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Go to the Word - Go to the World - Go Together! 2023 Annual BMA of America Information

by Donny Parrish, Executive Director • Lifeword



Grace and peace to each of you from our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

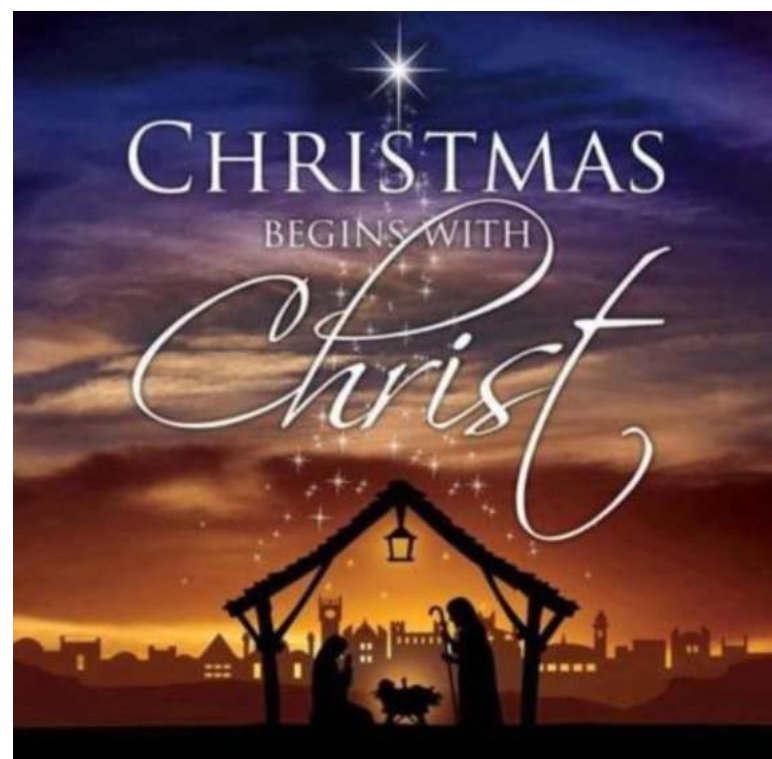
As you are preparing for the Christmas holidays and upcoming year, I wanted to let you know about our plans for the 2023 BMA annual meeting. This year we will be gathering around the theme of GO!

As churches self-described as Baptist, Missionary, and Associational, I think it is necessary for us to keep who we are front and center. With that in mind, on Tuesday night, for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of Go to the Word, and the need to be a strong doctrinal people. On Wednesday afternoon, Bro. David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist Church in

New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of Go to the World—our commission as churches. That evening will be a special night where Bro. Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of Go Together, emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association.

I say that Wednesday night will be a special night because, for the first time ever, we are planning to have all of our American Missionaries with us, in which we will be honoring them with a special dinner, and YOU ARE INVITED! This will be a wonderful time to get to meet, shake hands, speak with and hug those who carry the message of the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

The dates for the meeting are April 25-27, 2023, Tuesday through Thursday, at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Meeting on these days is a bit different than normal, but we wanted to allow all of our people plenty of time to travel, instead of having to leave on a Sunday afternoon or evening. Accommodations will be announced in January, but you can go ahead and mark your calendars to be with us.



*May your Christmas Celebration be centered on Christ Jesus and the Blessings He brings to those who place their faith in Him.
May you experience the presence of His Peace and Joy!*

The Women in Jesus' Lineage: Tamar and Rahab

(Matthew 1:3, 5)
by Dr. Tony Cleaver
(prepared for preaching)

From 2016 Mississippi Baptist

Introduction

We are gathered in worship as we observe Advent, the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Matthew notes five women in Jesus' lineage in his opening chapter. [Today](#) we will look at Tamar and Rahab.

We will read and/or summarize the stories of these two women from the Old Testament. Tamar is found in Genesis 38. Rahab is found in Joshua 2 and a part in chapter 6.

As we complete this summary of these two women, let's remember they are included in Jesus' lineage. If I were writing the Bible, I would probably "clean it up" a little, and these two stories might not be included. Yet, God through the inspiration of His Word included these stories for they tell us of humanity struggling to be what God intended us to be. These two women were changed through the power of God to become His people, and later they became the ancestors of Jesus.

Yes, there are some life lessons for us

in this congregation [today](#) from the lives of these two in Jesus' lineage:

1. They are both unlikely candidates to be in the line of Christ!

One deceived her father-in-law and became pregnant by him. The other was a prostitute. Surely "those kinds of people" don't have a place in the plan of God! Oh yes, and oh yes, indeed, they do!

Is your own life a "little rough around the edges" when it comes to past moral performance? God can use you in spite of your past in His Kingdom work. Commit your life to Him right now. God is in the business of cleaning up lives to make them fit for His Kingdom.

2. They were not only unlikely candidates but they were also below the standards of the "religious" people.

Here is an incestuous relationship men-

tioned of all places in the Bible! Here the other a prostitute and her story is told in the Bible!

As a Christian, a religious person, what do I do to assist the life of the person involved in an incestuous relationship? What do I as a religious person, and I hope a Christian, do to assist the life of the prostitutes of our community?

The Pharisees, the religious people, made fun of Jesus when he allowed a lady wash his feet with her tears and wipe them dry with the hair of her head (Luke 7). If he were a prophet he would know she is a sinful woman! How are we [today](#) doing on this? Most of us judge and judge quickly the lives of those around us and call them "below our standard", and they are to be thrown out. We must be inclusive in our outreach to all. God was inclusive according to Matthew chapter one. He included these two women who were below the "religious" standards.

3. Family traditions and cultural patterns are not impossible to overcome as one commits their life and family to the Lord.

Both of these women "went against" what was the normal for their family prac-

tice. Both of these women went against what was the "normal" for their culture. This is one of the most difficult things in the world to accomplish.

Many in life find themselves caught in the tradition of mom, dad, grandma, granddad, or some other family behavior. They are trapped and cannot get loose from what is causing them so much hurt. Many people are caught in cultural traditions and cannot extricate themselves. Our own cultural tradition of American Paganism is one such culture from which people cannot get loose.

The power of God in Christ can change your family ways of doing things and the power of Christ can change the hold your culture has on you. Give Christ that opportunity now in this service.

4. Commitment of your life to the Lord can change the course of history.

It is true of these two women. They are in the lineage of our Lord. What they did lives forever in the life of Christ. They were counted worthy to be a part of the lin-



Dr. Tony Cleaver

Continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

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A Very Merry Christmas

There is no season quite like the Christmas season. It is magical in so many ways. Little children who don't know the real meaning of Christmas are awed by the decorations, the stockings, the shopping, the promises by mom and dad, and the great expectation of Christmas morning when hopefully all of their wishes come true.

Parents and grandparents enjoy the providing and with anticipation enjoy the responses of the little ones. The tree, the decorating, the cooking, the family gathering together for gift swapping and just the joy of having family together at this time of the year.

The Christian, the true believer, the one who knows the Savior on that intimate, personal basis, relishes in the thought that our Heavenly Father's love for man has been shown in such a loving manner.

What a God! What love! What an opportunity to experience eternal life!

May the joy of the Christmas season be yours and may you experience the warmth of family as we worship the One who gave His only Son for sinners such as us.

Merry Christmas from Don and Bonnie Brown.



Jesus' Lineage

Continued from front page

age of Jesus. It is recorded of them that God chose them to be a part of the history of Jesus the Messiah.

What you bind of earth is bound in heaven and what you loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Jesus told this to Simon Peter after Peter confessed who Christ really was-the Messiah of God, the Son of God! Simon confessed Christ and the course of the world was changed. You can confess Christ and the course of the world can be changed. It will be changed in your own life. It will be changed in your home. It will be changed in your relationships. It will be changed at your job. It will be changed forever in eternity with God.

Conclusion

There are many kinds of people in the world. Not all of them have perfect lives. Some are bent, crooked, perverse, and shady. Those kinds of lives are like my life--imperfect. Matthew tells us that through God's grace my imperfect life can be used enough to be a part of God's work.

A woman who willfully promoted incest-how awful, filthy, nasty, and repugnant! A woman who sold herself for men's sexual pleasures-how dreadful, soiled, wicked, and disgusting! God graced their lives and they were part of the family of Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One of God.

How is your life? Dear brother, and dear sister, is there past history you would not want anyone to know? Is there some lifestyle in the past that is something you would not want to show in the light of day? These two women were like that. Yet God collected their lives with His grace to change them. No less is promised to you [today](#). Come to the altar with me in our invitation to receive Christ as your Saviour. Come join at the altar this morning. Take my hand, and tell me you want to become a member of this church.

We celebrate his coming and his birth at this season. Joy to the world the Lord is come! The Lord has come through two unusual women.

BMA Life is Back... Hello, My People!

By Holly Meriweather

Since January of 2014 I have had the honor of serving you in every ministry of the BMA, and what an honor it has been! Recently, I have been asked to serve in another area: BMA Life. Focused on our people and churches, this website and Facebook page is being repurposed just for you.

The vision for this initiative is to celebrate our people and churches, encourage each other, and unify our fairly small, but mighty association that does big

things for the Lord. There are many inspiring stories out there, and I know that because you have shared them with me!

With so many people to profile, events to support, ministries to highlight, and histories to record, I need your help to find and write those stories or allow me to do so. Some of them have already been published on BMA Life, so check those out on Facebook, and join the conversation.

I look forward to hearing from you so we can share blessings (and even challenges) that glorify God and point people to the cross. Contact me at bmalife@bmaamerica.org and let me know your thoughts and ideas.

Attention Pastors and Churches

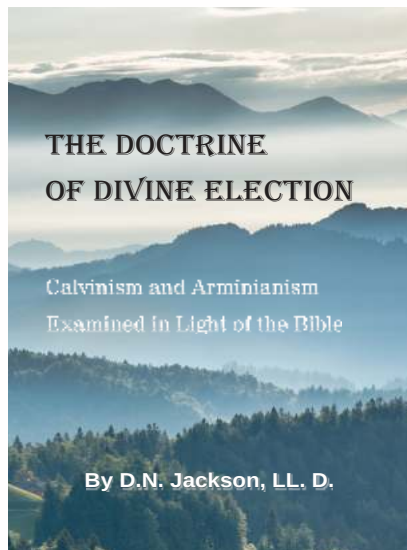
This D.N. Jackson book that should be in your personal library and in the church library.

Jackson Book Republished

With the endorsement of the D.N. Jackson family we have republished his book on the doctrine of Election.

All profits go to fund the D.N. Jackson scholarship in his name at Southeastern Baptist College.

Jackson was the founding president of SBC.



Orders may be place at

Christian Publications Department,
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Cost is \$15.00 per copy with a \$3.00 mailing fee



What is BMA Information Services?

Information Services is a resource center for BMA America. Information Services maintains contact and other information about our national association, departments, agencies, and auxiliary ministries. This information is made available through a published *BMA Church Directory*. The information is also accessible at www.bmaamerica.org

This resource exists for the benefit of our entire BMA family, **but its value depends directly on your participation!**

Why do we collect this information?

Accurate information empowers communication, and effective communication is a vital element to any healthy organization. Information also provides valuable insights such as changes in leadership and kingdom-impacting statistics that influence how associational leaders react to the needs of our churches.

What is the process and how can my church be involved?

Our process is changing slightly to make it easier and more user friendly. The annual directory will now be published and available at the BMA National Meeting each April.

Church and staff updates can be made any time online at www.bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey. If you prefer to provide updates another way please call or email **Heather Pantoja** | heather@bmaamerica.org | 501-205-8475.

Your church will receive a request for annual statistics in December with statistics to be updated by March 15 for the previous calendar year.

We are shifting our focus to making information available online. Most of the information currently published in the annual directory is now available at www.bmaamerica.org. If you prefer a free PDF, one can be emailed to you any time. A printed directory will be available upon request for \$25.



Anders Lee

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

A PRODUCTIVE FIRST MONTH!

It has been a joy getting things started the last month. This last month has been productive in many ways. I thought I'd highlight some of them in this article.

CAMP PLANNED & SCHEDULED

We investigated 9 venues and the only available camp convenient to the entire state was **Lake Tiak-O'Khata**. Mark your calendars and plan to be there! **July 17 – 20, 2023** in Louisville, Mississippi. It is central in the state to everyone, and I believe will be a great venue to get our camp back rolling! The camp is for grades 6th – College.

Our camp Speaker is Bro. Jacob Guenrich. He was born & raised BMA and came to our camp when it was in Wiggins during Bro. Latrelle's leadership. He was in my youth group at Calvary in Horn Lake back in the day! He is my Timothy! I'm excited to have him preaching this camp. He is a very godly young man who will connect well with the teens and thoroughly challenge them from God's Word! Jacob is the pastor at First Baptist, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Sam Yeager will be sharing morning devotions at camp. Sam is on our committee and the son of Chris Yeager! I'm glad he is helping!

We also have the Max Sullivan Band. Many of you pastors know Bro. Tom Mitchell in the BMA of Arkansas. Max is his grandson. He is a graduate of Central Baptist College and has done camp with me in the Mt. Calvary Association for four years. He doesn't put on a show, they lead worship! You are going to love them! He is the worship pastor at Central Baptist in Prescott, Arkansas. All the young men that play with him are BMA boys who are graduates from Central Baptist.

CAMP FEE

Camp fees will be announced in the January paper. I do have some great news for you this month, however. We have been raising money for camp and the committee voted on November 10th to cover half of the camp fee for every person that comes! That's going to help families send their kids to camp in this tough economy!

CAMP REGISTRAR

Mrs. Rosemary Davis is a dear friend of Carla and I from our days at Southeastern Baptist College. Once I was elected, she contacted me and ask how she could help! I asked her to serve as our camp registrar. Churches can NOW begin registering. YES NOW!!! We are ready to sign you up! Please contact her to register your group! Her email is rosemaryfdavis@yahoo.com. You may also call or text her at 601-433-2424.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The youth committee met on November 10th. They elected Bro. Rick Clark to be the chairman and Bro. Cliff Jenkins to be clerk for the 2022-2023 calendar year. You may contact Rick at 601-335-1886 or Bro. Cliff at 601-498-2748.

Association Meetings & Our \$10,000 GOAL

You read that right! I have a goal to raise \$10,000 by December 31, 2022. YOU CAN HELP! Individuals can give! Churches can add the department to their budgets in 2023. In fact, I ask that you pray about doing that! Businesses can give to it as well! Local associations can partner with us! I also have a goal of raising \$40,000 by June 1, 2023. Nothing is too big for the Lord! I believe it can be done and this money will be invested in kids & teens in the BMA of Mississippi!

I want to visit each association in the state soon! Please contact me and let me know when your meetings are sched-

uled so I can plan to come. My number is 901-343-3293 and my email is Anders. Lee571@gmail.com.

Since October, I have been fund raising for the department and am happy to say we have raised **\$6,975.00** so far!!! I'd say that pretty good for one month! The Lord has blessed! A huge thank you to the Big Creek and Oak Grove Associations for having me on November 10th & 17th! It was a joy to be in your midst and connect with churches & pastors in these associations! Both voted to give a one-time gift to the Youth Department! Praise the Lord and THANK YOU!!! Shout out to our Brotherhood and Bro. Mark Jones who also sent the Youth Department a one-time gift! I also say a huge thank you to the Missions Office for giving to the Youth Department this month! WOW!!! Thank you to my pastor friend Ricky Mitchell and Good Hope Baptist in Overt, Mississippi who gave \$500 this month! I hope many churches like them follow suit! I know others have sent in money that has not been reported to me yet, but thank you in advance!

I asked 7 Desoto County businessmen & women to give a year-end gift to the department. Pray that this comes to fruition! Some businesses already have given. **Rick Sparkman**, a lawyer that Central rented a building from when we were a church plant, gave \$1,000.00! Thank you, Rick! My sister-in-law, **Mrs. Sarah Cline Stevens** (R.D. Cline's daughter), has a firm in Monroe County. She has extensive experience in estate planning for senior adults. Thank you, Sarah, for sponsoring the Youth Department this December. I believe many of our senior adults across the state could benefit by contacting her. She offers comprehensive

Merry Christmas from the Lee's



I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year in 2023!!! I can hardly wait to see what God will do in 2023!!! PRAY FOR US!!!

estate legal planning to protect everything you have worked for through the years! She specializes in Elder Law, Conservatorships, Probate & Estate Administration, Long Term Care, and Medicaid Eligibility and Asset Planning. She founded her firm committed to help believers all over Mississippi with integrity and care! Contact her and let her know you appreciate her supporting our department or if you may need her help. 662-597-2294. If YOU are a businessman or woman here in the state, YOU TOO can sponsor the department this year or next with a one-time gift or with monthly donations.

WHERE TO SEND MONEY

I am super thankful for the work of Mrs. Brandy Riley, wife to Pastor Ken Riley

at Lebanon Baptist in Laurel. She is our financial secretary. We are asking you to discontinue sending support checks to the mission's office and send it directly to her office at **454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel, MS 39443**. If you have questions for her, you may contact her at 601-335-5858.

YOUTH WORKER NETWORK & SOCIAL MEDIA/WEB

I need all who are youth directors, pastors, leaders in every church everywhere to contact me so I can involve you in this department and inform you of all things going on! Please hit me up. **Anders.Lee571@gmail.com or 901-343-3293!**

Soon, perhaps in December, we will have social media and web page up and running! Please follow us and subscribe to our pages! More about this in the January article!

MY DREAMS

Where will some of our money go? I am praying and dreaming about forming two mission trips out of summer camp. One to Utah to our BMA church planter in Morgan and one in-state to one of our missionaries here. I am also dreaming about holding a "Winter Blast" to be held December 27-29, 2023. If we can raise the money to do it, you can count on it being planned! It would be

Former Daniel Springs Director James Speer Dies

Memorial services for James Speer, 78, of Carthage, Texas, were held November 9, 2022. He was born April 1, 1944, in Ada, Oklahoma and passed from this life November 3, 2022 at his home in Carthage. Speer was one of nine children born to the marriage of William Robert and Hazel Florence Hunter Speer. He was raised in Oklahoma and graduated high school in Potosi, Missouri in 1962. Speer married his love, Barbara Kay Miller, March 27, 1965. Together, they celebrated 57 years of marriage.

Before serving as the executive director of Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary for 36 years, Speer held ministerial positions in youth, music, and the pastorate in many churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas. Memorials may be made Daniels Springs Encampment or the GIMP fund at First Baptist Church of Carthage.





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

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

As we enter this season of giving to others in honor of what God has freely given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ, we should rejoice in the opportunity to bless others and to share our gratitude of His grace toward us.

Each December, many make important decisions regarding generous year-end giving to organizations. Some donate automatically, year after year to the same organizations while others seek to donate to causes that are in extra need and are making an impact for the Kingdom of God.

I fall into the second category. I prefer to seek the Lord's guidance in my personal giving and give towards those ministries, and only those ministries, that are faithfully promoting the Gospel

and are in clear need of financial help. I personally do not give toward secular state supported programs. While most secular programs are already government supported, I feel it is important to use God's money wisely and support ministries that further the gospel.

This year, would you consider where your year-end dollars could actually make the most impact for God's Kingdom? I encourage you to consider the ministries of the BMA of Mississippi, which includes Southeastern Baptist College. SBC is a major ministry of our churches as we educate our students in the scriptures, while preparing them to impact their futures with the Christian principles they learned in our classrooms. Just this semester we have witnessed over ten students trusting Jesus as their Savior, while countless others have



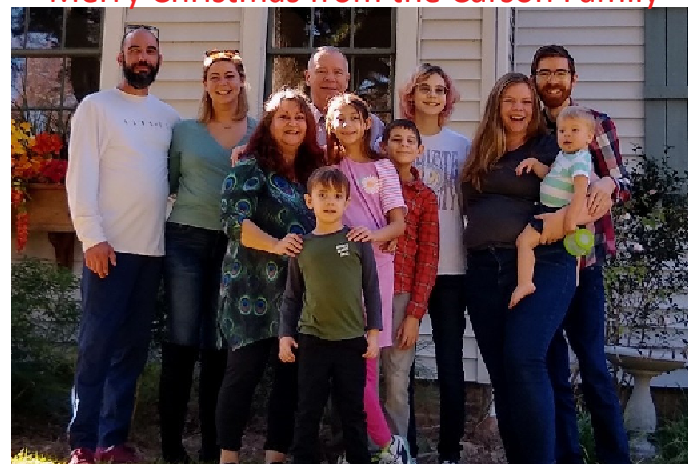
Dr. Scott Carson
President

surrendered their lives to living for the Lord! What a tremendous opportunity our staff and faculty are entrusted with while these precious young souls are with us. The members in the churches of the BMA of Mississippi are blessed with this great responsibility to make an eternal impact upon our students and our society at large.

As you read this article I ask you to help promote the Gospel through higher education by writing a check to SBC and sending it to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440, or giving online at our website. Go to southeasternbaptist.edu and select the "Support SBC" tab.

SBC needs your donation to keep our doors open for the many students who seek a Christian college education. The Board of Trustees, staff, and faculty here at SBC are determined to remain faithful to our doctrinal statement while continually improving our campus infrastructure, security, and the Christian welfare of our student body, but we can only do it through

Merry Christmas from the Carson Family



faithful believers, like you, who are led by the Spirit to invest in this vital ministry. Prayerfully consider making an eternal investment in the spiritual lives of our students today.

God bless you in this season of giving and Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Amazon Smile

Christmas is here! As you begin to make lists and purchase gifts from Amazon, remember, anyone shopping on Amazon Smile can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

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. 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 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 Revolving Loan Fund 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 29-hour pro-

gram and the student may take one class or a full load as desired. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelor 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

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.

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, First Baptist Church of Mantachie, and Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso to preach their Sunday messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Trustees receive recognition for their faithful service



L-R: Dr. Carson, Chris Floyd, Matt Hudson, Scott Kirkland, Ben Hudson, Leon Carmical



McKenna Bryant of Gulfport, Mississippi, commits for SBC Softball



Ginny Singleton recruiting students at The Ark's annual home school convention

More College
Information
on Page 5

Missions Around the World

From the Philippines

From Doug & Diane Lee

BMA Bible College News

We are running over with former students and 37 new first year students giving us a total of 72 on-campus students. Praise the Lord! Each one of these students feel a calling on their lives and we are thankful that the BMABC staff and faculty have the incredible responsibility of teaching, training, and mentoring these young people to eventually go out into the world and carry out their ministry in His kingdom.

At the present time, we have 15 scholarships for first year students, but we need 22 more. Can you help? For \$100 a month, you can sponsor a student. Contact us and we can send you the scholarship form and a photo and bio of YOUR student. Scholarship funds can be paid to the BMA Missions Office, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033 or to our home church, Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Road, Picayune, MS 39466. Please indicate on your check that it is for Doug & Diane Lee Scholarship Fund. If you prefer, you can pay \$1,200 for the year. If you need self-addressed envelopes, we will be happy to send those to you.

Nothing else can compare to the blessing of helping one of these students and the eternal impact it will have on their life.

Personal Medical Issues

After graduation in May, we came home for our 50,000-mile medical checkups, and to visit



some of our supporting churches, and of course, to see our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our plans were to return in July, but God rearranged our plan. When Diane had her check-up, her doctors found a small tumor. After several procedures, they recommended surgery. She was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. Wow! We didn't see that one coming! Our plans quickly changed, and we had to delay our return to the Philippines because of her oncologists' recommendation of 15 radiation treatments. In all of this, God is good! We are thankful for early detection and for God's grace.

While we were waiting for her recovery from surgery, my ophthalmologist had recommended eye surgery with a 2-week recovery. My surgery is now complete, and I will return to the Philippines on August 27. Diane is doing well and will return sometime in Sep-

Samson Family Missions Report

by *Cris and Alicia Samson*
Missionaries to the Philippines

Since we arrived in the Philippines back in February of this year, things have been very unpredictable. We returned with a game plan, but as most of us already know, our plans are simply a suggestion and not to be counted on too heavily.

We first began by looking for a place to begin a new church plant. Cris's youngest brother, Sander, had excitedly join our team as a new missionary being trained and mentored under Cris's leadership. It took a couple of months to find the right place, but God gave us peace about the new location, and we were very excited about the possibilities.

Since the city of San Carlos, where the new church plant is being started, is a couple of hours from our original location, Cris and I began looking for a place to live in the city of San Carlos. We

tember after she completes treatments.

Even though we may not understand why these things happen, God has the ultimate, perfect plan for our lives. Thank you to everyone who has called, texted and especially the prayers! That is what is carrying us! We are rejoicing over God's hand in all of this, and for God's glory that will be revealed. He is the great Healer and hasn't lost His touch!



prayed and search and prayed and search, but unfortunately weren't able to find a home for a family our size. However, we did come across several one-bedroom apartments that would work well for Pastor Sander. He agreed to move to the field and begin working while we continue to look for a place for our family.

Over the past several months, our family has been making regular trips to San Carlos to facilitate the work. Cris has taken several solo trips as well to be available to advise and encourage

Pastor Sander. Pastor Sander has done a great job of getting out and meeting new people. We are encouraged by his enthusiasm and willingness to be active in serving the Lord.

On [Saturday, August 6, 2022](#), we were able to conduct a gathering for parents and children. We had many volunteers from the mother church of our mission, Kharis Missionary Baptist Church, who helped in sharing the Gospel, teaching children and gift giving. An invitation was given by Pastor Sander to conduct home Bible studies and many of those in attendance were interested and excited.

We are grateful for what God is doing and ask that you continue to pray for the church plant in San Carlos City and Pastor Sander.

More Southeastern College News

Bob Jones University and SBC athletes praying together



Christian Inshetski hits a 3 pointer in win over Bob Jones University



Eddie Walker makes improvements to the gym

Seasonal Celebration at Philippine Bible College

BMA of Negroes Island Grand Thanksgiving on the BMABC campus with over 1200 attending. Great preaching and Christmas Cantata presented by our BMABC choir.



Great day at the Grand Thanksgiving of the BMA churches on the island of Negros in the Philippines! This event is held annually on November 30th on the BMABC campus. 2019 was the last year these fine folks were together! The BMABC sang a Christmas cantata! Rejoicing with all these wonderful Filipinos! [#grandthanksgiving](#) [#Philippines](#)

Upcoming Basketball Games

Men

Friday, Dec 2, 8 p.m. @ Pensacola Christian University, Pensacola
Monday, Dec 5, 7:30 p.m. @ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL
Friday, Dec 9, 6 p.m. home vs University of Mobile
Monday, Dec 12, 6 p.m. home vs Tougaloo
Thursday, Dec 15, 7 p.m. @ William Carey, Hattiesburg, MS
Friday, Dec 16, TBD @ Belhaven University, Jackson, MS
Friday, Jan 6, 6 p.m. home vs Toccoa Falls

Women

Saturday, Dec 2, 6 p.m. @ Pensacola Christian University, Pensacola, FL
Monday, Dec 5, TBD @ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL
Thursday, Dec 8, 5:30 p.m. @ Loyola of New Orleans, LA
Saturday, Dec 10, TBD @ Coastal Alabama South, Bay Minette, AL
Sunday, Dec 18, 5:30 p.m. @ LSU Shreveport, LA

Mississippi Missions Department

Chris Yager, Interim Director - 4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440 - 601-428-8616

Samuel Yager Ordained

Another major step has been accomplished in the mission at Living Hope (Meridian). On Saturday, November 12, I was publicly set apart and ordained to the Gospel ministry.

For over a year, I have had the privilege of serving as an assistant missionary at the Living Hope mission in Meridian. I was able to be trained in the everyday realities of ministry and of church planting by my dad, Chris Yager. Additionally, other former and current state missionaries have provided me with specific training and other perspectives on ministry. I am abundantly thankful for the benefit of the training, encouragement, and help that has been given to me since God led me here.

Beginning this past summer, the next step of my training was to have a larger role in the Living Hope mission in preparation for wherever God would lead me in ministry. Through much prayer, it became abundantly clear that God was leading and preparing me to be the pastor here at Living Hope. While I am still serving as an assistant missionary under the guidance of my dad, I have begun to take on the role and duties of the pastor of Living Hope Baptist Mission.

This time of training and proving led to the public recognition of this call of God on my life. I am thankful for those who made certain that I was first proved in order that they did not lay hands on me suddenly. I am thankful for those pastors that questioned me concerning doctrine and practice, that encouraged me in God's call for my life, and that prayed over me as they laid hands on me. I am thankful for the charge given to me by my dad to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. I am continually humbled that God would use me as a minister of the Gospel.

As I go forward, I ask for your prayers. Please pray that I, as a young man, would live in such a way that would cause no man to despise my youth. Please pray that God would give me wisdom in how to serve Him and His people in this church plant, and please pray that God would continue to grow His church. I am incredibly thankful for your prayers, your support, and your fellowship in the Gospel. May God alone get the glory for all that He is doing!

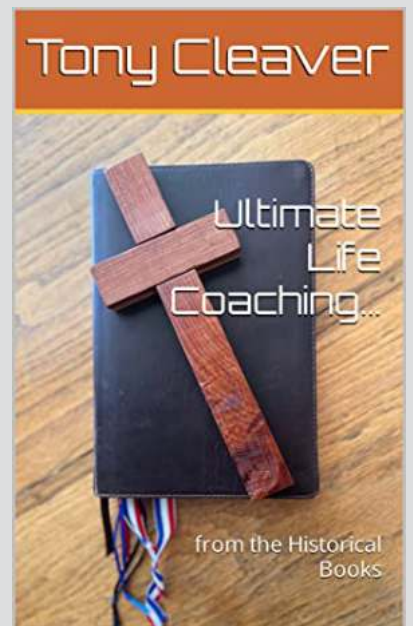
Cleaver Publishes New Book

Rejoice with me on the publication of my new book: *ULTIMATE LIFE COACHING...from the Historical Books*. I hope you will give it a preview on https://www.amazon.com/Tony-Cleaver/e/B004QA7K3A%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share

Who would not want the best in life coaching? This new book "Ultimate Life Coaching...from the Historical Books" offers just that. The Kindle book offers a generous preview for your review. Take some time to view titles such as:

- Destined for Success
 - The Power Position
 - Life's Missed Opportunities
 - Finding the Right Team
 - Dress for Success
- There are many more titles in the book

all taken from men and women like us in this century who want to be life successful. This book is a great read for anyone who is struggling with issues that are common to all - like the examples of the characters in the Historical Books from the Scriptures.



Merry Christmas from your Missions Department!

Missions is the heart of the Christmas season! As the greatest missionary, Jesus left His home in Heaven to come to earth to restore man back to the Father. The baby in the manger was the first step toward the cross that would purchase man's redemption from their sins. Jesus truly is the greatest gift that a person could receive this holiday season. He alone can give the gift of eternal life! My prayer is that we, like our Savior, will be missionaries this holiday season to the lost and dying world that He came to redeem.



Chris Yager

As I consider how amazing Christ has been to me, I cannot fail to recognize His Grace that has channeled through you. Everyone has been so gracious, patient, and kind to me as I have walked through this transition, and I don't want to miss the opportunity to say thank you! Thank you for the words of encouragement. Thank you for the confidence placed in me through your giving and investing in these departments. I am so honored to serve our Savior with you. I love the opportunity to strive together for the gospel's sake with you! May God bless us and do great things through us this year!

I am excited to share with you that we have hired Mrs. Brianna Sumrall, Brother Ken Riley's daughter, to replace Mrs. Kim in the office. What is even better is that Mrs. Kim has come in and trained her for the position. God

is developing a good team at the Missions office, and I am excited to serve along side of her. Please continue to pray that God would allow us to find one more person to complete our team. We have an exciting vision for the new year that I am looking forward to sharing with you in the next article. Please pray that we will be able to do great things for Christ and the gospel's sake. Pray that God would raise up more laborers for the harvest field. Pray that many will be saved this Christmas season, and finally pray we would see many more people come on board to support missions, and depositors investing in the revolving loan fund. Like I said, we have big plans and a big God, and I look forward to accomplishing them with you! I thank God upon every remembrance of you! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and everyone!



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

Why do we love Christmas? The answer can vary depending on who you ask. The store owner loves Christmas because of the boom in business it brings. The grandma loves Christmas because it brings loved ones back home for a visit. The child loves Christmas because of the presents to be unwrapped. The believer loves Christmas because it is the celebration of the arrival of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

The gift giving aspect of the celebration of birth is a wonderful tradition that can be quite helpful to the baby and its family. What is so different about the arrival of Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Though the wise men brought gifts to

the Messiah, in actuality, He is the gift given to the world. He is the greatest gift. It is a fun and joyous time here at the Home each Christmas as your gifts come in to the Home and put many smiles on the faces of our children, and sometimes tears of joy in the eyes of Lindsay and I as we continue to be blessed by your generosity. We are so thankful to use your gifts as examples of how we can be thankful of physical blessings while pointing the children to the greatest gift of all. Christ is a gift that will never wear out, need new batteries, or not be enough to go around. He is the gift freely given as, Ephesians 2:8 tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."



All of us here at the home want to extend a special thank you to everyone who has given during our time of Special Emphasis. The monetary contributions, the gifts, and the food donated through the holiday season does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Please continue to pray for the children and our service to them. Pray for our continued search for house parents, and future placements that the Lord sends our way. To you, your families, and churches we want you wish you a very Merry Christmas. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift."



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 fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

No Rules, No Punishment Leads to Anarchy

Proverbs 29:2 – “when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as “a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority.” Synonymous words are revolution, disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land.



Dr. John Adams

Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Galatians 6:7: “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

The Basis for Punishment

Historically the basis for punishment in our society has been man’s belief in God – the God Who is Sovereign over the universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, “For the wages of sin is death.”

Today the philosophy of unbelief with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher power than himself is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but out intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture.

Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment we must obey His commands. God rules according to

His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

Manifestations of Punishment It is Observed in Creation

Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the “king of the jungle” would be to receive a recompense of reward.

It is Observed in the Societies of the World

As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have punishment – severe punishment – for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

It is observed in the Scriptures

Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that message, we shouldn’t be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

Punishment Inflicted Directly by God.

Consider the following as examples: Cain (Gen. 4:11-16). When God made His pronounce-

ment, Cain responded, “My punishment is greater than I can bare.”

The Flood (Gen. 6:1-8:22). Rejection of God’s warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the Ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

Sarai (Gen. 12:17). In protecting His “chosen”, God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh’s house although his offense was in ignorance!

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). As a definite and shocking example of God’s righteous indignation toward lying – and that to God – these two met immediate physical death.

Punishment Administered by Man.

(Genesis 9:1-7) Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man’s jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder. This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14)

Exodus-Deuteronomy. “If we knew, we would do,” sums up Israel’s appeal to Moses (Deut. 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

Responsibility in Punishment

Man’s responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church, and the state. When each is diligent in the task,

the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

The Family

Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God’s plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don’t accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God’s rules (Gen:24; Matt. 19:6)

Children Need to Be Trained

No child comes into this world programmed to do that which is right (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God’s plan of salvation. Life must be directed if it is to develop the kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4).

Children Need to Understand Punishment

Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Gen. 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Prov. 22:6).

Parents Must Carry Through in Punishment

Consider Prov. 13:24 and 23:13,14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents’ responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don’t learn this lesson at home, will they

Continued on page 9

HISTORY & ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Jason Howard, Director

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

To the churches of the BMA of Mississippi

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi over the past few years. It has been a great blessing to get to serve alongside some great people. I was a blessing to serve under the leadership of Bro. Larry Geraldson. I count him as a dear friend as well as a man of integrity. It was a blessing to serve alongside Bro. Vernon Newman followed by Bro. Jeff Dixon as Revolving Loan Fund managers, as well as Mrs. Kim Parker who is a treasure. I am thankful for the Missions Committee who prayed for and supported the missionaries. The Missions Committee I served under left in my mind the impression that they were above all else concerned with reaching the lost. I have no doubt our current Committeemen have the same concern as well.

With regard to the Mission Coaches, Bro. Farmer and Bro. Martin have done an outstanding job. Most of the missionaries willingly submitted themselves to this training. However, there were some who rejected it. These men have become lifelong friends.

However, my involvement in the Missions Department has come to an end. I have communicated to Bro. Chris that I will continue the teaching role if the need arises, but without pay and only until he can find a replacement. I pray and trust that God’s purposes will be accomplished through the BMA of Mississippi Mission Department. I have no doubt Bro. Chris Yager will do a tremendous job as interim Missions Director and my resignation is no reflection on his election as such.

Thank you and may God bless!
Bro. Jason Howard

Letter of intent to resign

As the readers of this paper are probably now aware I have resigned as Missions Coach. I am also submitting my resignation as Director for the Commission on History and Archives effective May 21st, 2023. I would first like to say I am thankful for the opportunity the churches of this Association provided by allowing me to serve in these positions.

Some of the contention within our Association has been in regard to certain soteriological views. Some of this came about due to certain Historical Articles. The history reported was accurate. The History of the Lord’s church does represent a variety of views upon various subjects. We may be surprised to find that the modern preponderance of opinion upon some subject was not that of the past.

I love Baptist History and believe it has its place. Moses told the children of Israel, “Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. (Duet. 32:7) He then proceeded

to remind them of certain historical details of their past. It was this reminder of their past that was to help guide them in their present and future. I do not know how we can see a clear path forward without knowing where we as a people have been. History had its place in the plan of God for His people then, and I’m certain it should have its place today.

However, there may be some as a result of the history presented and what it reveals, who look upon me with suspicion. It is certainly true that our history broaches a subject that is very unsettling in our modern time. I am not submitting this to in some way redeem myself. I do have many faults for sure. God knows if there is one man in our work who has failed, it is me. However, I would love, if possible, to reclaim the fellowship of any which may have been damaged. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

Doctrine is the basis for fellowship. To this there is no argument. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3) However, I submit we have much more in common than we do otherwise. It is the things we agree on that serve to unite us, while the varying other points of difference, some larger some smaller, that Satan uses to divide us. Sometimes, even with the best of intentions

we can take up a point of difference and use it for a personal objective, and Doctrine can become a sword to destroy rather than a force to unite.

If someone were to ask me “what I am,” without hesitation I profess to be a Baptist. That is not enough for some on either side of the debate. I profess no other allegiance but to Christ and the Church and Kingdom set up by Him during His personal ministry upon this earth; which church I believe to have continued to exist until this present day and which church neither John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Wesley or any other Protestant Reformer were ever a part of! We are not Protestant. Therefore, I am a “Landmark” Baptist. I believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have been baptized upon a profession of their faith, and who have given themselves to the Lord and one another in brotherly covenant to keep up a Godly discipline agreeable to the teachings of the New Testament. I believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and law-giver of His church, that the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof. I believe that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are

Continued on page 9



Jason Howard

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

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

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

Ten Mile WMA

The Ten Mile District Woman's Missionary Auxiliary met on October 27 at Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston. Our Theme was "I Will Rejoice in the Lord" Habakkuk 3:18. Four churches attended the meeting.

A devotional was led by Deloris Comston from 1 Corinthians 13 on the Characteristics of Love. Cathy Rhodes noted that the State Project will change next month. Cathy gave each church, boxes that could be used to take up special offering for Refuge Baptist, to help them with their church building. All churches are to bring them back, to the January meeting with any offering.

The Youth from Paramount blessed us with a song, "Sinners Saved by Grace."

Our projects are as follows:

2022-2023 District Project:

Bro. Josh Daniels, Refuge Baptist Church, Kiln, Mississippi.

2022-2023 State Project: Living Hope Baptist Mission

Missionary Bro. Chris Yager and family), Meridian, Mississippi.

2022-2023 National Project: Daniel Springs Camp.

We thank Paramount for hosting this meeting and look forward to our next meeting January 8, 2023, with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier.

Maria Ochoa, Reporter

Walk of Faith Support

by Glenda Smith, coordinator

Four area churches combined their efforts on October 22 to help raise funds for LifeWord by participating in the annual Walk of Faith. Walkers from Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield; Grace Church, Columbia; New Hope Sumrall; and Good Hope, Columbia helped to raise \$1,567.00 for LifeWord Ministries.

LifeWord is the radio and TV ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and broadcasts the Gospel message to billions of potential listeners around the world. The Walk of Faith is the annual special fund raising event for this ministry.

Relief is Important Part of Missions

From David Dickson via Facebook

Thanks to the generosity of BMAA churches and individuals, I was able to visit Nicaragua recently and deliver relief funds for our folks who were affected by the recent hurricane. Many of our folks suffered severe damage to their homes, cattle were lost and crops were destroyed. Besides providing assistance for immediate needs, some of the funds will be used to purchase seeds so that the December crops can be planted.



I also visited Honduras, and met with pastors from several of our churches, who attended a short seminar held in San Pedro Sula. I was invited to preach by the pastor of our church in Calpules. This is a congregation that I pastored for a short time in the early 80's, it made me realize how old I am.....

Just the Crumbs Ministries Serving Opportunities

By Lavon Haden

Just The Crumbs is feeding this community of mobile homes in Florida. We are also feeding victims and volunteers at our location. You can help by volunteering or by donating. If you would like to volunteer contact us. You can work in the feeding effort or in the clean-up effort. Meals, showers, and a place to put your cot or mat-

ress is available. You can volunteer for any amount of time you can give.

You can donate food: gallon cans of beans, corn, green beans, eggs, milk, sugar, self-rising flour, self-rising corn meal, spaghetti, parboiled rice, instant potatoes, etc. You can order online and send to our location.

Senior Adult Ministry

Don Brown, director

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

National Senior Adult Conference A Great Ministry Event

My wife and I were privileged to attend the National Senior Adult Conference in Branson, Missouri. This year's event was one of the best we have attended. Bro. Donny Parrish and the event staff again provided those attending a great event and time. Bro. Richard Smith, pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahacie, Texas, was the speaker and brought challenging messages during each session.

Music for the entire event was provided by Travis Sellers and the Antioch Vocal Band. They were outstanding in the music chosen and the messages presented in song. The entire event was a very worshipful experience. If you have never attend a national conference you have really missed a blessing. Part of the program was getting to attend the Sight and Sound Theater and their presentation of the Christmas story.



Don Brown

As we plan our two state conferences we encourage all of our churches to make sure their senior adults are planning to attend. We will have good programs, singing, preaching, teaching, testifying, eating, and great fellowship.

Pray for this ministry...Promote it in your local church...Make sure the Senior Adult Commission is in your church budget...and make sure you are making plans for our 2023 Senior Adult Conferences.

We will have updates each month as we get ready to meet!



Bro. Richard Smith brought some timely and inspired messages.



A crowd of about 500 senior adults traveled to Branson, Missouri for the 2022 Senior Adult Conference



Southeastern College booth at Branson. Rosemary Davis and Ginny Singleton represented SBC well.



Antioch Vocal Band singing great music at conference



Hubert Walker, from First Baptist, Bay Springs, won the gift from Southeastern College at the recent Senior Adult Conference - pictured with Rosemary Davis



You can do a food drive for truck load and depending on distance we will pick it up. Contact us with your location to confirm pick-up prior to collecting.

You can donate financially in the following ways:

PayPal justthecrumbs21@gmail.com

Mail: Just The Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS 39482

Mail: BMA MISSION OFFICE, Post Office Box 878, Conway, AR 72033 (specify Just-TheCrumbs)

Thank You for your prayers and support.

Moral Action

from page 7

learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

The Church

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 3:1-16). A church congregation is responsible

to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

The State

The state with its rule is ordained of God. It has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to “carry the sword.”

They are guardians of human life and are to use all means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

Growing Softness in Punishment

Today’s softness in punishment reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that all too frequently the offender received greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy

which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

Why Such Softness Against Crime

God and His Word are excluded. Once God’s Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts. Punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In his book, The Preface to Morals (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsi-

bility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

Once again to the Scriptures we find that when “the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2). The designation “wicked” in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God’s Word and His authority! Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!

History & Archives

From page 7

Gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ and are to be continued in the church until His second coming. I believe that the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper are properly administered only by ministers called of God and set apart to the work by the imposition of hands or by a presbytery of regular baptized ministers. I believe that immersion only is baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects. I believe that none but regular baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord’s Supper. I believe it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public confession of their faith, to submit to the ordinances of the Gospel and give themselves as members of the visible church. I believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member who is immoral in conduct, or who hold doctrine contrary to the Scriptures.

While my Ecclesiology is “Landmark” my soteriology is “Missionary.” I know that this subject touches upon the all-encompassing knowledge of God. And while the things known to God are certain and unchangeable, there are many things known to God unknown to us. Let me explain my soteriology by stating certain things I reject, and certain things I accept. First, I reject the notion that no man is accountable to God for his sin until or unless he hears the Gospel. What is meant by this is that sin is not charged to a person until they hear the Gospel, and that if a person dies having never heard the Gospel he goes to heaven. This is unscriptural. The idea is this - that the only sin for which a person goes to hell is rejecting Jesus upon having heard the Gospel. The views just mentioned I reject for the following reasons.

In the first place, if it were true that men are not accountable for their sin and not under condemnation until they hear the Gospel then the best thing we could do is close our bibles and never preach another Gospel sermon. However, the Scripture is clear that all are already under condemnation. “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; (10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become

unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:9-12) In other words, if men are not under condemnation and headed to hell until and unless they hear the Gospel, why would we want to share the Gospel with them?

In the second place, if this were true the Gospel would not offer them anything they don’t already in their ignorance of the Gospel have – since apparently dying in ignorance is a guaranteed free pass.

In the third place, if this were true the Gospel would not bring hope, but rather condemnation. If they were not under condemnation until hearing it, it would be the hearing of it that brings them under condemnation. But this is not at all what the scripture teaches. “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17). The world was already under condemnation.

In the fourth place, if this were true Jesus would not be the only way to heaven, He would have lied, and rather than Jesus being the Way the Truth and the Life - Ignorance of the Way the Truth and the Life would be sufficient. If there is any view being advocated that would destroy missions it is the views stated above. This is why I believe it is of utmost importance to preach the Gospel to every creature. The Bible is crystal clear that the preaching of the Gospel precedes salvation. (Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 1:16; 1st Peter 1:23; Romans 10:17; 1st Thess. 2:13). I believe that Jesus is the only Way, and the Gospel is the record God gave of His Son. I believe this message MUST be proclaimed in order for any person to be saved!

Second, I reject the notion that God owed man anything. Do we not understand what Grace is? Anyone who thinks that God owes man something doesn’t understand Grace. I reject the notion that “for God to be fair and just” He had to do certain things. The mindset that leads to such thinking is unbiblical. It demotes God and deifies man. This mindset fails to see God in His Holiness and man and his wretchedness. It was only after Isaiah saw God “high and lifted up” that he cried “woe is me.” (Isaiah 6)

It has been so often asked, “what about those people who may never hear the Gospel?” All we can say is what the scripture declares and nothing more! “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12) And again, in the words of Christ, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Fa-

ther but by me.” (John 14:6) If anyone wants to add to the words of Scripture or of Christ, I’ll leave them to it!

Our real concern for people is measured by our willingness, earnestness, and efforts to reach the lost. It is not measured by our doctrinal dogma. What have we really done by crying “whosoever” if we are doing little to reach a “whosoever?” Love is not determined by the words spoken but the actions taken. We are to love not in word and tongue, but in “deed and in truth.” (1st John 3:18) Our love for “whosoever” is not manifest by doctrinal positions, for we are to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving [our] own selves.” (James 1:22) Genuine love and concern for the “whosoever” is manifest in MIS-SIONS! Love must move beyond the pale of a doctrinal position (which is important) and must be manifest in deeds. The Church at Ephesus appeared to be a doctrinally sound church, for Jesus said of them “I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.” (Rev. 2:2) But this church had left their first love. Jesus told them to repent, “and do the first works.” (Rev. 2:5) What were the first works? “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) To preach the Gospel to all!

The eternal cry before the throne is not “whosoever, whosoever, whosoever,” which focuses on man, but rather “Holy, Holy, Holy” which focuses on God! Whatever we are studying (theology, ecclesiology, soteriology, etc), I submit it must begin with God and work its way to man. The Scriptures begin by saying “In the beginning God.” (Gen. 1:1) The New Testament states the same (John 1:1-2). If this is God’s means of revealing Himself to us, it must then be our approach to discovering Him. We need a God centered soteriology, rather than a man centered. The man centered approach leads to many unscriptural ideas as those previously mentioned. This is not to say that the Gospel does not focus on individuals, surely it does. However, the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ is the pinnacle of History; it is the pinnacle of God’s redemptive Work. Man cannot find redemption then from what He can do for God, but Redemption finds man in what God has done, is doing, and will yet do for Him. “We love him, because He first loved us.” (1st John 4:19) Therefore, Jesus is the focus of the Gospel! This is where much of the disagreements come in; viewing the same object from two different perspectives.

Some, in order to try to answer the old question “what about those who may never hear the Gospel,” want to appeal to Tit 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.” They interpret this to teach that the Gospel makes it to every individual, and while I would love this to be the case, this is no proof text. For in the first place, the grace of God “hath” appeared. Whatever Paul is speaking of, and we can certainly know as we will see, happened past tense – it “hath appeared.” The passage does not say “It will appear,” or “continues to appear;” but rather “hath appeared.” The event that Paul spoke of was a completed Historical event in the immediate context. In the second place, what is “the grace of God” that “hath appeared?” This grace of God appeared in the Person of Christ Himself. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (15) John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. (16) And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (18) No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” (John 1:14-18) Grace was manifest in the word becoming flesh – grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. See also (Titus 3:4-6 & Romans 5:15).

Below is what I affirm and what makes me a “Missionary” Baptist!! Jesus was a Missionary Baptist! But he was so in the purest sense of those words! “There was a man sent from God whose name was John.” (John 1:6) John was his name “the Baptist” was a title. Jesus came to John “to be baptized of him.” (Matthew 3:13) Jesus was a Baptist! He was also a Missionary. “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

First, The Gospel is the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ! (1st Cor. 15:1-5). Second, all men are sinners, hell bound, already under condemnation, and stand in need of the Gospel! (John 3:17-19 & Romans 3). Third, The Gospel message is the power of God unto salvation! (Romans 1:16). Fourth, the preaching of the Gospel is God’s only appointed means of saving sinners (Romans 10:13-14 & 1st Cor. 1:18-21). Fifth, the Gospel should be preached to everyone! (Mark 16:15 & Matthew 28:18-20). Sixth, all men are responsible to respond to the Gospel! (Acts 17:30). Seventh, the blessings of the Gospel are free to all. Those who die without the benefits of the Gospel do so of their own voluntary rejection of

it, of God Himself, or of the light of knowledge God gave them! (Matt. 23:37).

I do not deny a man must be willing in order to be saved. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17) However, I also affirm that God must first do a work in their heart. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” (Jer. 13:23) I do not know how many times I have heard old time Baptist preachers say, “You must be under conviction in order to be saved,” or something similar. What is that but to say there is a work God must first perform in a person’s heart. “For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) “This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (John 6:29) “Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.” (Psalm 110:3) “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Salvation is not exclusively a matter of man’s willingness to come to Christ; that is the human side and is certainly involved. There is also the often neglected and un-emphasized Divine side. “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13) “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” (Romans 9:16) “And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” (Eph. 2:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” (1st John 5:1) This is a fine point for sure. It is like asking, can a person truly repent without having Faith, or have genuine Faith without genuine repentance? Both of which are commanded. Suffice is to say this - God never turned anyone away who was willing to be saved, nor has He ever saved anyone against their will. He saved them when they were willing, and the Work that God performs in their heart is made in connection with the Gospel seed being planted. “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” (1st Cor. 3:6)

continued on page 10



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

My Journey Home

As I've been counting my blessings during Thanksgiving with family and friends, my journey is continuing toward what Andy Williams (among others) calls the most wonderful time of the year. I continue to count my blessings, though, as I anticipate new memories in celebrating "The Birthday of a King" (William Harold Neidlinger, 1890).

The memories of my many journeys home for Christmas are stirred up by decorations, Christmas carols, and the aromas filling the air. December is certainly a nostalgic month for me of past Christmases and a joyful one of future Christmases to come.

The journey home to McKey Hollow always took place on crooked roads that climbed and dipped and curved but always ended on that last hill before I reached home. Home--where the heart is, where love is waiting and "with loved ones there to welcome me" (Rusty Goodman, Tanya Goodman, and Aaron Wilburn). Home!

Christmas was always the long-awaited magical time of the year. Waiting to see what Santa brought to us children had us too excited to sleep even. The dolls Sister No. 1 and I still have, the bikes, and many toys I just don't remember. I do remember the excitement.

A trip home as an adult was filled with anticipation, too. The gifts faded in importance when I just looked forward to being together with all the family again. Going to the woods with Daddy to choose and cut the perfect cedar tree, hauling it home, and decorating it are all part of my favorite memories.

The fragrance of cedar filled that old house along with the smells of baking, the sounds of laughter, and the sights of colorfully wrapped presents under the tree.

We all remember Mother in her red Daniel Green slippers sneaking into the living room to tear a corner off her presents to see what she was getting. She always loved whatever she got, but she seemed to enjoy presents best when she thought she got more than Daddy.

Even though we heard every year, "This is my last Christmas," we shared many Christmases with her and Daddy. They loved celebrating with the family. Middle Sister said it best, "Most of all, I enjoyed being together every year. I miss that more than anything."

The last Christmas we shared with Mother came much too soon, but our joy continued in being together. By the time the last Christmas with Daddy and the Diva occurred, we had changed a few traditions: Daddy's great-grandchildren sang Christmas carols to the Diva. I'm inclined to think that the dogs were howling for that concert. But we certainly experienced the spirit of Christmas that year.

I traveled that same crooked road last summer. As I passed our old home, I could see in my mind's eye Mother in the kitchen preparing the turkey and dressing. She dele-

gated making the ambrosia to Cathy and Darla while she made her coconut cake with the fresh coconut after Daddy had drained and cracked it.

Sitting around eating the scramble that Daddy made (I don't think anybody ate the Brazil nuts or the cereal), we often found football games to watch and argue over. And always when the family got to be too much, you would find some of us outside, finding peace in the country.

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas seemed shorter one year when Daddy died at Thanksgiving. JB and I started our own tradition that Christmas by going to Roosevelt State Park in Morton. We found peace again in the country by hiking, reading, and laughing. JB could make you laugh while the tears were flowing, or he could make you laugh until the tears started flowing. Christmas was extra special that last year with JB.

Many of you have experienced some great losses that make the holidays difficult this year. The stress and the sadness can certainly take away the anticipation. I know. I've been there.



The Diva, my oldest sister, wanted me to have her fur coat when she died—even though I'm not a "fur-coat" person. I couldn't imagine wearing it, so I placed it in storage. Just before Christmas, JB talked me into getting it out of storage to wear to some of our basketball games. He could usually talk me into almost anything, so I got the coat; I knew, though, I would be too embarrassed to wear it. But JB assured me, "Nobody will ever think YOU'RE wearing a real fur!" Sister No. 1 got the Diva's



Carolyn Hagler



mink stole; I don't think she ever wore it either. Now you understand why we called her the Diva!

I never got to wear it for JB because he was gone a few days later. On Christmas Day in a borrowed car (thanks to Bro. Ed Steele), the family met at our parents' old place one more time. A sad day, for sure, but wearing the coat brought a smile. The coat did go to several ball games even though a friend had to babysit it during the games.

My change of traditions several years helped my journey over those dark, lonely roads. But my journey continued and became my Christmas journey with family again.

Greater Vision's new song, "Think about There," really pinpoints what I've learned on my journey. Things don't seem hopeless when you think about "... no more fears in a land when tears are forever wiped away; going home and the joy you'll know seeing Jesus face to face."

I'm thankful for the journey that got me here. My rocky road led me to a crossroad one day where I took the narrow road "that leads to life" (Matthew 7:14) and "the one less traveled that has made all the difference" (Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken). No present has ever compared to the presence of Immanuel, God with us.

My journey is not over, and I don't know how rocky the road ahead might be. I do know, when my journey is over, it won't matter how rocky the road has been; I'm going home.



While I'm waiting for Christmas this month, you'll often find me with a fire in the fireplace, a cup of hot mulled cider, a good book to read, and my new Gerald Wolfe's "Keys to a Peaceful Christmas." My gift of Christmas memories reminds me that we celebrate Christmas because of Jesus and Easter.

May you find your Christmas filled with love, joy, and peace. Merry Christmas to all of you in His grip.

History & Archives

From page 9

I am keenly aware that stating the above will not satisfy all concerning my stance upon certain issues. I would simply ask, "Do you believe those things stated above?" If you do, we have agreed on the major points of Doctrine. And if you do, why then can we not fellowship together? I am aware the subject of Soteriology goes much deeper. But I wonder if the Devil hasn't deceived us and, in some cases, possibly caused unnecessary division. We don't win the lost by debating the fine points of Soteriology. We win the Lost by preaching the Gospel to all. We don't advance the Kingdom of Christ by dividing it. I am not advocating we don't earnestly contend for the Faith. I know that there are times when we will disagree on certain points of that Faith. However, there is a Christian and brotherly

way to go about things, and I'm not sure in every case we have done that!

What am I? I am a Landmark Missionary Baptist, a poor one at that, but that is what I am! I am so because I believe Jesus organized His church during His personal ministry, that His church/Kingdom has never ceased to exist and that His church is the depository of the eternal certitudes which shall never pass away, "the pillar and ground of the truth." (1st Tim. 3:15) The church's main message is the Gospel! The church's main prerogative is to preach the Gospel!

(This article was edited greatly for space. For the article in full please email jasonowen-showard@gmail.com)

God bless you all!
Jason Howard
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Mission Trip Opportunities with EIM

Have you ever said, "I wish I could do a mission trip," but you didn't know how or with whom? Evangelistic International Ministries would like to invite you, our fellow BMAA Brothers and Sisters, to be a part of our 2023 Global Evangelism Teams. You will have the opportunity to spend several days on a foreign field investing in the lives of children and adults pouring into them the good news of the gospel.

For over 25 years EIM has taken teams to work with BMA missionaries and church planters all around the world. We have seen God move and transform countless lives as team members have shared the gospel with people who have never heard. We have several opportunities for you in the summer of 2023.

The following are the available trips, dates, and costs.

- GHANA, WEST AFRICA JUNE 21-30, 2023 -- \$3,000
- TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA JULY 12-22, 2023 -- \$3,000
- HONDURAS JULY 31-AUGUST 5 -- \$2,200

An online application and non-refundable deposit is due on or before JANUARY 27, 2023. If you are interested and would like more information please call me at the Warren EIM office at 870-226-3626 or email me at: fnorris@eimworldwide.org You can also visit EIM's website at: www.eimworldwide.org and click on the TAKE A TRIP link to view all the requirements to be placed on a team.



Lifeword[®]

NEWS



Completing the Task

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeword
lifeword.org

Lifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation.

Lifeword fully understands that the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, the only authorized body to fulfill this great task. These are the marching orders as given by Jesus, so Lifeword, rather than doing the work for the local church or doing things for the local indigenous peoples, has come alongside with media tools, training, and various forms of support.

The men and women who create gospel media content for lifeword.org serve their own communities, their own cultures, and their own languages and dialects. There are currently more than 160 community radio stations and seven online radio stations run by local churches in their communities and for their communities.

The evangelistic gospel presentations they create are broadcast in 140 languages and led by local indigenous believers in our churches. Hundreds of these programs are 100% produced by churches for ministry to their own communities. Meant to be extensions of church outreach, these videos are produced for the various cultural niches in their own context.

In each of the four regions, Lifeword global partners work to create these relevant videos. In Africa, the BMA Ghana, BMA Liberia, and BMA Nigeria associations are reaching their own communities using tools Lifeword has provided. Nigerian Joseph Eniowo's use of smartphones distributed in three mission points to help evangelize children and families then begin discipleship.

In the Americas (Central and South), the Gaitans

(Nicaragua) produce marriage and family videos in a culture where infidelity and bigamy are acceptable lifestyles. Valmori Zelaya ministers in an area of El Salvador that is hungry for the gospel, so he produces 60-90 second evangelistic videos and is seeing positive results. Peruvian Paul Tinoco installs powerful transmitters as close as he can to people groups in Peru's remote jungles when he hears of those without access to evangelical radio stations.

In Asia, Filipino Pastor Pete Etabagis is helping BMA churches there to reach communities from the cities to the jungles. Most of his trainees only have cell phones, so he teaches them how to produce gospel content with them. In Lebanon, Joe Costa records programming for several niche cultures in Arabic including Muslims, women, Armenian diaspora, and agnostics.

In the European region, Lifeword has come alongside Brother Bogdan Bilav with media tools that share the gospel. Using gypsy-language Bible recordings and translations of the four Gospels, he targets this marginalized people group. Also, Ukrainian Pastor Pasha Onatsko continues ministering to refugees and produces videos explaining why the war with Russia is happening instead of what is happening. His content is for people who need hope and an understanding that God is in control.

Lifeword Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is an honor for Lifeword to be invited by the local church to help fulfill the

great task given to her by her leader, Jesus. Making disciples of Jesus in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation requires believers in each of those areas to do their part, and who better than local indigenous believers who are passionate about the task and familiar with their own context, traditions, beliefs, and needs, serving their own immediate neighbors."





mission:world

NEWS

Enabling Believers to Reach Their Own People

BY: Jeremy Hambrice
BMA Missions
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Seven years ago we began to build our jungle houses in the mountains among the Wantakia people of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Before we ever learned their language, created an alphabet for it, or translated any scripture in it, we asked God to show us men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable (F.A.T.). We knew that many years down the road we would be doing ministry with them and eventually handing God's Word over to them so they could continue teaching it long after we were gone.

As we started learning the Wantakia language, we began to see men and women display those F.A.T. qualities, and as we spent time with them, we could see God revealing both men and women who were faithful, available, and teachable! Pasei was not one of those people.

When we first moved out to the village of Pinji to live with the Wantakia, Pasei was not there. We had no idea that all three of us missionary families had built our houses on his property. His older brother had given the okay, but when Pasei heard the news, his first thought was that he had struck it rich, and he would come and demand from us missionaries that we build him a tin roof house too.

When Pasei first arrived, he didn't make any demands, but we could sense that he was a very arrogant person, always telling people his way was right and theirs was wrong. Pasei had been married to his wife Wumlin for about five years at this point. They were childless, and he would beat her and tell her how easily replaceable she was. They tried eating magic fertility leaves from the bush doctor, but that didn't help her conceive. Pasei was convinced Wumlin's brothers used sorcery to make her barren.

After three years we finally learned Pasei's language, created an alphabet for it, began to translate the scriptures into it, and developed a literacy program so people could read it. How surprised we were when Pasei, the man who knew everything, came to us with his three dollar school fee and faithfully attended our literacy program for three months. On the heels of that first literacy class, we taught the people of Pinji village God's Word for the first time.

We prepared around seventy Bible lessons that would take the Wantakia from the beginning of God's Word all the way to the end with the hope that many would repent before God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. It took us a little over two months to teach the entire story of God, and Pasei and Wumlin faithfully came every

day. As they sat on a log under our teaching tarp, hearing God's Word in their own language, looking at pictures of the stories and watching many of these scenes acted out by us missionaries, Pasei and Wumlin heard for the first time how they were sinners who had come from Adam and were born in Satan's clan.

They heard their only hope was the promised Savior Jesus who came and did all the work necessary for them to leave Satan's clan and live in God's. After hearing that message very clearly, they both, along with many other Wantakia people of Pinji village, believed in Jesus and went from "darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26).

When that happened we began to see such a transformation in the lives of Pasei and Wumlin. Pasei changed from being the most arrogant man in the village to the humblest! He went to apologize to Wumlin and her family for how he had acted and told them that he now believed that God is the author of life and could give them a child if he desires. After praying for over a year, God provided a child!

Not long after Pasei believed, we began to train Wantakia literacy teachers to take our place. That is the way of indigenous missions—"we do things with people and not for people, enabling them to reach their own people." Because Pasei, through the power of the Spirit, was beginning to show some of those F.A.T. qualities, we began to train him to become a teacher as well. In the meantime, we kept teaching the new believers through the book of Acts. They all heard that one of the church's main responsibilities is to share the gospel, and they wanted to do just that.

As a result, there was great interest in hearing the entire story of God just like we had taught it the first time. This time, though, we missionaries didn't want to teach it by ourselves. We wanted to involve the new believers, teach with them, and enable them to reach their own people. To do that, we began to train Pasei and others to be Bible teachers. This time they stood up with us and faithfully proclaimed the good news. The result was that we saw many more believe in Christ and join the church! Because we have done this with them and they are being equipped to reach their own people, the church desires to take the gospel to Wumlin's home village of Asi.