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Mississippi

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Chris Yager selected as Interim Missions Director by Missions and RLF Committees

The Missions Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees have appointed Bro. Chris Yager to serve as interim Missions Director to begin on October 15th, 2022. If approved by the messengers of the churches at the annual associational meeting in October, he will serve in this role of Interim Director for up to one year. Though Bro. Yager is well known by many as one of our present state missionaries, it is our joy to inform you further of his qualifications for this important position.



Chris Yager

Bro. Chris and his wife, DeeDee, along with their four children, Char-

ity, Samuel, Charissa, and Titus have served together in full-time ministry since 1997. At the age of nine, Chris realized his need for salvation and trusted Christ as his personal Savior. It was just before his sixteenth birthday that God called him into the gospel ministry. He served in children's ministry, bus ministry, and trained alongside the pastors of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Chris and DeeDee were married in August of 1994. Chris graduated from Pensacola Christian College in 1997 with a Bachelor of Bible and a minor in Biblical Greek. He then served for four years as a youth pastor at a church plant in Michigan, followed by ten years as a national BMA missionary church planter and pastor of Heritage Baptist

in New York. Bro. Chris accepted the call as Senior Pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church back in Michigan, and served there faithfully for ten years. For the last two years, he has answered God's call on his life once again into church planting and has labored as a state missionary for the BMA of Mississippi at Living Hope Baptist Church in Meridian.

Bro. Chris has a love for missions, church planting, and training men for the ministry. From Michigan to New York to Mississippi, his theme verse has been found in II Timothy 2:1-2: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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." In each

church that he has served in, he has attempted to plant, pastor and train men for the work of the ministry. His ministry motto has been "planting to train, and training to plant." He has a multiple church planting vision that involves training men for those ministries. With this multiple church planting and training vision, we believe Brother Chris will be able to continue the momentum of our Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund, and wholeheartedly recommend him to you to serve our state association in this capacity.

Kevin W. Clayton, D.Min.
Chairman: Missions Committee

Kenneth Lott, Chairman
Revolving Loan Fund Trustees

LifeWord Studio Expansion Taking Shape

by Donny Parrish
Executive Director
LifeWord Ministries

The long-awaited dream of expanded video production capability for Lifeworld is well on its way to becoming a reality. Lifeworld has been producing

the ministry has found itself out of studio room. Internet broadcasting has become the centerpiece of who LifeWord is today. Millions of people from around the world are viewing LifeWord video content via the internet. The need for video content to reach more people around the



video content for the last 5 years in what was once audio studios. Lifeworld engineers took studios that were built years ago exclusively for audio recording and did their best to restructure them to record video content. Although the studio was very small, it was adequate for LifeWord to take its first step into video production. Fast-forward five years and

world has forced the ministry to seek more studio space. The logical answer to that problem has been to move into the existing warehouse area and transform it into its originally intended purpose, television production studios. That would necessitate the construction of a new warehouse/work-center facility behind the existing structure.

The new BMA WorkCenter building is under construction as we speak. The facility will be larger than the existing warehouse and will allow for growing BMA ministries like Baptist Medical Missions International and the Christmas Shoebox Ministry to have a larger workspace. Lifeworld will use the area to build television sets and other media related projects. There will also be ample storage space for BMA Missions and Lifeworld.

Total cost for the new LifeWord Studios and the BMA WorkCenter is close to 1.4 million dollars. According to LifeWord Executive Director, Donny Parrish, almost half of that cost has been raised. "We are looking forward to a great LifeWord Sunday, October 23rd, to help completely pay for the construction of these facilities. There's never been a day when people needed to hear the gospel more than today," said Parrish. "LifeWord is presently sharing Jesus in 140 languages to billions of people around the world. These studios will help us move into 200 languages in the next 5 years."

To register for LifeWord Sunday or to make a contribution to the LifeWord's Studio Expansion visit www.lifeworld.org or send your offerings to LifeWord, P.O. Box 6, Conway, AR, 72033.

Everlasting Smiles: Target Ukraine

The devastation and destruction experienced in the lives of Ukrainians this past year has changed their lives forever. Our prayer is that through Everlasting Smiles, not only will the shoeboxes bring a smile to a child's face but also bring hope to a parent's heart. Seeing their children happy brings a smile to faces and hearts that need it. Through giving out Christmas boxes to Ukrainians this year, we have a great opportunity to share the gospel with families that are in desperate need of hope . . . the hope that is offered through Jesus that helps us build relationships and connect people to our churches. -Larry and Tammy Wood, BMA Missionaries to Ukraine and Czech Republic.

This year, more than ever, we are excited to send our Christmas shoeboxes. We just finalized with Bro. Larry and Tammy Wood that shoeboxes will go to Ukraine and surrounding countries housing Ukrainian Refugees. Can you imagine children receiving boxes full of gifts after what they have had to face? Can you imagine how much it will mean to parents who have been through so much sadness to see the excitement in their child's eyes?

In each shoebox, there are



many fun things children will enjoy. They are also packed with LOTS of love, and many prayers are prayed over them. But the most important thing 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. For more information including packing instructions, visit bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes.

More Information
continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Mailing Issues

From time to time we all have issues with those whom we do business. For the most part the mailing of your paper goes very smoothly. Changes made by the U.S. Postal system from time to time have caused disruptions or delays. Our July 2022 issue experienced some of these issues. The delivery of our paper was very late. I send two copies of the paper to myself at two different addresses. One is to our post office box and the other is to my home address.

This process lets me know of the frequency of delivery and that the paper is delivered to each one on our list. I received my July issue sent to our post office box very late! I have yet to receive the one sent to my home address. The July issue was delivered to the Post Office on July 1, 2022. The issued mailed close to a federal holiday usually experience a short delay and the July 4th holiday certainly had its effect.

The postal service has changed some of

their procedures recently and no doubt this contributed to our problem. We apologize for the late delivery or the fact that some of our readers may not have received their July issue. If you did not receive an issue in July I would appreciate being notified. You may text me at 601-426-3293 or email me at editor@msbaptist.org. Your understanding is appreciated.

Pastoral Drought

I read an article in another denomination's publication concerning the drought or 'shortage' of pastors. This certainly seems to be a condition that also is an issue within the BMA of America. There are several churches in our state that are without a pastor. I get calls regularly asking for names of those who may be available for service.

In years past we regularly heard of young men surrendering to the Lord's call to the ministry. We do not hear that much anymore. When a church is without a pastor their source is usually a man who is cur-

rently pastoring another church. When that man leaves for another church he leaves another church with a vacancy. We must pray for God to call and men to answer that call. It is all in God's hands, but our prayers place our concerns at His feet and seek His blessings. May more young men hear and respond to the Gospel ministry. The need is great.

Reviving A Tradition

The Covid pandemic certainly has taken a toll on a number of things in our society. It has caused our churches to change at times, we have had to cancel state and national meetings, our Senior Adult Conferences were canceled, along with a number of other activities.

One of the most enjoyed and needed was our annual Pastors Retreat. I have attended these meetings for over 40 years and have enjoyed them. The fellowship they create and bolster among our preachers and pastors was sweet and productive. They helped

to create a mood of cooperation and concern.

In recent years those attending the conferences chose the committee to plan the next year's meeting. Since we have not met for the last few years it seems a good thing to revive this event. I spoke to 6 or 7 pastors recently and they were in agreement that this would be a good idea. Maybe we can address this at our annual meeting in October and still have time to plan a retreat for January. Pastor, if you would like to be a part of this effort let me hear from you by text, phone call, or email. Text or call 601-426-3293 or email me at editor@msbaptist.org.

Heatbreaking Losses

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of Mrs. Beth Caldwell and Bro. Kent Grice. Both of these faithful workers have recently left this life for their eternal destination. Read about these two dear ones on this page.

Bro. Kent Grice dies

Rev. Morgan "Kent" Grice, 76 of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away Saturday, July 23, 2022.. He was born Monday, July 30, 1945 in Union, Mississippi.



Kent Grice

Services were held at Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel on Wednesday July 27. Bro. Brandon Wilson and Bro. Harold Floyd officiated.

Bro. Kent began preaching the gospel when he was 21 years old and continued to preach and pastor for over 54 years. He was also a master plumber and took great joy and pride in his labor. He married the love of his life, Peggy Bozeman in 1963. Bro. Kent loved the Lord and loved his family dearly. He was a friend and mentor to pastors of all ages and was always there to lend them a hand or just a listening ear when needed. Bro. Kent was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his son, Barry Kent Grice; his parents, J.W. and Katie Mae Breland Grice; his nephew, Jonathan Arrington and his sister-in-laws, Terry Grice and Debbie Grice.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Peggy Grice; daughter, Tanya Thrash (Josh); brothers, Hal Grice and

Beth Caldwell Dies

Sara Stallings "Beth" Caldwell went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at the age of 76. She was very active in the community. Beth retired from George County School System. She was active in the



Beth Caldwell

Distinguished Young Women Program. She is a past president of the Lucedale Fine Arts Club. Beth was a member of Temple Baptist Church. She was involved with the national and state WMA (past president) and the national and state GMA programs, plus being a GMA counselor and teacher in her church. Beth enjoyed traveling and was an avid reader. She greatly loved her two daughters, eight

Algene Grice (Malou); sisters, Connie Shaw (Dennis), Krystal "Becky" Bearden (Ralph) and June Johnson (James); grandsons, Dalton Pruitt (Danielle) and Cameron Pruitt; granddaughters, Jessica Easterling (James), Jamie Gambill (Trent), Jordan Fugate (Jonathan), Kaitlyn Pruitt, Morgan Pruitt, Abbie Thrash and Audrey Thrash; great grandsons, Bryson Easterling, Carson Knotts and Bentley Gambill; great granddaughters, McKenna Fugate and Raylan Gambill.

grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, plus one deceased great grandchild. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, MawMaw and dear friend. She will be greatly missed by all who were honored to know her.

She is preceded in death by her great grandson, Matthew Christian; parents, Henry and Elizabeth Stallings.

She will be dearly missed by her loving husband of 47 years, Roy Caldwell; children, Kathy (Glenn) Walley and Lisa (Tracy) Havard; grandchildren, Christina Miller, Brian (Savannah) Cochran, Bryce Hodges, Abbie Clark, Lacie Clark, Dylan (Kylia) Christian, Keaton Walley and Saidee Walley; great grandchildren, Slate Miller, Brynlee Cochran, Briggs Cochran, Barrett Cochran, Breklyn "Sara-Beth" Cochran, Boone Christian and Axel Christian; brother-in-law, Glenn Caldwell; sister-in-law, Sandra Caldwell; numerous other relatives and friends.

Services were held Saturday July 9, 2022 at Temple Baptist Church with Bro. B.J. Hudson and Bro. Wayne McMahon officiating.

The family requests donations be made to the Girls Missionary Auxiliary of Mississippi: Attention Sonya James, 2770 Hwy 29 N, Laurel, MS 39443. Donations may also be made to the Beth Caldwell Memorial DYW Scholarship: Lucedale Fine Arts Club, P.O. Box 534, Lucedale, MS 39452 or Mississippi GMAs.

Texas Church Seeks Youth Pastor

Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas, is seeking a youth pastor. The information is listed below.

Job Description - Pastor of Youth and Missions, Salary Range: No less than \$50,000, not to exceed \$60,000. Objective: The Pastor of Youth and Missions will oversee the church's youth and outreach ministries.

Please send your Resume with References and a sample of your Preaching to dave@keltys.org. For complete Job Description Details: Please go to: keltys.org/Youth Pastor.

Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in northwest Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

Everlasting Smiles

From page 1

Donations

Want to make a donation for us to pack boxes for you? We can do that! The cost of each box is \$25. This includes the box, wrapping, gifts, Bible, and shipping costs. Send your donation to Everlasting Smiles, PO Box 878 Conway, AR 72033.

Drop-off information

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 ones. These stations will serve the same purpose as our Conway location: to pack your shoeboxes and get them ready for shipping. Regional stations will deliver your boxes to the Conway office ready for shipping. What a blessing!

Here is a the local drop-off station for **Mississippi: Southeastern Baptist College**, 4229 Hwy 15 N. Laurel, MS 39440. Contact: Anderle Foster, 601-344-8656

Please contact your drop-off station and set a drop-off time. This speeds up the drop-off process. 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.



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

"Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven." Psalm 85:11

How many times have you heard the word "disinformation" over the last couple of years? It has been my practice to look closely at the one talking about the spread of disinformation and I have sometimes found that the person claiming it is actually the one spreading it.

As the Southeastern Baptist College staff diligently prepare for the upcoming Fall Semester, we are often contacted by parents and relatives seeking information as they search for the best college for their children to attend. There are re-occurring rumors that arise from time to time about SBC and I will address some of these statements of "disinformation".

First, Southeastern Baptist College is indeed an accredited college. The U.S. Department of Education is the agency that grants accreditation ability to various entities, which in turn, grants and monitors accreditation of their member colleges.

There are all kinds of accrediting entities. Some may deal with aviation while others grant accreditation in the realm of engineering. There are those that address various medical schools and there are those that apply to business degrees. In the case of SBC, we are accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Visionary leaders in the past applied for and were granted accreditation from this highly respected conservative Christian accrediting agency. ABHE is a Bible college accrediting agency and that's what SBC is, an accredited Bible college. We are the only accredited Bible College in Mississippi and our credits are on equal standing to those at any state or private university.

Second, SBC academic credits transfer to many other colleges and universities. In the past, we were limited in our transferability, however, that



Dr. Scott Carson
President

has changed dramatically in recent years. We have transfer articulation agreements in place with the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, and on August 2, we will sign an agreement with Mississippi State University. Agreements are not necessarily required for transfer of credits. Individual academic deans have the right to accept credits from any other college, however, an articulation agreement guarantees the transfer of credits, and of note, many others have eagerly received our students and their hard earned credits from SBC. We currently are working towards agreements with Jackson State University, Tougaloo University, Western Alabama, Ole Miss, and others. I can share with confidence that most of the Christian colleges and universities who are members of ABHE will accept our credits. It should be stated that all credits do not transfer between any two colleges. Even between Southern Miss and Ole Miss, some will not transfer and this is true of SBC as well. I and the Board of Trustees are proud of the hard work Dean Walker has

done to advance our agreements with other learning institutions and the SBC Board of Trustees recognized her with a unanimous vote of confidence at their last meeting.

Third, indeed, with more students also comes greater disciplinary challenges. It is the same on every Christian campus. Not every student who comes to SBC is as dedicated in their walk with the Lord as we would like to see. However, and because of this, we are aggressively moving forward with on campus discipleship opportunities. The Dean of Students, Anderle Foster, is organizing an Association of Baptist Students. The old Faculty House will soon be renovated to support this activity. We plan to stand up Bible studies in every dormitory. We seek professors and coaches who desire to mentor a Christian World View among our students. Although we offer some liberal arts degrees, we are first and foremost a Christian Bible college. When there is code of conduct infraction committed by a student, we are committed to utilizing our disciplinary procedures in order to best protect the tremendous legacy and reputation of SBC while administering a Christian solution to the issue at hand.

Fourth, we have been tremendously blessed with significant growth in our student body population. With this has come significant challenges both in organization and in finances. One might think that

with more students the college has more revenue. This is true, but it is also true that with more students come greater expenses. I am amazed that as fast as money comes in, it goes out. The school's aged infrastructure has been a lesser priority for decades, and we are intentionally bringing many areas up to 21st century standards. However, the more we spend on buildings and property, the less we have for daily expenses. Also as we grow, we have a greater need for additional staff to assist in the increase of administrative work. Some may have wondered why we keep asking for more donations, well, these are the two primary reasons why. I pray we will get to the point soon that we won't have to put as much money into renovations and begin to set aside a comfortable surplus for only emergency usage. This is SBC's Special Emphasis Month for the BMA of Mississippi. I pray you will recognize the needs we have and help support the ministry of your college.

Should you ever have a concern or question, please feel free to contact the staff, any member of the Board of Trustees, or myself. We want you to know the truth about the great things God is doing here at SBC!

"...speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." Ephesians 4:25

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. I encourage the reader to ask your church to set a designated Sunday in August for a "Day of Giving" for SBC. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity

Fall Semester Registration

We are currently registering for the Fall Semester. Classes begin August 15, 2022. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346. We have one of the lowest private college tuitions in the nation!

Online Bible Degrees

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

Now Recruiting Women Athletes!

Want to play college level sports? Here's your opportunity! SBC is recruiting for Women's Basketball and Women's Volleyball. Contact our Athletic Department immediately at 601-426-6346.

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

Charger Cafe

Good news! We have a person who will operate the Charger Café for the Fall semester. One major change is that the café will no longer be open to the public. The café will operate only in support of our students.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Good Hope Baptist Church of Stringer, Mississippi, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday morning messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Athletic Director Robbie Walters engaged in multitasking

Summer renovations continue in Granbury Hall



Below - Fallen tree damage to Granberry Hall



More SBC Photos on page 4

Methods of Multiplication Matter

by John David Smith, Executive Director of Missions
Baptist Missionary Association of America

Methods of multiplication matter! Jesus both commanded and exemplified multiplication, so does that mean we can do whatever we want and use whatever means necessary to increase our numbers? That would be a resounding, NO!

First of all, our mandate is not to merely increase our numbers; we are commanded to make disciples (followers). Those are drastically different goals.

Second, we cannot conflate our mission with our methods. Often our methods become the focus to the exclusion of our mission.

Think about “anointed methodologies” emphasized in the past 100 years. Tent revivals were a result of the Layman’s Prayer Revival in the 1800s and lasted for a century in various styles. Then it was discovered that television promised even larger crowds, and people preferred air conditioning. Bus ministry was widely used in the 60s and early 70s, but oil prices rose and the use of buses mostly went away. Recently, and still very much utilized, small group ministry (in some form) is probably the anointed methodology.

You get the picture. Methodologies come and go. They can certainly be used by God but could also be driven by unbridled pragmatism (results driven) to living in a theological echo chamber. The common denominator is that our mission goes unfulfilled as we parade down Main Street on the latest and greatest methodological bandwagon.

Perhaps the closest we come in the Word to seeing a merger of mission and methodology is in the command to make disciple makers in all nations! While the Bible does not advocate a specific discipleship platform (which could potentially become another distraction from the mission when reduced to programs and information exchanges), it clearly commands and illustrates discipleship-based multiplication.

Multiplication is an expectation in God’s Word. As noted, there is superficial multiplication that is humanly generated and genuine multiplication that is God generated. Jesus, in teaching his disciples, utilized metaphors from everyday life using four primary metaphors: fishing, farming, shepherding, and vine dressing (vineyards). All four of them have various lessons attached, but multiplication is common to all.

Jesus multiplied disciples as the primary expression of his earthly ministry.

Paul spent his ministry carrying out discipleship-based multiplication. In the 33 short years covered by the book of Acts, the gospel advanced from Jerusalem to Syria across Asia Minor into Greece, and arrived in Rome! Paul himself helped plant at least sixteen churches, not to mention the churches his team members planted! Multiplication is the expectation!



Dr. Smith

Two passages stand out in emphasizing discipleship: John 14 and 1 Thessalonians 2. In John 14 Jesus speaks to his disciples, telling them not to let their hearts be troubled. Jesus comforted them at the news he was going away. He then corrected them when Philip expressed that they didn’t know where Jesus was going. Last, he challenged them, saying if they continued what they were doing, they would do greater things than he had done.

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul tells believers in Thessalonica he and his team were focused on maturing their faith, serving them as nurturing mothers, personally investing in their lives, modeling the faith, correcting them as loving fathers, and encouraging them to walk worthy of God.

Here is a bullet point list of disciple-making principles from the two passages:

- Discipleship demands a personal investment.
- Discipleship means at times I help carry emotional baggage.
- Discipleship means to constantly build foundations on the Word.
- Discipleship means to model the way.
- Discipleship means to see success in the lives of others who serve the Lord.
- Discipleship is intentional, not accidental.
- Discipleship sometimes offers a hug and sometimes a stern correction.
- Discipleship has as a goal to make a disciple maker.

Although not an exhaustive list, it is a great picture of how Jesus and Paul carried out the mission to make disciples in all nations. BMA Global Missions is committed to discipleship-based multiplication. Here is our value statement:

The entire context of the New Testament is one of multiplication. All healthy believers and churches will multiply. The multiplication of disciples is the most important factor in the formula for multiplication.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

the believers life. As they are foundations they will be taught by our words and deeds of everyday life. They are not compartments for Sundays or other days of worship, they are who we are. We teach them with diligence in our words while we live our lives at home with our families and while we live them out in the public of our everyday lives.

Our Goals

The listed teachings of the Shema is our goal with every child at the Children’s Home. We ask that you pray for our dedication to these standards for our children. We ask this especially now as we approach returning to school for this upcoming year. We aim to teach biblical truth as they learn other intellectual standards that will also be vital for their future. Pray for our kids that they would study well to prepare for all that the Lord has in store for them in the future. New teachers, subjects, and students will provide them with new opportunities and challenges in this new year. We hope that all of these factors will guide them to new standards and goals, but especially to a new depth of faith in Christ.

Our Prayers

We also ask that you pray for us as a ministry. We are working toward the permanency of one of our young men who came to us in the Spring. We will hopefully have a court date soon to accomplish that end. We are still working toward finding new house parents that would help with the upkeep of our facilities and expand the number of children we will be able to help. Thank you for your continued support of the Children’s Home and please reach out to us if you would like for us to come to your church to present our ongoing work. May the Gospel continue to be preached to all creatures through our churches.

The Great Shema is a foundational text for what Christians are to believe and teach about The One True God. His Children are to fear Him, obey Him, love Him, and teach Him. His commands are given so that we, His people, would fear Him, have reverence, or awesome respect for Him. His commands are given so that we would know what to keep, observe, or guard as good and right in our thoughts and actions. As God is the one and only true God He deserves our love completely with no reservation. These things are to be foundations in

Summer Activities at Southeastern

On the left - the SBC staff and family members enjoying an ice cream social
On the right Mrs. A. M. Wilson, spouse of the former SBC president, makes a surprise visit to the Board of Trustees meeting



mission:world

NEWS

MAKING DISCIPLES IN BRASOV, ROMANIA

BY: Cristian Martinez
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

God has called our family and team to make disciples in the city of Brasov, Romania, as we seek to obey the commandment of our Lord Jesus to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). We understand this commandment as both preaching the gospel to those who are not yet trusting and following Jesus and teaching believers how the gospel can change every area of their lives, transforming them to look more and more like Jesus.

How do we do this in our city?

We pray. We spend time in prayer both individually and together. We pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he gives us the compassion of Jesus who saw the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd. About 90% of our city identifies with the Eastern Orthodox Church, which gives a false hope of purgatory and human works contributing to salvation. Less than 5% of Brasov's population identifies with some form of evangelical church. So we also pray for the harvest in our city to come to know Jesus and for more laborers to make disciples, and we do this as we prayer walk through the streets of our city. We pray because salvation only comes from God, and we depend on him.

We preach. We speak about and call people to respond to the good news of God, reconciling sinners to be in a closer relationship with him through Jesus' life of obedience, his death in the place of sinners, and his resurrection from death in victory. As a team we do this by meeting people at local farmers markets, building relationships with our neighbors, investing in local college students, and two of us even work at a local coffee shop so that we will have regular opportunities to speak with customers and coworkers, as well as with Ukrainian refugees that are coming into our city.

We gather and equip. We do not go to make disciples as isolated individuals, and we do not seek to make disciples who are isolated from the Christian community. We need one another to

make disciples. We have seen how God has used us as a group to expose people to the gospel: One of us has started a spiritual conversation while another one has clearly explained the gospel and answered questions. Some share testimonies while others prepare their homes for hosting, sharing, and caring for people. Also, as missionaries, we do not see ourselves as the only ones doing ministry, but we recognize our call to equip local Romanians to do the work of the ministry as well.

At this moment we meet weekly at a local coffee shop with a group of ten adults and seven children (not counting our team) where we have been clearly explaining the gospel and equipping in evangelism. This group is a mix of Christians and non-Christians, and we are preparing one of them

for baptism. We also grow as disciples in a smaller setting where women meet with women and men with men every other week to apply in a personal way what we study in the Bible, to pray for one another, and to keep each other accountable.

These, together with a college study and serving and bringing Bible teaching to Ukrainian refugees, are some of our team's efforts as we prepare to form a church that makes disciples in our city and sends missionaries to unreached people groups in countries south of Romania. We ask that you join us in prayer for God to do this in his grace.





DISCIPLE OF EXCELLENCE

BY: Margaret Anderson
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

“Shadi is an excellent discipler.” This is the first thing BMA Missionary Charlie Costa said when describing what discipleship looks like in his church in Lebanon. What makes Shadi an excellent discipler? It’s his focus on relationship building, systematic methods, and biblical foundation that makes his approach to discipleship excellent.

Relationship Building

Shadi focuses on one specific area of a certain people group which lives in the mountains above Beirut. Shadi loves the people; they aren’t just a number to be added to the church for numbers’ sake, but they are

real people in need of a real Savior. This leads him to build authentic friendships by doing life with people and truly caring for them as people.

As the friendships grow, people become more interested in Shadi’s faith, which they can see in his actions and in his words, and they begin to ask questions. This opens the door for Shadi to invite them to home groups where they can learn more about Christ in a small-group setting, and he begins to meet with them individually.

The people are a non-Muslim people group who give more veneration to the person of Jesus, but they believe he’s only a prophet. Talking about Christ is normal for them, but they will face some challenges in their thinking as they discover Christ as their Savior.

Systematic Methods

This people group tends to think extremely systematically and logically. For them to accept a new thought or idea, things should be rational and make sense. Shadi realizes this, so he leads them through a study of Scripture from creation to Christ, and this leads them to the issue of salvation. They will read passages of Scripture and answer four questions: What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about man? What does it teach us about living a life pleasing to God? Who am I going to tell?

At the end of each session, they have to decide what to do to apply what they learned, and then apply it in the days to follow. At the next meeting, they will discuss how things went. This approach allows people to get involved as active participants, not passive listeners.

Biblical Foundation

Shadi’s method of study, called Discovery Bible Study, is beneficial because it is strictly reading Scripture, retelling the story, and discovering its deeper implications. This is helpful to this people group because they have no knowledge of Scripture. Costa says, “Once they’ve accepted Christ, we up the dose of Bible study and take them even deeper.”

Costa adds, “Discipleship is valuable because it allows the individual to voice questions, doubts, challenges, and temptations, and the discipler is then able to respond more relevantly to these issues from Scripture.”



mission:world

NEWS

TAKE THE GREAT COMMISSION PERSONAL

BY: Dr. Steve Crawley
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

In 2004 my wife, Daura, and I went to Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for a week of training in Evangelism Explosion (EE). Renowned pastor Dr. D. James Kennedy, the founder of EE, led the training. At one of our intermissions, we engaged in general conversation, and he asked if I was in the ministry. I responded, “No, I’m just a layman.” He then asked me what “just a layman” meant. I explained that I was not serving in occupational ministry but as a corporate executive.

Dr. Kennedy quickly shared with me that I was not “just a layman” but a soldier in the army of the living God.

That week of training and sharing the gospel back in 2004 revolutionized my view of what it meant to live with a missional mindset. The training helped me understand the need to take the Great Commission personal, as it was given to me as well as every church member whether we were in occupational ministry or not. Up to that point, I had been “sub-contracting” the fulfillment of the Great Commission to our church’s pastor and staff, along with our associational missionaries. Yet my eyes were opened that week to the fact that I, too, was sent by my church with no less responsibility than a full-time missionary. I was to be God’s ambassador in my circle of influence.

At that time, I worked for a rather large company. I had access to people that many pastors and missionaries would never have the privilege to engage. In a sense, I became a “corporate missionary,”

realizing that God had sent me to that company for much more than drawing a paycheck. Understanding that my mission field was my company and other social circles where I was involved changed the way I saw and interacted with people around me. I became more soul conscious and began to pray for the Holy Spirit to enable me to share the gospel with boldness, conviction, and persuasion. In essence, I began thinking more like a missionary might think on the arrival to a new field.

In our men’s MD5 discipleship ministry, we begin the process by assessing where we are in our spiritual journey. The assessments used include Jim Putman’s Real Life Discipleship Wheel to determine our stage of spiritual growth (Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent), a spiritual gift analysis, and our MD5 Orientation Assessment, which consists of 54 questions. One of the questions is “Do you have a personal plan for fulfilling the Great Commission?” Invariably, men assess themselves lower on this question than most any other.

I believe the reason for this phenomena is that we as believers fail to take the Great Commission personally. Yet making disciples and fulfilling that commission is the ultimate mission of the church! It is the mission of every born-again man, woman, boy and girl. If you ask most church members what their job is, most would agree it is to share the gospel and make disciples. Yet how many actually do?

The fact is that we are not “just laymen and laywomen.” We are all soldiers in the army of the living God! When it comes to the Great Commission, let’s take it personal!





EIGHT YEARS, EIGHT MISSIONS

BY: Pastor Oscar Gaitán
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Many were the tasks that Jesus left to the church, but one of the clearest tasks was to disciple. The way our church discipled is by taking one person at a time, women to women, men to men. They make a weekly appointment for twelve weeks and they share twelve steps after receiving Jesus. These lessons are complemented by the vital part of discipleship, which is the investment of one's life in another person, just like parents to children.

When we started eight years ago in the Masaya mission, my wife, my daughter, and I began discipling three neighbors: I discipled Reynaldo, Tamy discipled Noemí, and Lidia discipled Cristina. After 12 weeks, each of them took another person and we continued with other new converts. This is how God has guided us in opening eight missions: Masaya, Las Flóres, San Marcos, La Dalia, Matagalpa, Sébaco, San Juan de Oriente and Cuba.

Each mission carries in its blood the importance of discipling one on one and it has been the specific way in which God has used us to disciple person by person and that has led us to hundreds reached for Christ, as well as the beginning of the missionary work in different places.

Our church is a cell church and we have centralized the task of the church through each leader who directs a cell at home. Four years ago our country went through a political situation and we had to close the church building but not the church. Once the situation passed and we returned to meet on Sundays, we had multiplied from 12 cells to 18. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic and the same thing: We closed the building but not the church, and when we were able to come back together, we multiplied the cells from 18 to 27.

We also work with children in small cells. We have 26 houses where we have dedicated Sunday to Sunday to teach and interact with them and their families and now average 240 children in these houses on Sunday with more than 60 people serving in this ministry.

Lifeworld has been a part of our ministry for many years in our country of Nicaragua supporting different radio ministries, programs aimed at couples, and workshop programs for those who serve in the ministry of teaching children. In December of last year, we opened the new mission in Sébaco and we were going through difficulties for its continuity, but thank God for the assistance of Lifeworld that allowed us to continue.

When we opened the mission in Cuba, the presence of Lifeworld was already in the heart of Bro. Jesús Martín. He had heard the message

of salvation through the radio ministry that Lifeworld had been broadcasting on the air for many years with The Christian Contact, a program by Pastor Richard Róbinson. Jesús Martín listened to this program and that seed sown came to germinate years later when we visited the country. We met Bro. Jesús and he shared with us the perfect plan of our God and how Lifeworld was an instrument to reach his life. Today he is our missionary and is the leader of a beautiful mission in Cuba.

The Centro de Vida church is celebrating in May her eighth anniversary with eight missions, but we are not stopping there; rather, it is our vision to establish cell groups in more cities. Thank you, Lifeworld, for always joining efforts through our common goal, which is to spread the gospel of salvation as it is carried throughout the world.





In His Grip

By Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net

Those Little Brown Churches

An old song that we used to sing, “The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood,” came to mind recently and caused me to remember the little brown churches that have been a part of my journey.

The little brown church in my childhood wasn’t brown, but it was little and filled with history of my family. In fact, the churches that occupy a part of my heart represent not only my family but also my childhood and my adulthood.

Just like the little brown church, Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church stirs my memories of my mother’s family. Old Ephesus, a white frame building with no frills or adornments, was organized in 1893 back in the woods of Jefferson County with the Smiths and McDonalds a part of it. My great grandparents were baptized into that church in June of 1898, and my grandmother was baptized in May of 1900. Though she and my grandfather were married in 1897, his name was not on the church roll.

Most of Mother’s family were a part of that old church and remained faithful throughout the years. A cousin remembered that at times so many people attended the association meetings that they had the preaching “out under the trees.” She also remembered that “Uncle Pearl’s Aladdin lamp was the ultimate source of lighting for the church.”

A letter from our youngest aunt to Sister No. 1 mentioned that the family went to church once a month in a wagon. “With all our family, that was quite a crowd.” She mentioned that the children could hardly sit still because the preacher always preached two hours or more. “We would all get mad at Grandpa because when he would have quit, Grandpa would get up and say, ‘Preach on, Brother.’ Then he would. We wanted to get out and play.”

Ephesus changed locations from back in the woods to a place on the road; and then in 1961, the members decided to build a new building on some family land in memory of my great grandparents. The faithfulness of my family to that old church was shown by a crippled cousin who worshiped the Lord from her seat in a pickup truck parked near the window. That we might have more of her dedication in our churches today!

That old church certainly had good cooks, and services often included

dinner on the ground, often literally on the ground. That heavenly feast included, I am sure, fried chicken, potato salad, and a yummy variety of desserts. I do know my mother’s favorite sister made the best chocolate and coconut pies. Mother was more of a banana-pudding person.

While the Primitive Baptists didn’t have Sunday School or musical instruments, they did have protracted services (what we call revivals, I think). I’m not sure how many days they lasted, but probably for several days; very likely some all-day preaching was included. I picture them a little like Paul’s preaching (Acts 20:9) when Eutychus “being fallen into a deep sleep; and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.”



Carolyn Hagler



Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church

I don’t remember, though, any stories of anyone doing that at Ephesus.

Most of the family remained dedicated Hard-Shell Baptists (as we called them) throughout their lives except my mother. My parents became a part of my childhood church, Bethesda Baptist, another small, wooden church. We’re rather spoiled today with comfortable churches, but that old church had hard wooden benches with open windows bringing in a random breeze along with insects, too. But maybe those offensive smelling marigolds from a neighbor’s yard helped repel some of the insects!

Bethesda Baptist was the place I learned about Jesus, though, and Mother decided we girls should learn to play the piano. The music lessons were definitely a failure, but I did learn to play some of those old hymns. Back then, a gifted pianist wasn’t required—only someone who could play some of the notes.

In those early years, revival services always lasted for a week and were held in the morning and at night. We kids would gather outside before church and chase lightning bugs and/or each other. But the entire community came. It was at one of those revival meetings, I walked the aisle...mainly because some of the other children did.

In my parents’ later years, they quit attending church as many older people do. But several years before they died, Bethesda relocated almost directly across the highway from their home. The joy of being back in the Lord’s Church gave my parents comfort and peace in their old age.

When my mother died unexpected one April morning, we were overwhelmed as we gathered with Daddy. For four sisters, three brothers-in-law, and Daddy to be able to plan a funeral together was a minor miracle in my mind. But we did! Mother’s funeral service was scheduled for Sunday afternoon at Bethesda.

That morning, JB and I wanted to attend church. When Daddy told us, “I want to go to church,” I remembered that God blesses in all circumstances, even losses. What a special service with most of our family gathering with Daddy in that childhood church. I learned then, what a comfort church and church family are in trying times. That personal lesson taught me how meaningful cards, phone calls, food, and visits are in a time of grief. It started Sister No. 1 on a card ministry of finding and sending special cards to those who need them.

With all my memories about special churches in my life, though, my favorite church is my home church, the place I was saved and then baptized: Westover. God led me to a place where Bible truths were

taught and still are, opportunities for service are prevalent, and most of all love exists. In this special little “brown church that’s not brown,” some of our members have Alzheimer’s, but they are still remembered and prayed for. Some of our members have severe health problems, some have moved, and some don’t come any more. But they are all remembered and prayed for, too.

The little brown church or churches in your memories may look different, but the best memories should stir up how the Lord has blessed you as a part of His Church. With the Bible admonishing us many times to remember, to bring to



Dinner on the ground at Ephesus

remembrance, or to not forget, we know those things are important. My memories help me focus on Him and worship Him for who He is and all He does. Memories should encourage all of us to draw closer to Him day by day.

“Come to the church by the wildwood, oh, come to the church in the vale. No spot is so dear to my childhood as the little brown church in the vale.”

Let your memories be a blessing and a reminder! While remembering that my grip may slip, but His does not, I remain tightly in His grip.

BMA Seminary Offering Free Online Class

BMA Seminary is offering a free online course in the Fall 2022. The course will be eight weeks long and includes various assignments and opportunities to interact with fellow students. Students who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

Free courses are not for credit and do not apply to any degrees. These courses are offered strictly for the educational benefit of the general public. Students will only receive a certificate of completion. Individuals who wish to take courses for credit or pursue a degree should apply for regular semester courses

Old Testament Survey

COURSE GOALS: During this course, the student is expected to gain skills and competencies in the course subject matter in order to:

- improve knowledge and understanding of important biblical and theological truths.
- improve the ability to communicate biblical truths in the context of a local church
- improve leadership skills as required in the ministry of a local church.

This course is a general survey of the en-

tire Old Testament, including history, geography, and literature. The origin and growth of the Hebrew nation are emphasized.

TEXTBOOKS: For textbook and other resources contact instructor.

Class Schedule

The class begins on / about 1 September and ends 26 October 22.

The instructor suggests several from a church enroll together for group encouragement.

DELIVERY AND TERMS: This is NOT a self-paced course. The instructor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments as shown in the assignment schedule.

Professor: Dr. Tony Cleaver, DMin, Director Distance Education and Professor at BMA Seminary

You may enroll at this site: <https://bmats.edu/free/>

You may call the seminary at 800.259.5673

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY REPORTS

Missions Report from Chris Yager...

Living Hope Baptist Church
Meridian, Mississippi

These past two months have been filled with Building Renovations and God's Blessings!! It is amazing to watch God do an incredible work in the infancy of a new church. To say there is only blessing without struggle would be a misleading, but God's blessings have far outweighed the struggles. These past few months have seen new and returning visitors. We have been blessed with new families, teens, and adults coming to Living Hope. It is a wonderful blessing when your past high attendance numbers become your average. God is so good!!

The building renovations at Living Hope are getting closer and closer to the end. We are

excited to see so much change that has happened over the past six months. Our hope is to be completely finished with construction by the end of July with our Grand Opening/Open House being the second Sunday of August (August 14). Please be in prayer for this to happen! With labor shortages, supply chain challenges, and delays we have



Services at Living Hope

had to push our big day back once before, and we are hoping not to have to do it again. In the next two weeks, we should have all of our ceiling in, flooring down, and trim finished.

With the building being finished up, it is going to allow us to get back, full swing, into

evangelism and outreach. Please pray that the Lord would continue to bring open doors and hearts to message and work of Living Hope. We need God's favor as we strive together for the gospel.

Thank you again for all that you do for us; thank you for the prayers and thank you for the encouraging words. Y'all mean so much to us!



Completing the remodeling

Hispanic Missions in Mississippi

By Estuardo Marroquin
Hispanic Missions Manager

We move forward in Hispanic missions. In recent weeks we have had reports of the different fields where the word of God is being preached to magnify the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus. The Hispanic mission in the city of Canton continues to bear fruit. Bro. Lucas Gomez reports that Sunday worship meetings are still very exciting. More



Evangelism team from El Camino in Laurel

people have been added to the mission, new visits, and an average attendance of 20 people. We continue to ask for your prayers so that with God's direction we may find a building to give a formal opening to the Baptist mission in this city.

El Camino Church in Hattiesburg is growing not only in spirit but in number. In their meetings they have had an average of 45 people and new people are being added to the congregation. All this is the result of its effort in evangelization. Every two weeks they take to the streets of Hattiesburg where the Hispanic community lives and are sharing the good news of Salvation in Jesus. Pastor Leo Adan reports saved souls and soon new believers will be baptized. We thank God for the life of Pastor Leo and his family, for all the effort they are making for the Hispanic church in this city.

In the city of Laurel, El Camino Church has had an incredible time. The congregation has been putting more effort into evangelization and they too are taking to the streets of Laurel every two weeks. In recent weeks about 25 people have shared the gospel and 8 have received Jesus as their personal savior. El Camino church has developed a tremendous discipleship structure, this

has strengthened the congregation and has also resulted in new believers being taught in God's word and added to the church through baptism.

My Travels

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel with my family to Guatemala City. It was a very good time to be able to share with our families and preach in some of our BMA churches in Guatemala. Guatemala City has a population of approximately 4 million people. More than 60 percent of the population is Roman Catholic. Traditions are strong and deeply rooted in families. There is a great need to share the gospel of salvation. In Guatemala City there are 5 BMA Baptist churches, and these churches are doing a great job in evangelization. In the rest of the country of Guatemala there are 6 churches, and they are located in cities where there is a great need for the gospel, but they are also regions where there is poverty.



Center of Life Baptist Church in Guatemala

I had the privilege of preaching at Centro de Vida (Center of Life) Baptist Church in Guatemala City, it was a special time to be with them. My middle brother (David Marroquin) is the pastor of the church and the BMAA coordinator of missionary work in Guatemala. They are praying and working on the project to build their Sanctuary. Today they congregate on a property that was acquired by the BMAA in the 80s. Over the years they have been making great improvements to this property. I ask your prayers so that they can continue to raise their building, at present they have built 40 percent of the building, some walls are not finished. The wind runs very easily inside the building as well as the noise that comes from outside the property. The financial

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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

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

Solomon and Morality

Ecclesiastes 1:12-15

"The Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven; this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight, and that which is wanting cannot be numbered."

Have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life? Does your life lack the meaning and purpose you desire? Hear the words of Solomon, and let them encourage you to place your trust solely in the Lord.



Dr. John Adams

I. We all desire meaning in life. Often, this search takes us along winding paths filled with satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fades. It's satisfying to see this from reading the pages of this book. We relate to the journey of Solomon because, for so many of us, it is our own. When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, in commitment to a job, or by intellectual depths, we all eventually find each of these pursuits to be a dead end.

II. Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective. Surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life's ultimate emptiness, we find in Ecclesiastes a worldview tempered by experience and ultimately seen through colored lenses. Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God's intervention. We must choose whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands.

III. Scholars, writers even from Wikipedia, disagree about the themes of Ecclesiastes: whether it is positive and life-affirming, or deeply pessimistic; whether it is coherent or incoherent or insightful or confused, whether the ultimate message of the book is to copy the wise man, or to avoid his errors. At times, he "doubted every aspect of religion, from the very ideal of righteousness, to the traditional idea of divine justice for individuals". The Talmud even suggests that the rabbis considered censoring Ecclesiastes due to its seeming contradictions. One suggestion for resolving the contradictions is to read the book as the record of Ecclesiastes quest for knowledge. It is only at the conclusion that the verdict is delivered (Copied)

IV. The subjects of Ecclesiastes are of pain and frustration. In the morality of Solomon, he meditates pervading the world, the uselessness of human ambition, and the limitations of worldly wisdom. The phrase "under the sun" appears twenty-nine times in connection with these observations. This coexists with a firm belief in God, whose power, and life, without the sun, has no meaning or purpose; the wise man and the man who does not study wisdom will both die and be forgotten; man should be reverent ("Fear God"), but in this life it is best to simply enjoy God's gifts.

Ecclesiastes 5:1 : "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of

resources are few, but they are doing a great job, they are raising special offerings, selling plates of food every Sunday to raise 250 thousand quetzales (30 thousand dollars). We know that God will provide for this great need. It was really a very special time to spend a few weeks in Guatemala, the coun-

try of eternal spring (the whole year is like spring season).

I thank God for the privilege of serving day by day in mission work. I thank every church and local association that continues to support us with the purpose of reaching more souls in the Hispanic community of our state of Mississippi.

Missions Around the World

Missionaries Take Every Opportunity to Minister

From Facebook



BMA missionaries Rita & Danny Ballard serve in the Philippines. Above, Mrs. Rita says the following, "I am so excited that I have just started going back to the cancer institute to visit patients and share Christ with them. We also play games. I shared how to get to heaven and be born again several times. People were very attentive.

News from Stan & Donna Scroggins

Missionaries to the Philippines

WELCOME DR. THOM SOUTH

We are so excited to welcome Dr. Thom South to the Philippines and our campus here in Talisay, Negros Occidental.

Dr. South is coming to help us get four of our teachers fully accredited with masters degrees. These degree upgrades are important to retain our recent accreditation from the Philippines Department of Higher Education. Dr. South is a long time professor at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. He will teach four classes: Old Testament 1 and 2, Baptist History and General Church History.



Dr. Thom South

Finishing Up Work on the Cabiayan Baptist Mission Building



Thanks to friends at South Park Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas and First Baptist Church Magnolia, Arkansas this new mission building is ready for dedication. With funds in reserve we bought chairs and had a pulpit made.

Senior Adult Ministry

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

From Minister's Resource Services - BMA of America

Director's Note

As your director of the Commission on Senior Adults (and as a senior myself) I find myself thinking more about our seniors and ministering to them. This led me to reach out to Dr. Steve Crawley of Minister's Resource Services. I shared my concern about personally and corporately about having our lives and finances in order and making sure that we have prepared everything that needs our attention in a timely manner.

Dr. Crawley and Mark Bradley met with me via a Zoom call and plans were made to minister to our seniors via these pages and share important information. Our hope is that each of our seniors have taken care of their financial and health plans. I encourage you to take advantage of the services offered by MRS.

Look for more information in the future and may the Lord bless each of you as you continue to serve Him.

How is your plan?

Estate Planning is not only for high net worth people. The

reality is that most of us don't think about Estate Planning, but we should. Most people will dictate more time to planning a vacation than they do to estate planning. Without a plan you may not have as much control as you think over who will receive your assets. Having a Will is only one part of an estate plan. Not convinced that estate planning is necessary? Consider these four reasons why you may want to rethink your position.

1. Estate planning protects beneficiaries. This means identifying who will receive what assets and any terms imposed on the beneficiaries such as when and how they can receive the assets.

2. Estate planning allows you to name your children's guardian in the event of your premature death. For grandparents who may have custody of grandchildren today this is also essential.

3. Estate planning can significantly reduce beneficiaries' income and inheritance tax burdens.

4. Estate planning can eliminate family disputes by making it clear that your assets are handled as you intended. This includes Powers of Attorney (medical and financial) in the event of physical or mental incapacity, making it important for while you are still living as well.

Bottom line, to protect your assets and your loved ones as you intended you need an estate plan. It's not complicated nor expensive.

Interested in learning more? We're here to help.

MRS is your trusted partner that can help bring clarity and understanding to whatever your situation may be. Let us help explain your options. Our focus is on educating our churches and pastors to help them make well informed decisions about these very important topics.

MRS is your trusted resource. Let us serve you today! Contact: Mark Bradley, Ministers Resource Services, 501-499-4205 or mbradley@bmaamerica.org

When Parents Get Old

Let them grow old with the same love that they let you grow ... let them speak and tell repeated stories with the same patience and interest that they heard yours as a child ... let them overcome, like so many times when they let you win ... let them enjoy

their friends just as they let you ... let them enjoy the talks with their grandchildren, because they see you in them ... let them enjoy living among the objects that have accompanied them for a long time, because they suffer when they feel that you tear pieces of this life away ... let them be wrong, like so many times you have been wrong and

they didn't embarrass you by correcting you ...

LET THEM LIVE and try to make them happy the last stretch of the path they have left to go; give them your hand, just like they gave you their hand when you started your path!

"Honor your mother and father and your days shall be long upon the earth".

A Personal Point7 of View

"I asked an elderly man once what it was like to be old and to know the majority of his life was behind him. He told me that he has been the same age his entire life. He said the voice inside of his head had never aged. He has always just been the same boy. His mother's son. He had always wondered when he would grow up and be an old man. He said he watched his body age and his faculties dull but the person he is inside never got tired. Never aged. Never changed.

Our spirits are eternal. Our souls are forever. The next time you encounter an elderly person, look at them and know they are still a child, just as you are still a child and children will always need love, attention and purpose."

~ Author Unknown



GEORGE REDDIN PUBLISHES NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK!

A selection of articles taken from Reddin's work over the course of his 23 years as a BMA pastor and 31 years serving at Lifeword Media Ministries

CONTACT INFO:

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Bella Vista, AR 72714

\$16

*tax included
plus \$4 shipping

An Introduction from New WMA President

Though most of you know me, I feel like I should write a little introduction of myself. My name is Theresa Reus. I'm a member of Movella MBC church in Lucedale, where my husband, Joey, is the pastor. We've been married 25 years, and have two children, Beth and Jude.

I will be filling in as your Mississippi WMA president for the remainder of the year. Stacy Smith and her mom, Elaine Smith, have moved to South Georgia to be closer to family. Please be in prayer for them as they settle into a new home, new routines, a new job, and of course, a new church family.



Theresa Reus

Our Theme & Project

Our theme for the year continues, BE ENCOURAGED, with Philippians 4:19 as our verse. I hope Stacy finds comfort in these. I just know the Lord was leading the way for them as He gave her this theme and verse last year. Our project this year is the mission church in Meridian, LIVING HOPE. Please join us as we continue to raise money for this worthy cause.

Our Project

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite all our ladies and their friends to our ladies re-

treat hosted by the state WMA. All ladies are welcome. The retreat will be hosted at the holiday inn in Pearl, September 17-18. Mrs. Dawn Freeman will speak on Grateful, Thankful and Blessed. This is such a popular theme these days, let's be sure we're taking it to heart when we say it. You can find more information on registration and other important details in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Just be sure to note the deadline is September 1.

I recently attended a meeting with our state GMA officers. These meetings are so encouraging to me. I love to see our girls maturing in their walk with Christ and finding a place to serve in our churches. Be looking for articles from the girls about them and the retreat their planning to host in the spring.

Finally, I ask that you each pray diligently for the BMA of Mississippi and our churches. There seems to be so much opportunity for division today, let us pray God will intervene and bring unity among the brethren. That is the purpose for associational work, isn't it, to work together? Let us pray for wisdom and humility for our pastors and leaders.

I look forward to seeing each of you this fall at our retreat and/or the annual meeting at South Forrest in October.

WMA PROJECT DEADLINE IS NEAR

The clock is ticking—time is running out! Don't forget the deadline for our state WMA project is September 28.

Every time you hear or see the Yagers, they are always enthusiastic about the mission in Meridian. Let's "enthusiastically" get behind them and support Living Hope Mission!

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" Colossians 3:23

Send offerings to: Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS. 39443



Ladies Retreat Reminder

Ladies Retreat is approaching fast. Make your plans to attend! September 16-17. Deadline to register is updated to September 1st. I have to turn a number to the Hotel. Send registration form to Kathy Walley, 166 Twin Creek Road, Lucedale, MS 39452.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

State Ladies Retreat set for September 16-17, 2022

by Kathy Walley, Chairman

Now is the time to begin making your plans to attend the "Ladies Retreat" in September. We will be meeting at the Holiday Inn in Pearl. I hope each of you are as excited as I am to be able to meet together.

Dawn Freeman is our speaker. Please pray for her daily. The theme is "Thankful, Grateful, Blessed" from 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

We will have Snacks for you to enjoy when we are not in session. Also, you will want to stop by the Photo Booth to have your group get their picture taken.

We will have the "Silent Auction," but it will look a little different. Due to less space this year, I am asking you to bring handmade items (wreaths, baked goods, jellies, wall plaques, etc.), boxed jewelry (new or something you no longer wear). We want this to be successful for Missions and for you to be able to take something nice home.

There will be great door prizes. Also, we will be auctioning a handmade quilt, so bring your extra money.

The "Book Exchange" went well last year so let's do it again! There will be a table in the hallway for this exchange.

The **Registration Form is listed in this issue.** You need to mail it to Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452. Her phone number is 601-947-6011 or 601-766-5702. The fee is \$50.00 and is due by September 12, 2022. This includes dinner and breakfast.

You will need to call the **Holiday Inn at 601-939-5238** to make your reservations. The rooms will accommodate four (4) people. The cost is \$119.00 per room. The physical address of the hotel is 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl.

If you know ladies that are not in your church, but would like to attend please invite them. We need **120** ladies to attend to help cover hotel expense. We would love to have more.

Registration will begin at 2:00. Looking forward to seeing you in September. If you have any questions please call me at (601) 508-1082.

Ladies Retreat Registration

Holiday Inn - 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl, MS
601-939-5238

Church: _____

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person.

Mail to: Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452

Ladies Retreat T-Shirt Order Form

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed - 1 Thess 5:18

Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	Total Shirts	Total Money

The shirts will be \$20.00 for Small – X-Large and \$22.00 for any XX-Large.

Please mail in order forms to Jessica Haden at 558 Springhill Rd, Laurel, MS 39443. Make checks payable to MS State WMA. If you have any questions please call or text me a 662-251-0455.