the regular employee who handles this process was on vacation and a substitute processed our mailing. The normal process was obviously not followed. We have shared our concerns with the Postal Service.

Due to the process for 'bulk mailing', many in the northern part of Mississippi get their paper several days after the southern part of the state. This is due to mail being sorted through various post office processing centers. Our papers are mailed from the Hattiesburg, Mississippi post office and some go directly to Gulfport, Jackson, and Memphis for sorting and processing.

We share this information with our readers to help with understanding of the process.

Old Normal - Not The New Normal

As have many of you, we have worshiped in the parking lot, by live streaming on the internet, by watching prerecorded sermons from some of our favorite preachers, and at last in person. Nothing is better than 'in person' church worship services. Each church and member must make the decision as to what is best for them, but it will be good when this time is over and we can return to 'normal'.

In the mean time...let us adapt, let us worship, let us continue to do the Lord's work.



Help a child and change the world

by Joe McKeever

Editor's Note: Dr. Joe McKeever is a long time pastor, prolific writer, and talented cartoonist who lives in the Jackson, Mississippi area. He has graciously allowed this publication to use his thoughts and cartoons as we desire. I want to publicly thank him for this privilege and commend him for freely sharing his God given talents with us. The following inspirational story should encourage all of us to be a 'child helper'.

There is a way to step into the future and change it forever. Help a child.

Teach a child.
Feed a child.
Hug a child.



McKeever

On this website, back in 2010, I referred to an old clipping from the Northeast Mississippi Daily

Daughter of Former Missionaries Dies

Maryjane Arrington Mathis, the daughter of former BMA Missionaries M.S. & Katherine Arrington, passed away July 13, 2020 in Tyler, Texas.

Maryjane was born May 6, 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi and her early childhood was spent in Jackson, Mississippi and Jacksonville, Texas.



Maryjane Arrington

She moved to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia at the age 12 when her parents entered the mission field of the Amazon jungle basin in Bolivia. She returned to the states to complete high school in Mize, Mississippi, and then attended Jacksonville College where she met her husband, Alton Gene Mathis. She is preceded in death by her husband of over 43 years, A. Gene; her parents, M.S. and Katherine Arrington; children, Amanda Lee (Mandy), Tyler Caleb (T.C.) and Tyasha Delilah (Tye) Mathis and grandson Alton Thomas (Tommy) Hall.

The family asks that donations be made to Jacksonville College, 105 B.J. Albritton Dr. Jacksonville, TX 75766 and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Journal of Tupelo in which a medical doctor, Joe Bailey, is paying tribute to the man who influenced his life.

Dr. H. O. Leonard was the mentor of young Joe Bailey, who later became a medical doctor. Here's the story....

The Bailey family were farmers, Dr. Bailey says, but since his mother refused to live anywhere but in town, they lived in Coffeetown, Mississippi, population 600. They lived directly across the street from the town doctor, H. O. Leonard.

As far back as Joe Bailey remembers, he wanted to be a medical doctor. When he was 10, his father suggested that it was time for him to begin helping out on the farm. Young Joe took a deep breath and explained that if he was going to be a

doctor, it would be better to take a job that would teach him about people.



The truth is, I really enjoyed the farm, but at age 10 I went to work in the local grocery store for 25 cents an hour (in 1957). I kept the job until I finished high school in 1965. By then I was making \$1 an hour and the experiences of dealing with people those eight years have proven invaluable to me.

In the middle of that vocational experience, however, little

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Bro. A. W. Kirkland Passes Away

Amos Walter "A.W." Kirkland passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on July 5, 2020. He was born on February 4, 1930 in Carriere, Mississippi, to the late Walter T. and Bertha (Price) Kirkland. He was a member and Sunday School teacher at Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston.



A.W. Kirkland

Bro. Kirkland served as pas-

tor of several churches over 71 years. He was active in the work of the BMA of Mississippi and served faithfully in a number of capacities. He was preceded in death by his six brothers and seven sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Eula Kirkland; son, Keith (Mary) Kirkland of Perkinston; two daughters, Joy (Ronnie) Bardwell of Wiggins and Rose (Greg) Kirkland Ladner of Perkinston; sister, Edith Lee of Leetown Community; 6 grandchildren, 7 Great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on July 9, 2020, at Paramount Baptist Church in Perkinston.

Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to editor@msbaptist.org or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1st and 15th of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

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Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

Excellence. What does that word mean to you? The prophet Daniel established an excellent reputation among his captors. Daniel 5:12 states, "Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel..."



Dr. Scott Carson
President

The Aramaic word used here in the original language of this passage is *yattiyar* and is interpreted into English in the King James Bible as "excellent". Strong's Concordance gives the meaning of this word as pre-eminent, surpassing, extreme, or extraordinary.

...they shown prowess in their studies, they have also established good Christian reputations in their walk with the Lord.

Even though Daniel was captured, relocated into a foreign land and pressed into servitude of a pagan nation, he never lost his personal integrity. Whatever the conditions or circumstances surrounding his personal life, Daniel set excellence as his goal. Daniel was a man of God. He was dedicated to the Lord and represented him in every aspect of his life. Daniel was recognized for his personal testimony by the very captors he served, and because of his consistent excellent spirit, Daniel was identified as a person to be trusted and later to be entrusted with great responsibilities in the service of the king.

I am proud of our graduating class of 2020. Each has exhibited academic excellence in earning their degrees. But

not only have they shown prowess in their studies, they have also established good Christian reputations in their walk with the Lord. Much like Daniel, each is to be commended in their dedication to pursuing excellence in their lives. Some have been recognized for their talents on the basketball court, others are preaching the word from a pulpit, and some were handpicked as SBC ambassadors to the public. In a word, they are trusted witnesses of Christ who is living in them.

Some first join our student body with minimal Christian testimonies and with little biblical knowledge. Our professors endeavor to help our students grow in their understanding of scripture and in their dedication to the Lord. I am personally proud of the quality of students they

are producing. No matter what subject is taught, whether the class is Old Testament Survey, biology, or any other, our professors seek to convey a Christian world view. In doing so, our students depart from SBC ready to enter the workforce with strong biblical convictions and with excellent personality. How better to set them up for success in a society where such is in great decline? As the pagans of Babylon were quick to identify Daniel as a trusted person of strong character, so our graduates will also be recognized for their integrity.

One of our five strategic communication points we have established is the Pursuit of Excellence. As we complete the commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2020, we fully anticipate that these newly minted alumni will continue to represent the great legacy of Southeastern Baptist College whether they be in a ministry setting or in secular employment.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Only Halfway Commitment to Women's Dorm Renovation

We are renovating the upstairs women's dormitory that have not been occupied in many years. This is a tremendous opportunity for your church,



Chris Carmical applies paint to the women's dorm. Paint is donated by Lowe's.

yourself, or an organization to adopt as their contribution to the growth of SBC. There are eight rooms and four bathrooms that must be completely refreshed before the beginning of the Fall Semester. Four (or one half) of the rooms are financed by generous donors. There is still an opportunity for you to donate

The Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Mark your calendars! We have set the dates of September 28 – 30 for the Danny Pitts Lecture Series here on the campus of SBC. More information will be provided over the next couple of months.

toward one or more of the other four rooms. For each full sponsor, the sponsor's name will be placed on a plaque on the door of the suite. Each suite will cost \$7,200 to renovate. Please refer to the adjacent flyer for more details.

A Housing Opportunity

We know we can exceed 100 students taking classes here at SBC. One of our greatest challenges to growing the student body is housing. We are currently exploring ways to meet this significant need. If you know of rental homes, or perhaps available parsonages in the Laurel area that are not currently occupied that your church would allow us to use, please give Dr. Carson a call at 601-426-6346.

Registering for Fall Semester

In-person registration for the Fall Semester is scheduled for August 3-6. Contact Admissions through our website, or calling 601-426-6346, or by visiting our campus in person 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Classes begin August 10.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer, Ginny Singleton for more information.

CHANGE!

Lighthouse Café Will Reopen!

The SBC Lighthouse Café is scheduled to reopen on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The hours are Monday through



Thursday, 11-2. Closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

To begin the school year, the indoor eating area will be for students only. An opportunity for the public will be available for pick up and window service.

Veterans Benefits

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

The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one

College Report
Continued on page 6

Sports Opportunities

During the 2020-2021 school year, SBC will be adding the following sports programs: Men and Women's Basketball, Men's Baseball, Women's Softball, and Cheerleading. We continue to offer Men's Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball, and Women's Basketball. Tryouts are ongoing...contact Coach Buddy Duke immediately at 601-426-6346 if you are interested in any of these programs.



Madelyn Godwin of Hurley, Mississippi and Chloe Rafada of Satsuma, Mississippi have already committed to School Year 21! Also pictured is Coach Stephen Ulmer of Stringer, Mississippi who recently joined the SBC coaching staff

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
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Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

“According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.” 1 Tim 1:11

This statement, given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to the Apostle Paul, who wrote it down in a letter to Timothy at the end of a serious warning about those who have “...swerved...” and “...turned aside...” from sound doctrine. It is important to remember that a right understanding of doctrine is not secured through opinion, feeling or even the outward test of human acceptance. True doctrine is always, “According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God...” Here, the word gospel is used in a

general sense and refers to the entire narrative of scripture. As the teacher, Paul instructs the student, Timothy, in the finer points of Christian devotion. He lets him know that everything, including his own teaching, should be reconciled to the “Word of God”. Sadly, in today’s church culture, many are sharing unbiblical teachings and practices because they have failed to reconcile their teaching and practices to the Word of God. One only has to look as far as Revelation chapters 2 & 3 to see that bad teaching and bad

practices can soon lead to heresy.

When we send a missionary out to plant a church, he must focus on evangelizing the lost. But as soon as he begins to win the lost, he must start the process of teaching them like Paul told Titus, “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine...” (Titus 2:1) His mission cannot begin and end with the doctrine of salvation. He must, as Jesus said, teach them, “...to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:...”

the ministry that we do.” – Missionary Wesley Martin

“We have been moving forward with getting ministries up and running. We have set a date for starting up our youth nights. We are getting a type of grow ministry going. We will also continue with our small group’s ministry as soon as we think it will be ok to meet in homes again. As for now, we are meeting at the building for Wednesday night studies. I am continuing to post a sermon on Sunday nights. Sunday mornings continue to grow for us and we continue to meet new families. Thanks for your continued support and prayers. God Bless!” - Missionary Daniel Allen

Living Hope Baptist Mission

“The month of July has brought about incredible opportunities to share the



Planning underway with core group of Living Hope Baptist Mission going to Meridian

work of Living Hope Baptist church. Thank you to First Baptist Bay Springs, Evergreen Baptist in Seminary, and Benville Baptist in Picayune for allowing us to share our heart. We have also been blessed to be at the Hobolochitto



Prayer meeting for Living Hope Baptist Mission



Two families commit to new Meridian Mission and the Big Creek association meetings. July 19th began the first core group meeting for Living Hope. We are so excited to start meeting with two other families who are willing to see Living Hope launched. Pray for us to raise our last bit of needed support, and for our transition to Meridian. We would love to be holding meetings in Meridian as soon as possible. If you know of any contacts in the Meridian area that we could minister to, please don’t hesitate to let us know. We would be honored to reach out to them. Also, if you would love to have us to your church or association meeting, please contact the Missions’ office or me directly at 810-869-3063. Thank you again, and we are honored to be your missionaries!” Missionary Chris Yager

Redemption Baptist Mission

“Greetings from Diamondhead. I hope you are well. God continues to bless us greatly in Diamondhead. Each week we are having great services with a full church building. We are meeting new families seemingly every week. It is a

great time for us at Redemption. You can see the excitement in our people. They are coming each week expecting God to move. We are moving forward on several fronts with church plans. With new families throughout the church, we are trying to open new opportunities for people to serve. We are starting weekly youth services soon. This will be kicked off with a Family VBS weekend at the end of the month. This

will be a youth weekend for our students. It will allow parents and children to learn together and enjoy fun activities. At the same time, there will be many areas where people are able to serve together.

We are also continuing our work towards organization. We have assembled a group of men to draft a Church Constitution, By-Laws, and Articles of Faith. I would ask that you pray for these men and our church as we work earnestly on these things. Thank you for all the support. Without the churches of the BMA of Mississippi we would not be able to do

Report from Midway at Batesville

“Greetings from Midway Baptist Mission. I want to begin this report saying: “Thank you” to our Director of Missions, the Missionary Committee, and all associations, churches, and individuals who have supported us with prayer and offerings. We love and appreciate all of you. The work is progressing, but slowly. At the end of February, we had more than 20 people attending services and interest in the mission was apparent in the community. Then COVID19 reared suddenly and we, as most other churches, felt it necessary to cease in-person services.

When we resumed services on Mother’s Day attendance was only five; the number we had at the beginning of the mission. We closed the mission year with 10 in attendance. In a very literal sense, we are starting over. Five of the former regulars are fighting health is-

continued on page 5

Summer Retreat Canceled

Our BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat which was to be held at Paul B. Johnson State Park on August 27-29 has been canceled. The State Park has been ordered to cancel all large group meetings.

New Features On Website

We hope you will take advantage of the new features on our recently launched website. Preachers can now build a resume directly on our page and make it available to churches who are looking to fill important positions. Churches can share, directly on the website, any position they may be seeking to fill and the website will cross check it with existing resumes to see if anyone fits the profile. You can access information about our Association including recent copies of the annual yearbook and church statistical letter. You can find historical information about our Association and current information about our missionaries and churches. Please take a moment to visit our site at www.bmams.org.

My Pastor's Three Greatest Prayer Needs

by Dr. Steve Crawley, Director
Ministers Resource Services

In July of 2018 my pastor at Antioch in Conway, Arkansas, Dr. Jason Aultman, asked each of the national and state department directors who were church members to preach one Sunday of the month. I felt led to share a message titled "How to Be Your Pastor's MVP (most valuable player)," which was my version of an effort John Maxwell spearheaded in the early 2000s.



Crawley

The thesis of the message was to convey that the single most important thing we can do for our pastor is pray for him daily. Not making supplication on his behalf through vague prayers, mind you, but interceding with specificity.

Charles Spurgeon stated that our prayer life can often be likened to us browsing through a department store: We go here and there meandering around but really don't put much thought into what we are doing.

To aid our church in implementing the challenge of the message, I asked our pastor beforehand for his three greatest

The pastor has a heavy responsibility to seek divine revelation then lead his people accordingly.

prayer needs. I assert that the three requests he made known then are applicable to all pastors, missionaries, and ministers at large today. Please consider the following when praying for your leader.

His Family

Unless you have experienced living in a pastor's family, you have no idea of the inherent burden that some church members place on his wife and children. According to Brian Croft in a May 2020 article in *Tabletalk* magazine, "Eighty percent of pastors surveyed said the ministry has had a negative effect on their families."

He further states that research shows a majority of church members expect their pastor and his family to live at a higher moral standard than they live themselves, leading to the proverbial 'glass bubble.'

A church leader needs enough margin to pastor his family before he pastors the church. Members should be mindful of boundaries that allow him to prioritize his investment in his wife and children. Years ago, Bro. Arnold Knight shared, "After looking back over my ministry, I

wish I had spent more time with my kids and less time worried about disgruntled church members."

Spiritual Vitality

Sundays come awfully fast. Because of many peripheral responsibilities, a pastor's time in the Word may often be confined to sermon preparation. Such action does not necessarily build his spiritual vitality.

In his book *Leading on Empty*, Wayne Cordeiro claims that 85% of what we do we could delegate, 10% of what we do we could train someone to do, but 5% of what we have to do only we can do. This top 5% relates to his wife and children (as mentioned earlier), his health, and his time with the Lord. Our pastor must have the marginal latitude to focus on his top 5%, and at the top of that list is his personal walk with God. He cannot lead us where he has not been, and he cannot give us what he does not have.

A Clear Vision

In Proverbs 29:18(a), Solomon writes, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." This verse does not refer to the importance of vision in leadership, but

to the importance of a clear understanding of God's Word and directives.

The pastor has a heavy responsibility to seek divine revelation then lead his people accordingly. His challenge is to discern the difference in the latest leadership fads and the timeless truths of God's Word.

Next, as Henry Blackaby states, he must not "sell the vision" but communicate what God has revealed, trusting the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts. This is no small task, and divine intervention on behalf of his flock is paramount.

In conclusion...

... to the pastors of our churches, you have what I consider to be the highest calling in the world. This calling is the passion of your life. Consequently, though you and your family may not be tired of ministry, you may be tired in ministry. So don't try to be a lone ranger. Share your burdens with your church and give them an opportunity to intercede on your behalf.

To the members of our churches, let's be faithful to pray specifically for the following:

- that God will bless your pastor's family so that they may thrive in their calling
- that God will sustain your pastor's spiritual vitality so that he may thrive in his preaching
- that God will make his vision crystal clear to your pastor that he may thrive in his leading—all for the glory of God!

Missions from page 4

sues that make them high risk for COVID19. Others are just not comfortable attending. And now Panola County is in the Red Zone for outbreaks of the virus. I pray that we will be able to continue in-person meetings. With all the negativity in my report, please do not read into it any note of discouragement.

Those who are attending are enjoying great fellowship and more importantly spiritual growth. We know that the Lord is with us and will guide us through these dark days. He has brought us to where we are by His design and He will see His church established here. We will not surrender to the enemy. Continue your prayers for us and believe that greater days are ahead. Blessings to all." Dr. Kenneth Pollock, Mission Pastor

Salt Light Baptist Mission in Waveland

We have recently started offering a nursery and children's church on Sunday mornings. It begins after the singing



Salt Light regathers for worship



Salt Light begins Nursery Ministry and before the preaching. Also, we've been busy trying to get our sound equipment squared away in a proper sound booth and get our projector and computer programs going as well. Wiring is proving to be a bit of a challenge in the older building. I think we have narrowed down where our leak is coming from in the fellowship building. So maybe when the rain quits, we can seal it up and finish our nursery and Sunday school room that adjoins it. We are ready for these two rooms now with nursery and children's church. I want to thank the Lord for the prayers and support of the people of the BMA of Mississippi and the faithful members of Salt Light Baptist Mission. We couldn't do it without



New Sign at Salt Light in Waveland

you! In His Love, Power and Grace, Missionary Johnny Williams

Hispanic Missions Report by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

"El Camino Hispanic Church, Laurel reports great worship services. July the 5th and 19th they celebrated worship services. The congregation was so excited and thankful to come to the building for church services and to worship together. Also, they continued on Facebook Live every Sunday and report one person accepted Christ as a personal savior. They shared something very special, in the last four months the congregation has continued to witness and share the gospel no matter this crisis of Covid-19. In one way or another the Lord opens doors. They continue to disciple the new believers online or by video

conference, one by one and this brings more joy and faith to the congregations. El Camino Church reported that they will continue worship services the first and the third Sunday on August with half of the congregation in each service.

El Camino Hispanic Mission, Hattiesburg - Bro. Leo Adan reported that the Hispanic mission returned to the church building and celebrated worship services July the 5th and 19th. The entire congregation was so excited and looking to continue to worship the Lord in the month of August.

El Camino Hispanic Mission, Biloxi - They continued with small group meetings online, and due to this crisis the attendance decreased, but three families remain faithful to the small group Bible studies. They are making plans to return to the church building in the month of August. Please pray for this Hispanic mission.

El Camino Hispanic Mission, Canton - Bro. Lucas Gomez reports that the members have a great joy to return to worship on Sundays. Around 12 people are ready to come back in the month of August. Also, Bro. Lucas reported one addition by baptism in the month of June and that they continued to disciple new believers by online video. Please pray for this Hispanic mission.

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Southeastern College

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expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.



Gym floor modification progressing



Student Carey Jones installs new blinds to the men's dorm

Women's Softball Tryouts



Above - A great turnout for softball tryouts.

Below - Coach Stephen Ulmer leads the candidates in prayer before beginning.



Chris Carmical and Dr. Carson download a delivery of new dorm furniture

Samson Family Update

Missionaries to the Philippines

by Alicia Samson

Note: Alicia Samson, a registered nurse, completed medical school in the Philippines with the goal of helping plant churches with her husband Cris, and minister to the medical needs of people in the Philippines.

As you read this, my prayer is that each of you are staying safe and healthy and that this letter brings encouragement and excitement to your day.

This year has been a difficult year for everyone, no doubt, but what a blessing it is to know that we have a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe who is in complete control of all things. During these unsettling times, this is the comfort and the hope that we hold on to. If you are reading this and you can not say that you have a personal relationship with our Creator and Father, there is no better time for you to turn to Him, repent of your sins and trust Him as Lord and Savior.

We would like to share some updates regarding the Samson family and our ministry in the Philippines.

First, we are ready to return to the field as soon as the Lord allows. The Philippines has restricted travel since the beginning of the pandemic, and they continue to monitor travel closely. Because Cris is a Filipino, our understanding is that our family could return to the Philippines with little difficulty as far as travel is concerned, but since we do not have a place to live, a vehicle or any physical belongings, it will be difficult for us to get settled with the current restrictions. We are

trusting God to give us wisdom in making the best decision for our family.

Secondly, as many of you know, I (Alicia) have been studying to take the USMLE which is the US medical licensure exam for doctors. Since all my schooling was done outside of the U.S., the process has been lengthy and quite confusing at times.

While thinking that I had a good understanding of the requirements, the pandemic opened my eyes to my lack of understanding.

On June 8, 2020, I was finally given permission to take the first step of the USMLE. Sadly, I did not pass the exam, but God is sovereign, and in His sovereignty He has helped us understand His will and direction through all of this.

What I originally failed to realize was that once I have passed any part of the USMLE, I have a maximum of 7 years to complete the first 2 steps and enter a U.S. residency training program. If I do not enter a residency program in the U.S., I will lose all the completed parts of the licensing process. A residency can take anywhere from

3-6 years depending on the field of study. The 3rd and final step of the testing process is taken after completion of the first year of the residency program at which point the USMLE is complete and a US medical license can be issued.

I know that God has a purpose for allowing me to become a doctor and I will continue to



Cris & Alicia Samson and sons

pursue my U.S. license. It may take longer than we initially thought, but it will not hinder us from continuing the ministry with the vision God has given to us. Our hearts long to serve God and that is what we will do.

Once we return to the Philippines, we will continue church planting with a support ministry of medical missions under the scope of my nursing license just as we have been doing in the past. We will utilize the additional resources that the Lord has given to us through some of my former classmates who are now doctors in the Philippines. I will also continue studying for the USMLE. A testing center is available in the Philippines where I can take both Step 1 and the first part of Step 2 at a later date.

Currently, we are doing our best to stay mentally and physically healthy and raise 2 little boys. Benjamin is 2 ½ years old and Asher is almost 11 months old. We are thankful for our boys and look forward to what God has planned for their lives. We are enjoying the journey of parenting as it is strengthening our faith, growing us closer to God and helping us learn more about evangelism through teaching our little ones about God and His love.

Cris is doing double duty by helping me improve my Ilonggo language skills to prepare me for deeper communication with the Filipino people.

We would like to end with a heartfelt thank you for all your support, prayers, encouragement, and love. We could not do this ministry without you. We thank God for each of you and pray that He will greatly bless you, your church, and your family.



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.
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Kenneth Flynt
Director

Off the interstate...

In traveling you don't have to go very far until you may run into a detour and are headed into an area you did not wish to go. That seems to be the experience we are facing with the current Covid-19. This disease has changed our lives in every area... some roads in life have detours that take you on a path you would have never chosen to travel. This is one of them.

On any detour you need patience, understanding, etc. In dealing with our time changing detour we call Covid-19, we must change or cancel many events in our life. The Senior Commission, like many other events, has faced changes and cancellations, but better things are ahead.

The Commission is still functioning and we are thankful for your continued support.

As we walk with God we will learn that what God has for us is best for us. In these moments in which we do not know what to do, God may very well be working out His plan for our benefit, and even the benefit of those around us.

As we wait for God's direction in dealing with the Corona Virus let us be patient and cooperate with the advice given by our leaders.

In this present detour, let us use the time to praise God and to thank Him for His blessings.

Until times get better let us promote the Senior Commission and look forward to meeting again. Our trustees are aware of our situation and ready to keep activities going. Let this detour be to our benefit and His glory!



Philippine Bible College Information Progress on the Darlene Carey School

Information from Doug & Diane Lee, Missionaries to Philippines

Bro. Lee shares that they will do some online classes and some face-to-face practicing social distancing with a limited number in the classes. The ministry in the Philippines deal with the same restrictions that we do here in the States, both in church work and in the education ministry. Below are some photos from the Lees sharing the progress and preparation for the next academic year.



BMABC students and staff getting the campus ready to start classes again.
Excited!



Christians: Pastors need to talk about abortion and sexual identity Poll shows congregations overwhelmingly want leaders to speak out on moral concerns

from World Net Daily

A new national survey shows Christian congregations want a "fearless pulpit" in which their pastors speak out on moral and cultural issues, including persecution, sexual identity, and abortion.

The "2020 National Pulpit Survey" by D. James Kennedy Ministries found 99% said it was "extremely important" for ministers to address religious liberty/persecution issues from the pulpit. The figure was 98% for abortion and 96% for issues of "sexual identity," including transgenderism and homosexuality.

"The results expose a hunger inside the church for pastors who will tackle tough topics — who will connect the dots between what the Bible teaches and what is happening in the world," said Frank Wright, president of D. James Kennedy Ministries.

But few pastors do that, the group found.

"Barna Research reports that more than 90 percent of theologically conservative pastors agree that Scripture addresses

It was 90% for the role of government, 83% for church in politics/government and 88% for radical Islam.

....there are "grave consequences for silence from America's pulpits and inaction from the church."

all aspects of life. Yet just 10 percent said they were willing to speak to issues like abortion, religious liberty, and sexual identity from the pulpit," the organization said.

Wright warned there are "grave consequences for silence from America's pulpits and inaction from the church."

"Look no further than today's headlines to see the clear and present danger," he said.

The write-in survey was sent to friends and supporters of the ministry.

On the issue of poverty, 88% said it was extremely important to hear the biblical perspective from the pulpit. It was 91% for "support of Israel" and 92% for "Christian heritage."

The survey also asked the respondents if they know what the Bible says about various issues well enough to communicate it to others. Ninety percent said they know its teaching on abortion, 67% on religious liberty, 73% on poverty, 93% on sexual identity, 82% on support of Israel, 68% on Christian heritage, 69% on the role of government, 81% of church in politics and 60% on radical Islam.

On an individual level, 88% said abortion was an extremely important issue, 88% religious liberty, 52% poverty, 80% sexual identity, 78% support of Israel, 78% Christian heritage, 82% role of government, 77% church in politics and 75% radical Islam.

Study: Uncertain times drawing people to truth

OneNewsNow - Concerns over COVID-19 have kept many people from large and small gatherings, even when it comes to Christians and studying the Bible. But new research on the subject does show some heartening statistics.

Researcher John Plake of American Bible Society recently told the "Washington Watch" radio program his organization has noticed an increase in curious exploration of scripture.

"When we look at things like Google trends, we noticed that as the coronavirus was leading everyone into lockdowns, particularly on the eastern seaboard, that there was a five-year historic spike on Internet searches around the word 'Bible,'" Plake relays.

Meanwhile, researchers found a decline in the percentage of Americans who say they never use the Bible on their own.

"That meant that there are actually people who normally have nothing to do with scripture, who are wondering, Well, what does the Bible say maybe about suffering or maybe about injustice," the researcher poses.

As for people who are closely connected to scripture, or what Plake calls "scripture engaged," their studies have taken a step



backward.

"Many of them are parents that have been at home. They've been trying to juggle a job through a screen, home schooling their children while their

children are still enrolled in their regular schools, and managing all of those things at once," Plake explains. "Consequently we've seen particularly downward pressure among the women of America who normally do very well with scripture engagement, but boy, it just looks like they're not getting the support that they need, and I think it's something that we can address as the Church."



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Help a child...

from page 2

Joe Bailey began his medical training. Here's how it happened.

One day when Joe was eleven, he climbed the steps to Dr. Leonard's office and knocked at the door. "Yes, Joe, what can I do for you?" said the elderly physician.

"Sir," Joe said, "I want to be a doctor, and I wondered if I could help you in your office after school. I won't get in your way. I just want to learn what to do."

Dr. Leonard smiled, "I think that would be fine, Joe. Why don't you come by after school tomorrow?"

As he walked down those stairs, young Joe Bailey had the feeling that life had just changed for him forever.

Dr. Henry O. Leonard was born in Coffeeville less than 13 years after the end of the Civil War. He finished medical school at the University of Tennessee in 1903 and he immediately began his practice. At the time he allowed me access to his life, he was 80 years old and I was 11.

The first thing the elderly physician taught his young protegee was how to run blood glucose and urinalysis tests. Those were the only two tests available, Dr. Bailey remembers. They involved boiling the specimens and adding reagents. Soon he was running almost all of Dr. Leonard's tests.

From time to time, the doctor asked and the patient would give permission for young Joe to observe tests being performed in the office. "Listen to this heart murmur," he would say. "Look at this red ear." "This is what

appendicitis looks like."

At the age of 13, Joe began driving for Dr. Leonard. Yep, you read that right. Dr. Bailey explains that country boys all learned to drive on tractors so this knowledge came earlier than otherwise. "He had a new Ford Falcon with automatic transmission, paid for with the \$2 he charged for each office visit."

After they closed the office, Joe and Dr. Leonard would make house calls. Anyone remember house calls?

One night, the Bailey parents were in bed early. From the kitchen window, Joe could see that Dr. Leonard was making his way from the house to the car. By the time he arrived at the automobile, Joe was there.

It had been raining hard for two days, and the small house which was our destination was

cut off by a creek. I waded that creek with Dr. Leonard on my back, and by the light of a kerosene lantern, in a house with no electricity, I delivered my first baby. When my mother woke me up for school the next day, she never knew I'd been gone.

One morning at school when Joe was 15, the principal called him out of class. Dr. Leonard had been killed in a car accident that morning.

The next Saturday, a stream of patients filed into the grocery store where Joe Bailey worked. Someone asked for a remedy for a bad cough. Another said his daughter had the earache and wondered if Joe would look at her.

One woman became angry when Joe refused to write her a prescription for blood pressure medicine. "You always wrote my prescriptions before!" she said.

Joe had to remind her though that Dr. Leonard signed it.

At the conclusion of his column, Tupelo physician Joe Bailey, M.D., gives the lessons he learned from Dr. Leonard:

—Treat every patient as you would your own parents.

—There is no difference in a black human being and a white human being.

—Never do anything for money. Always do the right thing, and you will never lack or want.

—Above all, listen carefully and be kind.

The Bible has a lot to say about honoring old folks. Most of it is found in Proverbs. I'll let you look them up. It'll be worth the trouble.

Scripture also has much to say about helping children to become all they can in life. I'm betting you already know how important it is. Dr. Leonard, age 80—my present age, come to think of it!—could have excused himself for not having time for a kid. But he was too smart for that.

Do you have time for a child?

God is moving: Beach revival a throwback to the 60s

(OneNewsNow.com) There appears to be a move of God in California, with thousands showing up at an Orange County beach every Friday, getting saved and baptized.

(On a recent) Friday evening on Huntington State Beach near Lifeguard House #20, a couple of thousand people — children and parents, the young and the old — had what old timers say reminds them a little bit of the "Jesus Movement" of the 1960s.

It's the Lord working through Parker and Jessi Green, two of God's willing servants who

heard the call. OneNewsNow spoke with Jessi.

"In 2016, we decided to move from New York to California because we saw a few visions and through prayer really believed God was going to do something in Orange County," she begins.

For the last year the Greens have been preparing the soil, partnering with local churches, and doing evangelism training.

"The vision that we saw is happening," she exclaims, "and people are getting saved and baptized and then going out and

sharing the gospel throughout the week and coming back the following week and baptizing people."

The first weekend a few hundred people showed up, the second weekend

around a thousand — and this last weekend around 2,000. The plans, say the Greens, are open ended.

Jessi Green says there's a real thirst for the peace of God in these troubled times.



"God's timing really is always perfect. He knew that COVID was going to happen, he knew the BLM stuff was going to happen — and all along he was orchestrating this perfect opportunity for people to come to him."

Missions

from page 5

Hispanic Missions in the North of the State: Way Truth and Life Hispanic church and their two missions (Tupelo and Oxford) returned to worship services online. They started their meetings in the church building in June, but decided to return online due to the increase of contagious sickness around the counties in the north of the state. Please pray for these Hispanic missions and their leaders. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". (1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18) We give thanks to God for this time, He is in control, He is our Almighty God, we only need to trust in His Will.

Please pray for our Hispanic

Missions across the State and pray for our Missionaries and Pastors. May God Bless you, in Christ!" - Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions Manager

Report from Canaan Land Mission

"Thank you all again for your support and prayers. We are currently moving forward with



Canaan Land Baptist Mission's building renovation getting close to finish. the renovation of the building. God is building his church! Who knows what all the Lord can and will do. In the coming days we will be finishing the exterior

of the building. Our members are getting excited. The inside is coming along as well. We also are still battling the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout Wayne county, so please remember us in prayer. This is hard on well-established churches and extremely hard on the mission work. But we know that God is still on the throne and has a plan and purpose for us.

We also are in the planning stages of a community outreach. Can you all pray for these efforts? There have also been several people stop by and show interest in the work. Our members are reaching out to friends and family in the area also to come and meet with us. It is amazing to watch the Lord work in His children and unveil the great need to reach people for the cause of Christ.

We also have been continuing in our afternoon Disciple-

ship classes and growing current members in their knowledge of Baptist doctrine and distinctives. As you all know Canaan Land Baptist mission currently has a matching funds campaign going through the end of August. To help dissolve the loan of the building, would you all prayerfully consider helping with this cause. Thank you all so much once again for the prayers and support! May God bless you all." - Bro. Scott Brocious and Bro. Jason Howard.



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