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Inside This Issue

Southeastern
Baptist College
Special Emphasis

Page 4

Acts 1:8
Conference

Page 2

Mission
World News

Pages 5-8

WMA & GMA
News

Page 12

State Mission
Reports

Page 9

How Do I Explain What Happened At Camp?



by Anders Lee
State Youth Director

The first student camp in four years for the BMA of Mississippi just ended. As I write this article my heart could not be fuller! We are all exhausted but it's a good exhaustion! The three days in one way were not enough but my body says it was ... HA! I really hope to convey what happened in camp, but as they say, "You had to be there!" There were moments in camp that would raise the hair on your arms from the power of the presence of God in worship. Many testified to this. There were three or four of those moments and they literally brought me to a state of brokenness & tears!



Anders Lee

All I can say ... no scream, is Hallelujah!!! Why is that... currently I know of 17 who came to Christ at camp! That's amazing!!! Praise God! Five others gained assurance of their salvation through discipleship with them. Two young men surrendered to ministry!!! One of them was in my group from Central so again... I scream Hallelujah!!! We ended up having 302 in attendance at this camp, not counting all the staff! We had prayed early on that we would at least have 200 total and we FAR exceeded

that! We had nearly 240 teens at this camp, which is a huge success for our state work. We camped 97% of our registration! That is HUGE, incredible, and rare!

There were many things that happened, again, you had to be there. I can't list them all but here's a sampling. One Dad (also a youth pastor) came to me and said God had restored his relationship with one of his kids that had been fractured badly. One of our churches reported that they had a renewed commitment to being involved in BMA events, apparently, they are not involved and have not been satisfied with things overall in our state work. Having come to camp they stated this kind of thing is what the BMA needs to do more of. A handful of youth leaders told me they were inspired to do more in their church and become involved in the youth department.

Most of the teens I talked to, when I asked them would they come back next year, stated that they couldn't wait, and I said go home and tell others what a blast you had. One group got all excited and said WE ALREADY HAVE. They stated they had been messaging others that didn't come saying they had missed out. Many kids got help with depression & anxiety that has existed since 2020. Some leaders got ideas that were much needed from the youth ministry breakout which was a THINK TANK. There are just many things like these that took place that I can't communicate in one article, yet they

happened. This camp was a huge success and I am so thankful for that!

TEAMWORK!

What was so awesome at camp was to see the teamwork involved. Make no mistake, it took a lot of people! To them I am so humbly grateful! Thank you to our trustees who helped pray & plan this! Thank you to **Rosemary Davis** who's behind the scenes registration organization made check in so smooth. She was phenomenal! My thanks to **Dave Albert**, a member at Midway First Baptist, who was our housing director, he knocked his job out of the park. Our breakout session leaders, **Justin Burdick, Dan Carson, Taylor Clayton, Jacob Guenrich, Cliff Jenkins, Arthur Lee, Brody McCool, Kelly Ross, Dr. John David Smith, and Sam Yager** were devoted in their preparation, and it showed! They made a huge impact at camp! **Brad Scott**, our security team leader, and paramedic was such a major blessing! He not only did what I asked, but so much more! He was such a right arm to me at camp.

Lane Flynt was one of our nurses and helped with concessions a lot! **Tyrone Rogers**, a staffer at Southeastern, fit right in and the group fell in love with him at camp. He brought a group of students that worked and helped us, and they did a fantastic job. Oh, and by the way two of his students got

See Camp Report
On Page 3

Mississippi Baptist

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What A Great Experience!

This editor and his wife took a couple of days and attended the recent BMA Youth Camp at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville, Mississippi. It was HOT! But then it was hot all over most of our country.

The weather was hot, but it did not put a damper on the enthusiasm and work of the Lord this past week. What a joy it was to see all the volunteers and the young people worshipping and drawing closer to the Lord. The camp leaders, pastors, workers, and Youth Director Anders Lee did an outstanding job. As you read Bro. Lee's report you will begin to understand what a great camp experience it was for all who were there.

I urge you all to pray for this ministry, pray for Bro. Anders as he leads, and do not forget to support this ministry with your finances. This camp was a great success and the financial and prayerful support of our churches and members was indispensable.

Baptist Publishing Begins Printing Gospel Tracts!

by Jordan M. Tew
Executive Director

One of the most important things believers and local churches should do is share the Gospel. I am excited to share with you that Baptist Publishing House is now producing Gospel Tracts! These tracts are built upon the question "What is the Gospel?" and provide a clear and biblical Gospel presentation.

Each Gospel tract includes a QR code to our new Gospel website (knowthegospel.net). The website provides a fuller

explanation of the Gospel, a downloadable Bible study for new believers, and a way to request help finding a local church. We have partnered with BMA Global to help new believers get connected with a BMA church in their area. These efforts will help prevent new believers from "slipping through the cracks."

We have also provided a user guide to help churches and individuals learn how to use Gospel tracts and organize an evangelistic ministry in their own churches.

We have worked hard to provide a comprehensive evangelism tool. This resource has been reviewed by several different BMA pastors and ministers serving in various roles and was written by people with on-the-field evangelism experience.

The BMA now has a great evangelism tool ready to be used by local churches and individuals everywhere. It is my earnest desire that BMA churches are stirred to proclaim the Gospel in their communities and that we will see many people come to faith through this effort.

Remember what Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous,

A Warning and Information Concerning Africa Financial Requests

Dear Churches of the BMA,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that God is blessing you and using you to exalt his Son. It is our prayer that God is using you mightily in his mission to make disciples of all nations.

We are writing this letter to inform you of an issue that has come to our attention. Several pastors from Africa, some connected to the BMA and others with no connection at all to the BMA, have been contacting churches, pastors, and individuals directly asking for financial help.

We would like to ask you to please refrain from supporting any of these individuals directly. We are asking this so we may be good stewards of God's money. For instance, one of these individuals asked for money for Bibles, but \$10,000.00 has already been given for Bibles in this region.

Others are asking for money for building projects. We have a program in place to help with these projects: it is called the principle of the thirds. We ask the church to raise one-third of the project, and then we will loan them one-third interest free. Afterward we will gift them one-third from donations from generous church members like yourselves. If funds are given directly to individuals, the program of the thirds will fall apart.

The motivation of the principle of the thirds is twofold. First, we want the churches to take ownership of their own building projects. Second, we hope they will learn that we want to work with them and not for them.

There have been many other requests for funds, ranging from help with medical bills to buying vehicles. Some of these requests may be legitimate, but there is no way to know when they do not come through the proper channels. We already have channels in place for these countries to make their needs known in the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact Johnmichael Poulin, BMA Global Regional Coordinator for Africa and South America.

God bless,

John David Smith, President of BMA Global

Johnmichael Poulin, Regional Coordinator

Michael Goodwin, President of EIM

Tim Tyler, Founder of Water for Christ

ACTS 1:8 CONFERENCE REACHING YOUR JERUSALEM

BE A PART OF OUR FIRST MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE!

- WHETHER YOU ARE A LAYMAN OR A PASTOR, ON STAFF OR IN LEADERSHIP, THIS CONFERENCE IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH IN YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY AND AID IN THE OVERALL REVITALIZATION OF YOUR CHURCH.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



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BMAA Executive
Director of Missions



LARRY BARKER

BMAA Regional
Coordinator for Europe;
Serves in Church Health

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

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For More Information or to Register:

Contact: (601) 428-8616

Camp Report

From front page

assurance of salvation while at camp! **John Penrod** took photos for camp and **Don Brown** came and helped by taking a huge group photo for us with his equipment. **Jacob Guenrich** did a great job preaching the Word! God blessed and enabled him, and the kids loved him! The **Max Sullivan Band** was the perfect fit for the camp. WOW! How I loved, loved, loved hearing all the kids sing! Wow, IT TRULY WAS AMAZING! There were tons of people who prayed for camp! There were many of you who gave money to help this happen! To all of you I say... THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! I'm humbled to see it all come together and happen as it has! It was teamwork from all involved!

There is a lot of discipleship and follow-up work to be done! Pray for this and the kids who came to Christ. Please lift them up in prayer! To those of you who came I want to remind you that I am available to send you resources. Just let me know how I can help!

There is so much work to be done with our youth in the state that the youth



Anders Lee - Director - 901-343-3293
anders.lee571@gmail.com

department could do. As I leave camp, I feel overwhelmed seeing the needs and my heart is heavy to see much more done. I'm only one man and it will take all of us joining the vision to build this ministry into a force for the Kingdom of Christ! **Will YOU help? Will YOU join others and give?** There are challenges ahead of us to see that this ministry succeeds! Pray that we can have wisdom and the financial backing to do it all! I feel another article coming in the September edition that will be honest and challenging! Enjoy the pictures in this edition. I will be posting a video on our website as soon as possible!

Soon I will be able to announce where and when next years' camps will be! Camps... plural... YES!!! We will be

having one for 1st - 5th Graders and another for 6th - College. We want to release dates so churches can schedule around VBS next year! Stay tuned!

THE TEAMWORK CONTINUES

You might ask, so what's next? A new school year at Southeastern is nearing. The department will be back on that campus building relationships and sharing Christ soon. We do not have all the dates nailed down, but once again we hope to be there at least three times in the fall semester and then again in the spring. Pray that we can make an eternal difference in the lives of students there!

RENEW is fast approaching! I want to invite all those who were at camp and other churches who did not come to plan on attending! The dates are December 27-29, 2023. Registration for it will be open on our website soon. It will be held at Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. I am grateful to Bethel for opening their doors for this new event. Our speaker will be Tracy McMillen and some of the same young men who sang at camp will be at RENEW and maybe a few others! Preston Jones will head up this band for RENEW!

This conference will be FREE of charge. The two evening meals will be provided by the department. There will be

tons of late night fun. We will be making many discipleship resources for leaders. The other neat thing about this is we are inviting other BMA churches in other states to come! It was advertised at SOAR recently, my thanks to Donny Parrish for doing that! We already have three churches from Arkansas coming! That's encouraging and exciting! Bro. Dan Carson, the Director of Youth in Arkansas will be helping to promote this!

Soooooo let's get teens signed up now. Now you say??? YESSSS NOW!!! You must start communicating this to families so they can plan their holiday schedule with Grandparents! The kids need to see them and yet... we want them to come to RENEW! So, get to work... its time now to start making your church and the families in it aware of this opportunity.

Wait... where will we stay at when we come to RENEW. I am currently working on a hotel agreement for our group. I will release the information as soon as I have it. It will appear in this paper, on our social media and our website!

Let's continue the effort to expand this ministry and offer something quality for our teens! They need this! Our churches need this! Please pray, please support, please come!!!



Worship Team



Preaching the Word



Worship Service



Pie eating contest



Bible Sword Drill



Team Leaders



Getting all Wet



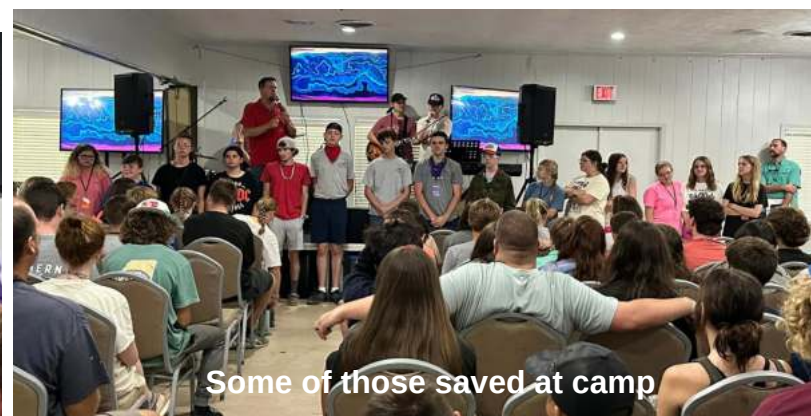
Fun & Games



Responding to the



Annie, Matthew, & Peter
Latrell Windham's grandchildren



Some of those saved at camp



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

"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds." Proverbs 27:23

When I first came to Southeastern Baptist College I thought, "Wow! Imagine having nearly three months off during the summer! Imagine all the golf and fishing I can do..." Boy was I wrong! I have since learned that the summer months demand more work than the fall and spring semesters.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

It is at this time of year that we must reset the entire campus for the fall semester. This involves cleaning and repairs in every room of each dormitory and classroom building and often we discover major issues due to aging infrastructure that require immediate attention. We also attempt to focus on projects that cannot be done when students are on campus. This summer we have refreshed the exteriors of the gymnasium and the classroom building with a coat of paint (see adjacent pictures). In addition, the road sign has been refurbished, and the biggest and most expensive project, was the repair and repaving of the front parking lot! This work has been needed this since before I arrived on campus seven years ago. Praise the Lord, it is finally done!

There is another project that we are working on and that is the remodeling of the "Faculty House" into a student ministry center. This fall we will begin using it for the spiritual support of our student body with fellowships and regular Bible studies. We are excited to leverage this old house for the spiritual growth of the precious souls God sends our way.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, we have restructured our staffing requirements that include Anderle Foster as our new Provost and Academic Dean; Dr. Bob Burch as Business Services Officer; Dr. Matt Olson as Dean of Student Affairs with Tyron Rogers as his assistant; and Sabrina Mauldin as Institutional Effectiveness Officer. We have also promoted Coach Edwards to Interim Head Coach for women's basketball. The restructuring was necessary to better support a greater number of students in the future.

During the summer months the staff has been reviewing administrative requirements. They have completely reviewed and revised the college catalog and have fielded a new Bachelor of Science degree in Airport Management. Provost Anderle Foster has finalized our updated Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Southern Mississippi that now includes our business degree credits. The staff continues to work with our accrediting

agency toward a new Bachelor's degree in Aviation.

These are exciting times on the campus of SBC and I ask for you to encourage your church to give generously during our July and August Special Emphasis Months. As we approach our 75th year of operation, it is clear the Lord's hand is upon Southeastern Baptist College and the financial needs have become greater to keep this school as a leading accredited Bible college in Mississippi. Please consider increasing your regular giving to this great institution. SBC is a 501c3 fully approved tax-deductible charity.

Remember, this is your college that God has established! Everyone in the BMA of Mississippi who may be seeking a college education ought to be attending Southeastern Baptist College!

Whether online or in the classroom, we invite you to join us in your own academic journey here at Southeastern Baptist College and be a part of its grand legacy.

"The liberal [*i.e.*, generous] soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:25

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Fall Semester Registration

The Fall Semester registration is open! You may sign up for classes online at southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application/ or by calling Admissions at 601-426-6346, or stop by our Admissions Office 8:30-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Classes begin August 14, 2023.

Now Recruiting Women Athletes!

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

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 each semester at Southeastern without even residing in Mississippi! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. Qualified students can take classes while still in high school

and get a head start in their college studies with our dual enrollment program. We are conservative and Bible centered, and our credits are transferable to 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.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available 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 for more information.

Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 23-hour program, and the student may take one class or a full load. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies

and the classes can be completely online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an associate or bachelor's degree should the student desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer today! 601-426-6346, or apply online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu.

Memorial Gifts

Thank you to Rita Doughty for your donation to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Brother Herman Hill.

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Praise the Lord for a recent donation of \$150,000 for scholarships from the estate of Bobby and Dovey Thornton! Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit and, or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist



The classroom and gymnasium have a new look.



Thank you to Keith and LaNita Porter for providing the funds to have our bus and vans decorated with our school logos!



The front parking lot is paved!

College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Oak Grove Association and

to Skyway Hills, Pearl, Mississippi, for inviting Dr. Carson to preach. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

mission:world

NEWS



FAITH FOR THE MOMENT - ADVERSITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

By John Meriweather
Regional Coordinator for Southeast Asia
bmaglobal.org

Have you ever considered the magnitude, the enormity, of God's mission? To go unto ALL the world? To make disciples in EVERY nation, tribe, tongue, and people? How easy is it for us to place human limits on an all-powerful, limitless God? Still we go. We do our part.

There is an old Arab proverb that says, "It isn't the mountain ahead that deters my journey; it is the grain of sand in my shoe."

Often it isn't the enormity of the mission that causes us to stumble but the grain of sand—the challenge of the moment—that tests our faith.

God is faithful. We know that to be true. We proclaim God's faithfulness when we reflect on the past. We see the big picture of God at work in our rearview mirror – how God has blessed those faithful men and women over the years who have answered the call to "go and tell." We see that fruit today all around the world.

And we cling to God's promises for the future, believing God will continue to bless our faithful efforts today. That ultimately God's glory will be made known and his kingdom expanded through the prayerful toil of faithful servants around the world.

But it's the grain of sand in the shoe—the circumstances of the moment—that often ensnares us. We know God has proven faithful in the past, we believe he will be faithful in the future, but what about today? What about the situation I'm currently facing? What about the very next step of my journey?

In the countries of Southeast Asia where BMA missionaries are serving, the mountains are real. They are areas of the world where Christianity is suppressed and where false religions are ingrained in the culture. It has been said that in Thailand, for example, it can take up to seven years to see conversion and discipleship due to the "mountain" of Buddhism. The same is true in the Himalayas and in India with Hinduism. In Myanmar, oppression, suffering, and literal sacrifice is real. All of these are mountains our missionaries face.

But it is the day-to-day work that so often challenges our faith and resolve:

When that relationship we invested in for so long is severed.

When the visa is denied.

When you are kicked out of the building you've been meeting in.

When converts stray.

When doors of opportunity are slammed in your face.

When you are constantly battling a system and culture that is against you.

In these moments, the mountain is blurred by the moment. It's the current crisis, indeed the constant stream of disappointments that become countless grains of sand in our shoes.

For our missionaries all across Southeast Asia, First Peter 5:6-10 says,



"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

In Thailand, India, Myanmar, and new churches in the Himalayas, pray for the mountains they face, and the persecution, oppression, and false religions that drown out the truth. These are ever present conditions. They are real. They are hard.

But also pray for faith in the moment, for today, for this week—for our missionaries to be "firm in the faith, knowing the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by brothers throughout the world." Pray they will cling to the God of all grace, the God of unwavering faithfulness. Pray they will not be deterred by the moment, by the immediate crisis, by doors that refuse to open. Pray that Christ will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish them.

And most of all, pray that God will be glorified, his truth revealed, lives transformed, disciples made, and churches planted.

Every nation, tribe, tongue, and people – that's the mission. It's big, even enormous, but we move forward in the faith that was revealed in the past, promised for the future, and necessary for today.

mission:world

NEWS

A WARM DIVIDE, A SLOW ANSWER

By Miriam

Creative Access Missionary in the Himalayas
bmaglobal.org

As a warm culture here in Southeast Asia, time is of little consequence. Quality time and friendships are prioritized over the scheduled, fast-paced culture we are controlled by in the West. Personally, I generally prefer this slow, easy-going culture. The day is not determined by every task you must accomplish or by planning far ahead but by steadily gliding through each day wherever it may take you. Yet what good is this when we are pressed under the imminent return of Christ? As Mark 1:15 states, “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” This is an urgent call. Man should not take his time responding to this kind of call.

In our predominantly Hindu country, every household awakens early to begin the daily religious rituals. They light candles, burn incense, ring bells, and blow into their shelled horns to awaken their millions of gods and ask them to bless their homes. How can one convince a nation of people that believes all gods

are one, that only one God exists? How can we convince them that they must repent of their sin? How can we explain to them that they are indeed a sinner in need of repentance? Our prayer is that this nation would awaken to the urgency of their spiritual condition and ensure their futures are settled in Christ. A task only the Holy Spirit can do.

However, as the hands and feet of Christ, we are honored with the job to arise each day, go out into the streets, go out into the mountains, and seek people to share the truth and free gift of grace the Lord has for them. Graven images of wood and stone have no power to save. The demons hiding behind these masks are the true puppeteers and have used the impressionable minds of the people to enslave an entire country to idolatry. Our command is simple, but the execution is difficult.

A man was recently asked, “Do you know what sin is?”

“Sin is the bad things we do,” he replied confidently, something not everyone in this country often has an answer to.

Once more, he was asked, “And where do you go if you sin or do bad things?”

“Sinful people go to hell and perfect people go to heaven,” he retorted.

“But is this not bad news for you and I? I am a sinner and you are a sinner. I am certainly not perfect. I don’t know anyone who is . . . !”

This man’s replies were very much the same as everyone else we have asked. They understand the concept of sin and doing wrong but not how it applies to them or how it applies to the eternally Holy God they have sinned against. What rings as truth in their ears falls dead before it reaches their hearts.

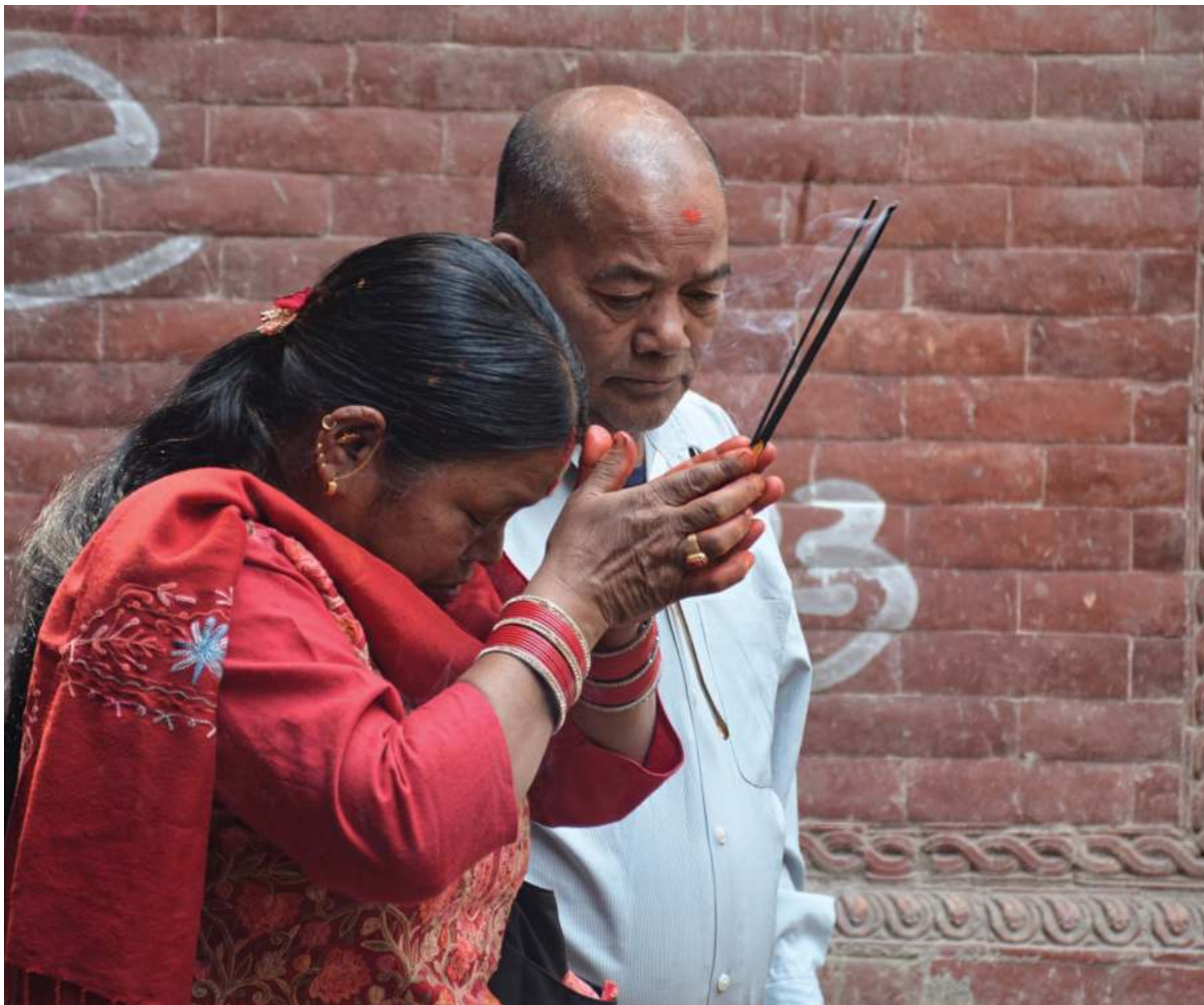
Please pray for our ministry, pray for the lost, pray that Jesus would intercede on behalf of our friends and draw them into the Father’s fold of grace.

Pray that we might not be harmed by the dark and evil forces of the devil in this country.

Pray that we might equip ourselves each day for battle and remain victorious in Christ.

Pray that the people of this country would not tarry in making the choice to repent.

Pray that they would hastily take hold of this offer of salvation and cleave to it earnestly until the second coming of our Lord.



mission:world

NEWS



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

By Sean Pasley
Missionary to France
bmaglobal.org

Every international missionary's first priority should be a committed effort towards learning the language of the country they're going to, so it's no surprise that for the better part of our two years in France, it has consumed my every waking moment. As a non-missionary you might not have attended a dedicated language school or have a 1000-day streak on Duolingo, but every Christian has had to learn a new language. (And no, I'm not talking about Hebrew and Greek ... although you should!)

American Christians have developed a peculiar vernacular that I like to call "Christianese" – a Bible-based adjacent dialect that combines Bible references with folksy wisdom. For example: "In this season of life I'm feeling 'convicted' to 'spread the love of Jesus' to 'the nations.'" Have your Google Translate app give that one a try.

But while "Christianese" really is only a set of cute expressions that have developed around our shared culture, there can be a danger in using this language. Will anyone outside of your particular church culture circle understand what you're saying when you're speaking about the most important subject in the world? If you were to share the gospel with a neighbor, would he or she understand what you mean when you tell them they need to "invite Jesus into their heart"?

When speaking about eternal things, we should instead use language that the Bible gives us and be able to define it succinctly.

A helpful example of this would be Dr. Clif Johnson's first message at the 2023 BMA National Meeting. While encouraging every pastor and missionary present that teaching "good doctrine" is not optional, Dr. Johnson blessedly defines what "doctrine" actually means! Doctrine, or "the faith," in the context of Paul's epistles to Timothy, is the sound, biblical teaching that has been handed down throughout the ages—the entirety of God's revelation to man (1 Tim. 1:1-7, 4:6-16, 6:20, 2 Tim. 1:13-14, 3:10, 14-17). If we were to incorrectly define "doctrine" or worse yet, avoid the term altogether for the sake of our Christianese, we would in fact not be teaching what accords with sound doctrine and would be disobeying the command of the Lord. My encouragement to every Christian is to learn the language the Bible uses and to use it regularly yourself.

Unfortunately, there is even a danger in using the right words!

With the ever-looming presence of the Roman Catholic Church here in France, I have spent many hours researching their teachings in order to better understand what the traditionally majority religion of this country believes. Some evangelical scholars will tell you that we have more in common with Rome than we have differences, but that opinion is generally based upon the language we both use. In his book *Same Words, Different Worlds* Leonardo de Chirico warns that Protestants (this includes us BMA Baptists) must be careful not to fall into the trap of joining with Rome as if we worshiped the same God.

While the language might sound the same, the meanings of key terms could not be more different. A Roman Catholic and a Baptist could both say that we pray to God, but who is this God? How do we pray? Must we pray through an intercessor? Who is it that intercedes for us? All these questions will be answered differently, and the definitions of each of these terms varies wildly depending on who is responding, the Catholic or the Protestant. So as with the world's languages, there can be false friends (i.e., embarrassed and the Spanish *embarazada*, which means "pregnant") and we must work hard not just to agree on the sounds of the language as if we could just pantomime our way through a conversation, but to get the underlying meaning correct in order to actually engage in this new tongue.

That being said, it is every Christian's responsibility to be a good language learner, not just those in a foreign field. As Baptists, one of our defining characteristics is that we believe the Bible, God's very Word, to be our sole guide for faith and practice. We let the Bible speak for itself and define its own terms. This is one of the reasons expositional sermons where the point of the text is the point of the message are so vital for developing good Christian doctrine. God has his own language, he defines his own words; and instead of modifying it into a mangled creole, we not only learn the original language but speak it ourselves.

So as a final encouragement, with those who are in your care, whether your children or your church, teach them what words like conviction and repentance, and phrases like penal substitutionary atonement, mean according to the source book, because

this is the language that will change their lives and set them on the path to real fluency with the Word of God.





TAKE A “TRIP” THROUGH EUROPE

By Heather Harrison
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Right now, as you read this newsletter, Lifeworld team members around the world are sharing the gospel through various forms of media and creatively adapting their methods to reach as many people as possible with the gospel. Their deepest desire is that many would hear about Jesus Christ and the hope found only in Him. Allow us to “take you on a trip” across the Atlantic Ocean to see some of what God is doing in Europe.

In Romania, Bogdan Bilav and his wife Daniela’s ministry is two-fold: church planting and producing internet and radio programs to share about God and his Word. They each produce Lifeworld shows in Romanian: His show is called Spiritual Impulse and Daniela’s is called Daily Devotionals. They also produce programs in the Romanian, Gypsy, Hungarian, and French languages. Their main work is with the Gypsy people, who are considered outcasts in Romania. The radio programs they produce for the Gypsy people include sharing the gospel along with a lot of music. Bogdan says, “They are a very musical and expressive people.” They have found that music is an effective way to reach the Gypsies since the literacy rate among them is very low. They also have after school programs to help the children with homework, which have been well-received due to the low literacy rate.

With the war raging on in Ukraine, ministry has gotten increasingly difficult. In a recent email, Lifeworld partner Pasha shared, “We’ve experienced more in one year than many experiences in their entire lives.” Yet he acknowledges how God continues to work in these dire circumstances: “We are thankful for seeing the greatness of the Lord and His work in the midst of this difficult time.” Having to adjust to a new reality, they have had their own intense struggles and also been able to help others in significant ways: After having to move from Kyiv for three months and live with friends far away from their home, they have also helped those running away from active battles in their native towns and villages and others who lost their homes and relatives. Currently, Pasha is producing a

series titled Word of Life in Every Book of the Bible, which shares God’s hope in every book of the Bible and how to apply scripture.

Sean Pasley and his family are BMA Global missionaries and Lifeworld team members living in France. Sean is producing a new podcast, Saine Doctrine. Saine is a word which means “healthy” or “sound.” What a great name for a podcast that shares Christ and teaches doctrine. In his monthly newsletter, Sean says, “The purpose of the podcast is to briefly survey core Christian doctrines and concepts that are mostly unfamiliar to the secular French.” Episodes are in French and are released bi-weekly.

Whether the struggle is war, resistance to the message, financial issues, or relational burdens, our Lifeworld partners in Europe continue to face difficulties in their lives and ministries. But God is doing a mighty work in the midst of it all. Thank you for your partnership with Lifeworld; your support is resulting in the strengthening and equipping of these hardworking missionaries and in countless people hearing the truth and hope of Jesus Christ.



BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

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

It has been a true joy to serve you and the BMA of Mississippi over these past few months! God is doing great things, and I have been blessed to be a part of them. We have been busy in all facets of the ministry here, but especially in preparation for the Acts 1:8 conference.

Acts 1:8 Conference:

Make plans to attend the Acts 1:8 South Conference in Hattiesburg or the North Conference in Mantachie; we would love to minister to you and your church. Whether you are a layman or in leadership, this

conference is for you! The Evening sessions will be an encouragement, led by Bro. John David Smith and Bro. Larry Barker, and the breakout sessions will equip you with tools for growth! We will be challenging our churches in the goal of church revitalization and equipping each saint in the topics of church finances, technology, evangelism and discipleship, youth ministry, women's ministry, and pastoral leadership.

Don't miss out as we seek to strengthen our resolve to accomplish the mandate that has been given to us by our Christ. He

has commissioned us to "Reach our Jerusalem". Come and let your love for your Savior be rekindled. Visit www.bmams.org/acts18/ for more information and to pre-register.

Missions Office Updates:

As we have been busy preparing for the conference, our schedule has also been inundated with prayer, pastoral training, missions, church revitalization ministry development, and Revolving Loan Fund work. We have renovated the office, helped with disaster relief, oversaw some property sales, and spent much time in planning and developing future ministries that we are excited to share with the association in October (please make plans now to attend the annual meeting!)

Please continue to pray for our current missionaries! They are doing an amazing job in a difficult spiritual climate. Also, please be in prayer for the Lord to raise up new missionaries that will surrender to missions. We are also praying for the Lord to raise up

more pastors and youth pastors to serve in His churches. We are experiencing across the country, but specifically in Mississippi, a dearth of men and young men being called to the ministry. Let's pray together for our God to answer in a mighty way!

Revolving Loan Fund Update:

Investing in Eternity! What better way to fulfill God's Word than to be a faithful steward that invests in eternity while gaining back temporal benefits. Our RLF does just that! Your investment allows missions, churches, missionaries, and pastors to be able to get the loans that a traditional bank would not lend, while you are being paid an interest rate that stays competitive with our ever-changing markets. Your eternal investment also pays eternal rewards! Consider the many souls that have come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because of the mission building that was purchased, or church renovation project that was accomplished, or the missionary/pastor that was able to minister

more effectively through an affordable loan for his house. These investments in eternity are unquantifiable!

You can be involved in this eternal investment! Do know that the RLF is accepting all new deposits and any size deposit increases to any existing account. We have many churches that are wanting to do updates, repairs, and additions - your investment will help accomplish this vital work.

We would also encourage you to pass along the amazing secret of the RLF! Share the RLF with your friends, family, and church. Encourage them to Invest in Eternity!

Thank you:

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as your mission's director! It is a joy to be able to help missionaries, encourage pastors, and love on churches. Brethren, please pray for us as we serve our Savior together!

Bro. Chris Yager

Hispanic Missions

Estuardo Marroquín
Hispanic missions coordinator

What a blessing we have received from our Lord! Hispanic missions continues forward with great opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus. One of those blessings was to be part of the special service at El Camino Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on Sunday, July 16 as they celebrated a year on the field. Pastor Leo Adan and the church membership did a great job. We enjoyed the service and a great fellowship afterwards.

Please continue to pray for these people of God, that they'll continue glorify the name of our Lord.



Special services
at El Camino
Church in
Hattiesburg



Restoration Jail Ministry by Paul Spurlin

Recently, I decided on short notice to go to the jail alone, and only two prisoners chose to attend our worship service that night. It felt like small group Bible study as these two men seemed to know the Lord. They were both interested in prayer to help them leave crime and sin behind once they are released. It is evident that God arranged this small group setting because the study I had prepared for the night was "Five Steps to Serving God after Sin."

Please pray for these men.

Josh Daniels Report Refuge Baptist Mission

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi! It is a blessing to give this summer update for Refuge Baptist Mission. Things are still going well in Kiln, Mississippi. We celebrated the Lord's work and enjoyed worshipping in our new building for 12 weeks. It has been a great blessing for the core members of the mission. They have seen firsthand that faith, hard work, and patience in the Lord will pay off.

We are finally able to start back membership classes with 25 potential new members & we plan to have baptism for 8 candidates on July 23. There have been 6 professions of faith since moving in the new facilities with many new people and families visiting and becoming more regular.

I can't thank you enough for all the love and support we have received. We ask you to continue

supporting or starting to support us in what will be a hard push to organize over the next year or so. We still need a church sign, a mower and place to store it, final sound equipment, and to finish installing a vent hood in our kitchen. Thanks again for all the support and prayers. We wouldn't have made it this far without your faithfulness and support. Thanks for investing in the Lord's work.

Answer the Call by Samuel Yager

Living Hope, Meridian

While much has been going on at Living Hope through the summer, one true joy has been watching one of our teens answer God's call.

Through the summer, we have been blessed with the joy of serving together in many different ministries. God has united our hearts as we serve together and He has blessed in giving fruit to our labor. One specific example of this is taking our teens to camp. It was such a joy to be able to take teens to camp, but seeing their hunger to grow was even more rewarding. As God worked in their hearts through the week, it became evident that one of our teens was burdened with the call to ministry. By the end of the week, he had answered the call.

It is such a joy to be a part of God working in the lives of young people, and it is a joy to see young men surrendering to God's call to ministry.

Canaan Land Mission by Scott Brocius

God is continuing to move in mighty ways here at Canaan Land. I am excited to write and be able to share with our churches about the Lord's goodness and many blessings. We have been able to witness souls being saved, the saved being disciplined, new and continuing visitors, as well as nearing installation of our sign.

In a time when it seems that we lack hearing of new converts, we have had five young people who attended camp with our mission this summer make a profession of faith! Three of them have come before the church seeking church membership with a desire to follow the Lord in Baptism. We serve a God that is alive and well and still saving ole sinners. One of the three happened to be my youngest son Jase, so not only is the Lord still in the saving business he is also still in the business of hearing and answering our prayers. Susan and I have prayed since birth that in the Lord's time that he would reveal himself and convict the hearts of our children and show them their need of a Savior. God is good and faithful and for that I say amen!

Also, we have been continuing in our adult discipleship classes on Wednesday evening for some time now, and can see fruit in those that have been attending. We have been extremely thankful for this. With that being said, several months ago I was approached by some of our folks that had a desire to start doing

See Missions on page 10





Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

Summer is such a formative time for so many young people. I can recall the summers of my high school years being filled with camps and mission trips that the Lord used to call me to deeper discipleship and ultimately to a commitment of serving Him in Gospel ministry. Being able to

unplug from the distractions of school, peer pressure, and other things that filled my mind throughout the year made for such a sweet time with my Savior. It was a time of constant reminders to dig into the Word of God through scriptures like, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *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.

We are celebrating what we hope to be a formative summer for our kids here at the Home. We

have been blessed by the assistance of multiple churches and departments to allow our kids the opportunity to attend two camps this summer that will hopefully provide time in the Word, that the Lord will use to call them to himself. We want to say thank you so much for these opportunities. We pray that these opportunities will change lives for our kids and all those in attendance, and we ask that you join us in those prayers.

We have so many other prayers that we would love to join in with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for our new placement that many of you were able to meet at the midyear meeting in May. Will

is coming along well fitting in with those in the Home and has even celebrated a birthday since coming to us. Pray as this eight-year-old young man tries to figure out life in this new future. Pray for the rest of our kids as they adjust to him as well. Pray for our continued search for a house parent couple who is called to serve in this ministry. Pray for our energy and focus as we try to maintain the projects of the home while caring for our kids. If you ever need someone to fill the pulpit or come to report on the ministry of the Children's Home, please give me a call at 662-605-0996. May we all stay focused on our Savior Jesus Christ.

Missions

From page 9

Wednesday night youth discipleship. It has been a tremendous help to see our folks plug into this ministry. I can tell a difference in the knowledge, eagerness, and dedication of our youth in service. We decided to have a youth service and a time of fellowship every 5th Sunday, in which our youth will bring a devotion and handle the song service and special singing during morning worship service, as well as take up a special youth offering during these particular services. With this discipleship opportunity, it has shown and developed into the hearts of our people including the youth a desire for outreach and a need to spread the gospel. We are currently planning and praying about opportunities we will have to reach those around us with the Gospel of Christ.

We have continued to have an increase in the last several months in new and repeat visitors. Once again, I specifically remember a prayer that I prayed that the Lord would send people for us to minister to, like many other prayers that I have prayed God has once again proven himself to be faithful in answering this specific prayer. We sometimes need to be reminded that the Lord works in his time frame and not ours. It is amazing to have 20 to 40 people in our services and listen to the heavenly sound of a great song service and truly feel the Spirit of the Lord during worship. It makes me realize how blessed we are. There are a lot of good churches that lack some of the things that God has blessed this mission with.

Finally, we had the ability to secure a loan with our wonderful RLF department towards the purchase of a much-needed sign for Canaan Land. Just like many of the other things we have made mention of the Lord

has shown his faithfulness in this as well. So far, we have had contributions from our mother church as well as the East Central Association towards the purchase of this sign. We have had approximately one third of the financial burden paid for! With the last update from Headrick sign, the sign should be installed no later than the end of August. We are excited to say the least!

As your church planting pastor at Canaan Land in Buckatunna, I would like to ask you to continue to remember us in your prayers as we labor. Also, pray that the Lord continues to use us within this community for the cause of Christ. I would also be honored if you and your church would be willing to pray about partnering with us financially to help alleviate the cost of our sign. As always, we love you all and are thankful for the opportunity to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi as your state missionary.



Senior Adult Ministry

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

Letting Senior Adults Shine

Plans are currently in the works for our 2024 Senior Adult Conferences. Our 2024 conferences are as follows: Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, for the South Conference and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, for the North Conference. While the dates are not yet confirmed, please remember that we will meet in early March for the South Conference and early May for the North Conference. We should have the dates confirmed and be

able to share more with you in the September issue of the paper.

Our goal is to provide a great day of fun, fellowship, and worship. I would like to ask for input from our senior adults on any suggestions you may have concerning our programs, speakers, food, music, locations, meeting times and anything else on your minds. Our goal is to



Don Brown
Director

minister to our seniors and provide an enjoyable experience.

Our Challenge

We cannot operate without the financial support of our churches. We have a few faithful churches and two local associations who support this ministry on a regular monthly basis. We need more of our churches to help us. It seems that any and every church could support this work for at least \$25 per month. If your church is not currently supporting this ministry we ask that you put us in your church budget for at least this amount. We need 100 churches to help us on a

regular monthly basis. Would you find out about your local church and ask them to put this work in their budget? What a blessing to help us minister and have quality programs for our senior adults.

To The Work

Please know that our purpose is to minister to our senior adults and to encourage "all of us" to be active in ministry. We can all do the Lord's work even as we age and slow down. Remember we are His and He calls us all to service. What are you actively involved in concerning service to our Lord?

The 92nd Psalm is an encouragement to the God's children as we grow older.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

To shew that the LORD is upright:

he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. Psalms 92:12-15



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

Dog Days in Mississippi

Is it hot enough for you? Well, we are in the dog days of summer when the ancient Greeks and Romans thought dog days were “a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest when dogs and men were driven mad by the extreme heat.” The Old Farmer’s Almanac in 1817 warned us to “make both hay and haste while the Sun shines, for when old Sirius [the Dog Star] takes command of the weather, he is such an unsteady, crazy dog, there is no dependence upon him.”

But sweltering in these “hot” dog days this summer, I’m reminded of what I learned from my dogs over the years. If God could speak through a donkey to Balaam (Numbers 22:28), it makes sense to me that He might speak through a dog. I do know that Job 12:7 tells us to “ask now the beasts and they shall teach thee,” and all my dogs taught me things.

Bro. E. W. Smith, Sr., compared dogs to church members in his sermon, “Watch Them Dogs.” I’m not saying I don’t see resemblances, but that’s for another day. Pets, though, can give us lessons for our Christian walk:



J.B. & Gabi

Good friends stand by you and sometimes fight your battles for you. A little Boston Bulldog named Stinky, my first pet, joined me during my early years of teaching. She went to live with Daddy when I moved to Houston and couldn’t have a pet in my apartment.

While living there, I saw my first Miniature Schnauzer and started my lifelong association with them. Gabi 1 was the beginning of an era; while Stinky never forgave me, she and Gabi 1 became good friends.

Middle Sister’s first poodle, CC, had the nature of a “Spitz dog,” as E. W. Smith described it; she was

deceitful. CC would play with Stinky and Gabi for a little while and then attack. Stinky was a gentle dog, but she didn’t like untrustworthy dogs or people. Gabi, who had cataract surgery as a pup, learned to stay away from CC. But she also learned to take advantage of the situation. When the two other dogs were near each other, Gabi would growl; and Stinky would attack CC.

Gabi didn’t have to fight any more; Stinky fought her battles for her. Would that we trusted God to fight our battles for us, too.

Sometimes opportunities for vengeance arise. Stinky never forgave me for getting another dog (just like some family members). Stinky loved Gabi, but me not so much. You might think dogs don’t have emotions! She definitely let me know she had a grudge against me for “giving her away.”

It was obvious on a trip back to Mississippi when Stinky tangled with a skunk. She smelled so bad even though Daddy and I tried every home recipe we knew. She still “stunk” like a skunk. She never slept on my bed after I got Gabi except for those few smelly days. I got the message. Would that we get the message that vengeance is not God’s way; He reminds us that vengeance is His. Stinky enjoyed her revenge, but it’s never God’s will for us.

Trust sometimes leads us to just take a giant leap of faith. Gabi 2 was my smallest Schnauzer, mighty in spirit and fearless. It always annoyed me that she loved JB most. Her favorite place other than beside JB in his recliner was on top of the sofa near him. When she was ready to get down, she never hesitated; she jumped as far out as she could and landed on her feet every time. She trusted JB to take care of her. Would that we have her faith to trust God to help us in everything we do.

Sometimes dogs and people look alike. I never realized how much JB looked like Gabi 2 with his one-and-only beard until Bro. Ed Steele told him, “I know some dogs look like their owners, but I never knew anyone before you that started looking like his dog.” Would that we look so much like our Father that people think of Him when they see us.

Armor Up. Gabi 2, the little warrior, fell in the swimming pool during her first week in the household

and thought it was her duty to protect anyone in the pool for the rest of her life. She also went fishing with us, so naturally she needed a life jacket. She wasn’t scared of many things, and she was always ready for an adventure. Would that we armor up with God’s whole armor so that we can face whatever comes (Ep 6: 13-17).

Lead by Example. After Gabi 2 died, we found Gabi 3, who went to our used bookstore every day with JB. She was the friendliest of my Schnauzers, probably because of the contact with bookstore customers. Because of Gabi 3, EW, my brother-in-law, decided he wanted a red poodle.

They found Scarlette, while Sister No. 1 found her own Schnauzer, Angel. Those three pets became friends and traveled with us on all our RV trips. They would eat together, stay in the RV together, walk together, or ride in the car together with no growl of discontent.

Gabi 3 was the oldest, so I gave her credit for being a good example. I know she did teach Angel how to walk correctly on a leash by leading the way on her first few walks. Would that God use us to be an example of unity to others.



Find Your Place of Safety. Gabi 3 and Angel had a fear of loud noises and flying insects. Only one time were they so afraid that Gabi got under EW’s feet while he was driving down the highway and Angel managed to get under Middle Sister’s feet. EW calmly continued down the road and stopped at the nearest pull off. But what a scary time! Would that we have the good sense to seek a place of safety under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Life didn’t turn out the way my fourth Schnauzer thought it would. She was different from my other dogs and led to changing the “Gabi” line to Koda. She was the most independent of all my dogs and the least trusting of most people. Her first picture at nine months of age with Santa showed a happy Santa and a cute puppy. Her second picture the next year showed a less happy Santa, who was



ready to toss her at the first sign of trouble. No more pictures with Santa.

Koda was happy when Scarlette died because she had Middle Sister to herself. But Brandi, another little red poodle, came along way too soon. And then Sister No. 1 rescued two Schnauzers, Angie and Gabby. Life



changed for Koda. And Koda’s life changed forever when Brandi became a permanent part of our home. Koda managed to intimidate Brandi and the others enough that she was still the leader of the pack. She became Brandi’s security and looked after her until the end of the Schnauzer era.

Many times, we encounter a bend in our road that we don’t expect; would that we accept what we cannot change because He promises to be with us when we pass through the waters or the fire (Isaiah 43:2).

While you’re sweating through these dog days, which may last all year, just remember how blessed we are that God gave us family, friends, and animals to enjoy on this journey through life. In His grip, we can find our joy in every moment.



Southeastern Baptist College

Special Emphasis

JULY/AUGUST 2023



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SERVING THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mississippi GMAs

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The 2023 Mississippi Girls Retreat Project

by Payton Thompson; First Vice President

Hi everyone, I am Payton Thompson, your state's first vice-president of the GMA! I attend Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Franklinton, Louisiana and have been involved with GMAs most of my life. A lot of things are in store for our "Highway to Heaven" girls' retreat, but I would like to introduce you to our project. This year at our business meeting we voted to select the Bible Institute in Mexico as our project. The BMA of Mexico is currently working to reinstate the Bible Institute under the leadership of Brother Josue Osorio.

Last year, we sent \$4,800 to the Pasley Family in France. We are ready to exceed that by setting a goal of \$5,000 for the Bible Institute next year, but we can't reach this goal without your help. We want to challenge each church to raise at least \$200 for this wonderful project. You might be considering how to start. If you are stumped, here are a few ideas. An easy and quick way to start raising money is by labeling envelopes with different cash amounts. Starting at \$1 all the way to \$20, ask donors to select a card of their choice and insert the dollar amount. Then, just drop the money-filled envelope in the offering plate during the next church service. If all the cards are returned with their dollar amount, you should have raised \$210! If you want to do something fun, then host a bingo night at the church and charge for each playing board. If you would like something simpler, try selling simple spaghetti plates. If you still need ideas, visit the Youth Works 101 Fundraising Ideas website.

In the long run, we hope you have a fun time with your GMA group over the next months as everyone prepares for the 2024 retreat. We also ask for your continued prayers for the project and the GMA program.



Mississippi and Louisiana churches at national GMA Camp

Mississippi GMAs

from Lakelan Flynt

Our GMA meeting was on July 15th at Ruby Hickman's house. We give special thanks to Ruby and her family for providing a place to meet and plan our girls' camp. We also thank them for providing a warm and delicious breakfast! At this meeting we started planning our Mississippi girls church camp which will be in Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport. This year we will be placing five first in line passes in small bags which you will get the option to purchase the first day of camp. You can purchase as many bags as you want with each bag containing all sorts of treats. We will also have a scavenger hunt and a few outside activities for younger and older girls who will work together as a team!

Do not forget the reading plan each church has for the Pilgrim's Progress! Each church should read the Pilgrim's Progress as a group, so every girl is prepared for camp. This year's theme for camp is Highway to Heaven based on The Pilgrim's Progress.

While reading this book, a lot of important events in the book stood out to me. For example, as I was reading chapter 3, the scene that stood out to me the most was Christian dropping his burden at

the cross. His sins were forgiven, and he was given new clothes and a book (a bible). This book would be a guide for him to reach the heavenly city. Another example, during his journey is that he runs into a few people who called themselves devoted and honest pilgrims. The first three pilgrims were lazy. The last two pilgrims Christian encountered were not as devoted as he was. They chose paths that looked easy, but they were to lead to corruption.

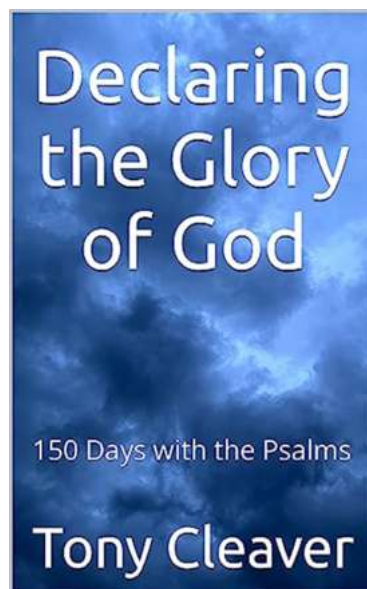
Christian took the harder path, and his faith was tested when he came across the chained lions. Many pilgrims never made it that far because they feared the lions would kill them, but Christian did not give up. He passed the chained lions, and arrived at a resting point. These illustrations are some examples of what Christians can face in his or her spiritual lives. When we surrender our lives to Jesus, we experience joy and a sense of freedom, but what occurs after our salvation is not easy. We go through a variety of challenges and tests to strengthen our faith. Few persevere, but many falter. Others choose to live a life of hypocrisy while others are tested on their faith.

I have learned that I should not falter and use my trials to become stronger, not just physically but in my walking with God.

Here are a few trivia and discussion questions for your groups in church: Trivia and discussion questions:

1. What was Christian's name before he left the city?
2. What were the names of the two paths Formality and Hypocrisy took?
3. Why were the lions placed in the entrance of the resting place?
4. How did Christian lose his book?
5. True or False: Could the pilgrims Christian met see the mark on his forehead?
6. Why do you think the pilgrims could not see a mark on Christian's forehead?

Tony Cleaver Release New Book



I am delighted to share with you my new book, **Declaring the Glory of God-150 Days with the Psalms**. This book is the fruit of over two years of writing and reflecting on the timeless wisdom and beauty of the Psalms. If you are looking for a devotional guide that will help you face the challenges and joys of daily living with faith and hope, I invite you to check out my book on Amazon eBooks. You can read a generous preview there and see if it resonates with you.

My goal is not to offer a scholarly analysis of the Psalms, but rather to draw out some practical and inspiring insights from a verse or two of each of the 150 Psalms. These are the same Psalms that Jesus read, recited, and sang in His earthly life. They can be a source of comfort and strength for us too as we follow Him on our pilgrim journey. Thank you for your interest and support. God bless you.

August 2023
Special Emphasis
Southeastern College

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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Dawn Freeman
President

National WMA Project Update

By Theresa Rues, Project Promoter

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2023 national WMA project. We were able to raise \$45,380 to help Daniel Springs buy a generator to keep the camp running in all weather. This year, we had 3 worthy nominations for our project. The Jeevan Prakash School in Gulbarga India has been chosen as our 2024 national project.

The school is in great need of renovation. The school's almost 1,000 students and 40 staff members share just 2 toilets. They have no source for clean drinking water currently. There are some walls in the school that need to be reinforced. The youngest children meet in the lower levels of the school with very little ventilation. There are plans to adjust the roof lines to draw the hot air out of the building with the help of fans added to classrooms. In addition to improvements to the building, the desks and furniture also need updating.

I hope we can all work together to raise money for this worthy cause. Last year was a great success for our national camp. This year we can share the love of Jesus and help children across the world with a better, safe school facility. The Goal has been set high, \$75,000! Please send contributions to Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560. Let's work hard and see what the Lord can do with our efforts! John 3:30

Ladies Ministry Project Reminder

This is a Reminder of our state WMA project — Hope for India. Funds are due the last of September. This is a very deserving project to support. Pray and give! Mail offerings to Theresa Reus, 1264 Dean Nursery Road, Lucedale, MS 39452

Ten Mile District WMA

by Maria Ochoa, Reporter

Our Theme was The Wages Of Sin Is Death But The Gift Of God is Eternal Life. Romans 6:23

On June 12th our ladies met at Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi. Our new officers are President Donna DiSalvo, 1st Vice-president Jean Knight, 2nd Vice-president Brittney Soules, 3rd Vice-president Lydia Stinett, Secretary/Treasurer Lorna Shoemaker, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Sherri Allen, Reporter Maria Ochoa, Song Leader Dawn Freeman, Pianist Jean Knight, Historian Maria Ochoa, and District/State Project Promoter Caitlin Dalrymple.

Our 2023-2024 District and State Project is Hope (Prakash & Golda Prashant in India) with the 2023-2024 National Project Hope. India).

Sister Dena Ellzey, from Temple Baptist Church, gave her testimony and our devotional, "Amazing Grace". Our next meeting is, October 9, 2023 at Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport.

Mrs. Betty Pitts, widow of Bro. Buddy Pitts dies

Betty Lou Pitts, passed away Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the age of 92. She was born Thursday, November 13, 1930, in Jones County, Mississippi.

Services were held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi. Burial was in Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church Cemetery in Ellisville, Mississippi. Bro. Ken Riley and Bro. Harold Floyd officiated. She was preceded in death by her husband, E.J. 'Buddy' Pitts; sons, Danny Carrol Pitts and Ricky Pitts; parents, Plenty Jefferson and Drucilla Hill Parker; brothers, Clyde Parker, Buford Parker, Franklin Parker and Paul Parker; sisters, Mary Helen Beech and Clara Bell Campbell.

Survivors include her grandchildren, Lee Jefferson Pitts (Tracy), Nancy Carol Hinoa (Ricardo), Jennifer Marie Martin (JP), Joni Denise Hoang (Dave) and Jarrod Adam Pitts; 11 great-grandchildren; daughters-in-law, Helen Pitts and Peggy Pitts.



Mrs. Betty Pitts