

The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

December 2016

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 70 No. 23

Ministering To Young People "Make the Season Bright!"

by Anders Lee

The Christmas season is just around the corner. Can you believe it? It seems there is always so much to do during the holidays. In fact, sometimes too much gets put on the calendar! That is particularly true when it comes to youth groups.

Today I went to the mailbox and found a holiday mail out from a church. They were advertising their Christmas programs, services, and events. On the youth page I counted 17 fun filled events from November 27th till December 31st. WOW! Impressive? Maybe to some, but, something was sadly missing.

Where was Christ on that calendar? Oh, I'm probably being hard on them about it. It's true that you need to make things entertaining for youth these days. Yet, youth pastors need to teach their kids to "make the season bright" by serving others! How can that happen?

Here are a few ideas -

that your youth group can minister to.

Have the whole youth group send Christmas cards to a missionary. Years ago our youth sent cards to the Poulins in Ica, Peru. They hung all of them up in their family room! Angela Poulin told us the cards made it feel like back home at their house for a while.

Send a box of goodies. Who doesn't like getting a surprise at Christmastime? Talk about "making the season bright!" Contact the "mom" of the missionary family and find out what Christmas goodies everyone in their family love to have from back home that they can't get on the field! Share the items with your teens and ask them to buy

or bake them for the family. Then, box them all up and ship them to the family! They will be blown away that you took the time to send them something special.

Skype with them! Schedule a night when all your youth are together and let them all meet the missionary and his family! It will encourage them on the field and expose your teens to his work. Then, let him preach a Christmas message for your teens via Skype! I've done it before and it's pretty awesome!

Minister to the Elderly

No doubt there are shut-ins in your church and community. The holiday season can be the loneliest times for them. I think of Belle Smith who lived here in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Her husband had passed years ago and the only daughter she had lived in California. She was al-

Continued on page 2



Anders Lee

The Women in Jesus' Lineage: Tamar and Rahab

by Dr. Tony Cleaver
(From December 2015 Issue)
Matthew 1:3, 5

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.



Tony Cleaver

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

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Focus on Missionaries

The BMA has the best missionaries you can find on earth! I sure am thankful for them! Can you imagine what it is like to be away from all of your family at Christmastime? A lot of our missionaries are. They simply cannot afford to fly home, so they will be on the field for Christmas. That is just one of the sacrifices missionaries make when they answer the call to go.

Pick a missionary family to love on this Christmas. If you don't know any personally, visit bmalife.com/bmamissions/. On this webpage you will find many

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



SENIOR SOURCES - by Becky Ulmer

Let the Leaves Fall

This season is highlighted by the change in the color of the foliage. After this eye pleasing experience of beauty in color, the leaf by nature falls from the tree or bush to make way for new ones to appear in the spring.

Along with the cooler temperatures comes an unwelcomed and unfortunate increase in the number of "fall"(s) in our older adults. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries in the older population. Aside from the fear of home invasion or assault, the fear of a fall tops the list on our mind when evaluating the safety of our aging population, especially for one who lives alone. Statistics show that one third of senior citizens will experience a fall. Past the age of 80 this percentage increases to half. In 2015, 31 billion dollars was spent by Medicare on care related to injuries from falls. The average cost of a single fall is \$19,440.00 and \$37,000 if surgery is required. Prevention is the best treatment. Denial becomes a big hurdle to clear in making changes in ones envi-

ronment. "I am not going to fall", "I just lost my balance", "I didn't really fall" are all lines of defense in maintaining ones autonomy despite obvious signs of impairment with walking and balance. Bending over and sudden turns accounts for a large percentage of falls which result in serious injury. Certain medications and health conditions can contribute to the loss of equilibrium during these moves. Altered posture and gait often predispose one to a higher incidence of falls. The alterations may be the result of actual physical changes or habit. Your health-care provider can



Becky Ulmer



of equilibrium during these moves. Altered posture and gait often predispose one to a higher incidence of falls. The alterations may be the result of actual physical changes or habit. Your health-care provider can

provide an evaluation and make recommendations to prevent falls. An adequate description of the events leading up to the fall is very important. Some questions that may be asked are: activity prior to fall, new medications (last dose taken before fall), recent environment changes, time of day, feeling prior to event, and was there loss of consciousness prior to or after fall?

The old saying "life can change in the blink of an eye" holds true when looking at how a fall can affect ones life. One day they are managing their own household and personal affairs without dependence on others... then the fall. Maybe a hip fracture, a shoulder fracture, a vertebra fracture or a skull fracture. Bones do break more easily with advanced age, however a fractured (broken) bone is not necessary to disrupt and permanently alter life as it was prior to the event. The emotional effects and fear associated with a fall can be as "crippling" as the actual injury for the victim and the family. Often times changes have to be made to ensure safety. These may not be harmonious to everyone. This is where prayer should be inserted in a big way. Pray for understand-

ing, guidance, open minds, resources, and comfort. God never promised that things would always be easy. He promised never to leave us and he will always hold true to this promise. As in reaching for a hand in the time of a fall, his outstretched hands are a prayer away at all times.

Why wait until a fall has occurred to problem solve for ways to "prevent" them? Look at the home environment. Is it safe? Are there repairs that need to be made for safety? Would additional lighting (nite lights) help? Is there a means of calling for help in the areas where falls happen at a higher incidence, bedroom and bathrooms? At what height is the phone? Do the rugs have slip resistant backing and do they lay flat? Is the bed the proper height for ease of getting on and off? Is there a signal for

family or neighbors that something has happened... scheduled phone calls not answered, blinds/curtains have not been opened, or they didn't go to the mailbox? An electronic alert bracelet or pendant can notify help in the event of an emergency.

I have used this verse from time to time to encourage a person(s) to take a serious look at themselves, their spouse or parent, and make the necessary (not always desired) changes to ensure safety. Proverbs 16:18 "pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Let's get more involved and "tuned in" to the safety of our senior population. So let the leaves fall, prevent our loved ones from falling, and enjoy the beauty of both longer.

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Home Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi. She is a member of First Baptist, Bay Springs. She may be contacted at becky.ulmer@jghms.com

Ministering To Youth

Continued from page 1

ways delighted to have the girls in the youth come by, paint her nails, decorate her tree, and spend time with her baking cookies. Our girls loved it so much, after Christmas one year they made a commitment to go by once a month and "hang out" with her.

Don York served in the pacific in the Navy during World War II. Most days he sits in his chair watching TV, but at Christmastime he anticipates the youth of Central coming by Christmas Caroling to him! He lights up like a Christmas tree when those kids hug him and sing to him.

There's no question about it, your teens can "make the season bright" for seniors saints. They will absolutely adore those teens for making time for them.

Take Food to the ICU Waiting Room

Have you ever been to an ICU waiting room on Christmas Eve? Not as a patient, as a youth ministry effort? I can hear you saying "ON CHRISTMAS

EVE?????" Yes, on Christmas Eve. There are many families that find themselves there. They didn't plan on it, but they are there.

Last year a bunch of our youth from Central and their parents went to Baptist Desoto Hospital in Southaven. They took a full blown Christmas meal with dessert for all the families. There were twenty eight families there that night. They gave each family rolls of quarters for vending later on, prayed with each family, and hugs and tears abounded. Most people there were genuinely blessed that

someone took the time to reach out to their family on Christmas Eve. The group intended to stay from 4:30 - 6:00 PM and then go home. They ended up staying longer because they were being blessed themselves.

There are tons of other things you could lead your youth to do to serve others during Christmastime.

I'm sure it's cool to have a fun filled calendar for the 35 days of the holiday season, but it's really up to youth pastors to teach teens to take time and serve other people. When Jesus came to this ole world He came to serve others, not to get served. In this Christmas season, let's "make the season bright" by shining His light to a hurting world around us!

Lee is a church planter for the BMA of America and Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister. Lee may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

A Sofilthy's Attic "Rerun"

by Barbara White



Thanksgiving 2015

Our pastor's Thanksgiving sermon was a bit unusual - he preached about complainers. Most of us are guilty of complaining at some point in our lives. Some older folks complain because things aren't like they used to be. Kids complain because they have to go to school, obey rules, etc., etc. Parents complain that children don't behave as they are requested.

But thinking about complaining, it goes way back in history. You remember that Moses had to contend with the complaining Isarelites. And that reminds me of a sermon I heard on the radio years ago. The preacher said, "The children of Israel were stricken with the disease called grumbling and murmuring. They said Moses had brought them out there to starve. They didn't have no cornbread, no turnip greens, no onions....."

Another thing, in any given crowd of people there will be complainers and sadly, the complainers usually rule. Think of the 12 spies who were sent to spy out the promised land. Two of the spies saw only positive things, BUT there were the complainers who said it couldn't be done - so the children of Israel were doomed to 40 years of wandering aimlessly before they were allowed to actually go in and conquer the land.

Our pastor said that complaining denies that God is in charge AND it ruins our testimony.

That's worth thinking about!

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

THIS CHRISTMAS I'M GOING TO FOCUS MORE ON JESUS. I'M ASKING MY HUSBAND FOR A 24 CARAT GOLD CROSS AND CHAIN WITH MATCHING EARRINGS AND BRACELET.





Larry Geraldson
Director



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“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” Is 9:6

What a wonderful time of year!

It is a time of “Grace.” Reaching beyond the great gulf of our depravity, God’s Word proclaims, “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.” John 1:14

It’s a time of “Giving.” To think that the God of heaven would so love the world that He would give, and give to us He did, His only begotten Son.

It is a time of “Going.” “And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.” Luke 2:15 & 20 As we ponder, during this Christmas season, just how blessed we are, may we be stirred to glorify our God for His grace poured out on us. May we honor Him in our worship for the gift of His

Son. May we join together to go forward proclaiming His gospel.

We have enjoyed another wonderful year in missions. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for the privilege you have given me to serve you. Cherita and I want to wish all of you a very Christ-filled Christmas season.

Two Missions Schedule Organization Services

Caledonia Baptist Mission, Missionary Pastor Bob Burch, has scheduled their organization for March 18, 2017. South Forrest Baptist Mission, Missionary Pastor Sidney Farmer, has scheduled their organization for June 3, 2017. Bro. Burch and Bro. Farmer will continue to serve as Missionary Coaches after their organization.

New Missionary Application

I am excited to share with you that we have one new missionary application that is presently being processed. As things progress, we will keep you posted but I alert you now, so that you can join me in prayer over this matter.

Caledonia Baptist Mission Building Project Complete

The addition to the Caledonia Baptist Mission build-



These are photos of the completed building project which added the back half of the building as education and fellowship space.

ing was begun some months back. The new space will provide much needed educational space and fellowship space. Caledonia Baptist Mission is scheduled to host the next Missions and Evangelism Conference on April 22, 2017.



Inside new addition at Caledonia Mission

Grace Baptist Mission Building Project Update

In 2017, we are anticipating that we

will be able to secure the necessary building permit and build a first unit building for Grace Baptist Mission in Clinton, Mississippi. Please keep this in your prayers as we move forward.

Midway Baptist Mission has First Baptisms

It was exciting to hear from Dr. Kenneth Pollock that a couple had come forward for baptism and church membership, recently. Dr. Pollock is doing a great job leading in this, our newest mission project.



Dr. Kenneth Pollock baptizing James & Betty Appleton at Midway Baptist Mission

Day Star Baptist Mission Baptizes Two Recently

Bro. Phillip Burns reported that he most recently baptized Carrie Tumblin and the mission added Jonathan Tomblin, Carrie’s husband, as a member of the mission. It is a joy to see this mission grow. We are searching for land in the Sumrall area, please keep this matter in your prayers.



Freedom Baptist Mission Baptized Five Recently

Bro. Bobby Elliott reported that they baptized five people recently at their mother church, Forked Oak Baptist Church.



Freedom Baptist Mission Baptismal Candidates. Five were baptized at the Mother Church, Forked Oak.

Reports for Nov 2016				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Bob Burch (Caledonia)	95	74	\$4,425.00	East Fulton
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	46	51	\$1,895.00	Forked Oak
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest County)	70	51	\$5,509.00	Paramount
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	16	11	\$3,418.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	30	11	\$4,365.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	34	27	\$2,739.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	151	107	\$13,349.00	Charity
Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	10	8	\$1,405.00	First Baptist Mantachie
BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin – Manager) <i>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co-Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	116	123	\$4,131.00	
Church Planters				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	38	13	\$644.00	El Camino
Jamie Galicia (Biloxi)	7	3	\$8.00	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)	4	2		El Camino
(Elvis Garcia – Coordinator) <i>(Elvis Garcia is also the Co-Pastor of Way, Truth & Life, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)	110	95	\$4,768.00	
Church Planters				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)	18	11	\$723.00	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	40	7	\$545.00	Way, Truth & Life
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)		2		Way, Truth & Life
BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall – Coordinator) <i>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	36	50	\$2,732.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	20	19	\$1,705.00	Homestretch

Collectively, our missionaries reported 211 new contacts, 135 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 11 professions of faiths, 33 baptisms and 3 joined by letter in Nov.

Missions Report Continued On Page 7



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.msbbaptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Random Thoughts - Seasonal & Personal

This is being written before December 1, 2016. My wife and I have **finished** our shopping for Christmas! I cannot ever remember having finished this early. I can call to memory shopping for something for my wife and kids as late as Christmas Eve a time or two. I am told wisdom comes with experience and age, so I will chalk up the above to age!

Sadness

As you will read on this page, some dear friends are feeling the effects of losing a loved one suddenly and unexpectedly. Leon and Sandra Carmical's son Patrick died recently in an automobile accident. Our prayers continue for them and Pat's wife Laurie. May God comfort them.

Appreciation

Too often we seem to take things and people for granted. While we can't express our feelings to things, we certainly need not forget to share our thoughts and appreciation with individuals. I want to publicly thank those who volunteer to provide regular columns to this publication.

Barbara White, Chuck Lee, Becky

Ulmer and Anders Lee are four individuals who contribute to your Mississippi Baptist Paper. We are thankful for their thoughts and insights. They are both informative, entertaining, spiritually appropriate and at times, down right silly (*but in a good, blessed way*).

As you read their words I would encourage you to drop them a note, email, or make a phone call and share your appreciation.

Barbara, Chuck, Becky, and Anders, Thank You!

Reflection

From time to time each of us would profit from pausing and reflecting on the blessings of life. As God's child we are truly blessed! It's not about material things, but about life, love, family, and life everlasting.

Just thinking about how we have been abundantly blessed is truly a humbling experience. If you have not taken the time to pause and reflect on your blessings, then Christmas would certainly be an appropriate time to begin the counting.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Season!

Pastor's Son Dies In Wreck

Patrick William Carmical, oldest son of Bro. Leon and Mrs. Sandra Carmical, died unexpectedly in an automobile accident on November 23, 2016, in Collins, Mississippi. He was 47 years old.



Pat Carmical

Patrick is survived by his wife, Laurie Hurst Carmical. He is preceded in death by grandparents Patrick and Beatrice Carmical and Morgan Nelson. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his parents, Rev. Leon and Sandra Carmical of Ellisville; grandmother Janet Bray of McNeil, Arkansas; brother Chris and Marta Carmical of Ellisville; sister Jennielea and David Haynes of Charlotte, N.C.; nephews Drew and Wesley Carmical; Patrick Haynes; and nieces Heather Bruce and Heidi Haynes. He is also survived by his father and mother-in-law, Don and Peggy Hurst of Laurel, and extended family member John Krieger of Kazakhstan.

Patrick was born on November 23, 1969, in Searcy, Arkansas. He graduated from R. H. Watkins High School in 1988 and from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Technology. He served 3 years with the United States Army and is veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He married Laurie Hurst in 2013.

Patrick was an energetic person who loved being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, kayaking and being with family. He was an active member of First Baptist Church of Laurel.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church of Laurel on November 28. His father presented the eulogy with a message by Pastor Randy Turner.

The family requested that memorial donations be made to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, 118 Lowe Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
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Celebrating The Birth of The King - Immanuel - God With Us



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. - Matthew 2:1-2

Merry Christmas From Don & Bonnie Brown and the Trustees of your Publication's Department

Mississippi Baptist

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

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E-Mail - editor@msbbaptist.org
Web site www.msbbaptist.org

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Something New

Although Southeastern Baptist College has been qualified for and has offered Pell Grants and VA Benefits for many years, we have only recently received a new listing as a Military Friendly School. Academic Dean Dr. Scott Carson led out in our achieving this recognition. Contact our school if you have served our country in the military and have an interest in attending college.

Holidays

The Fall finals will be on December 5th and 6th. The office will close on December 7th after all grades have been posted. We will reopen on January 2,

2017. We will check the answering machine or have calls transferred to us during that time. Formal registration for the Spring Semester will be on the week of January 7th with classes starting on January 14th. Remember that you can complete the registration form online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu. You can always call me at 601-323-6900.

The mail will be checked almost daily, but if you need information about a special donation you wish to give prior to beginning of the new year, please call. Finances are always tight at the end of the year and special donations are usually required to meet payroll at Christmas and January the first.

A Great Time For Joy

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The message of the birth of the Messiah Savior was good news to the shepherds. It also should cause us to rejoice greatly. The event of the eternal God the Son becoming human stands as a miracle beyond our comprehension. The theological term used to express the concept is Incarnation. We know its truthfulness because of the revelation of Scripture. The details of how is mysterious, but the explanation of why He, as the Infinite God, would care about us finite creatures is even more beyond our understanding. The obvious result of meditating on this should cause praise and great joy in us.

HAVE A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Dr. Scott Carson is Available for Preaching Appointments

After 30 years of service, Dr. Scott Carson recently retired as an Army Chaplain and is the new Academic Dean at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Dr. Carson is also the Chaplaincy Director for the Baptist Missionary Association of America.



Dr. Scott Carson

He is available to fill pulpits and for special patriotic themed services and events. He may be contacted at 601-426-6346 (m-w); cell at 601-426-4736; or email at scott.r.carson@gmail.com.

Hunter Phillips

Bro. Hunter Phillips is still available for service either to fill in or pastor. He and his wife Jessica are members of Tiger Creek Baptist church in Overt, Mississippi. They have two children and are energetic to serve the Lord wherever he sends them. He can be reached at 601-550-1109 or by contacting his pastor Bro. Jerry Overstreet at 601-735-0141.

Church Staff Position

Greenwood Baptist Church, 1400 Greenwood Church Road, Fulton, Mississippi, 38843 is seeking a person for the position of music director. The position is bi-vocational and traditional type of music. For more information please contact church by mail or call 662-862-3785 or 662-862-9375.

An Opportunity To Help A Needy People and Share Christ's Love

A Report On Hatian Ministry by BMA Missionary Michel Poirier

Editor's Note: I had the privilege to visit Haiti a few years ago with a Baptist Medical Missions team. Bro. Poirier was part of that team and I saw the great need of the Haitian people and the great love that Bro. Mike has for them. We saw the medical need, the nutrition need, and the need for Christ. The Haitians are in need of help. Bro. Mike Poirier is a vital part of the help network that is reaching these folks with physical, material, and spiritual help. What a great project for a church, a group, a class, or an individual to be a part of. Read his letter with an open heart and help as you can.

A Letter From Bro. Mike Poirier

I am looking through the window as I write this report, looking at the snow coming down thinking about my recent trip to Haiti. What can I write, what can I put in this letter to show to the reader the situation after the Hurricane? May God give you the picture in your heart as your read about Haiti in these few moments.

Arriving at Port au Prince I was ready to go to church without having to change. Upon arriving at the church in Onaville we had to walk and balance ourselves on broken cement blocks which were placed along the inside wall of the property because the water had not yet drained off and the property was still like a swamp. It was amazing, but people still came to the service in spite of this problem. What was amazing to



No roof but still believed that God can help! That is faith..

me was to see the women trying to balance themselves and carrying their small children over these broken blocks. That is dedication my friend! Would you have been there?

Preaching on Sunday night I had my first encounter with those pesky hungry mosquitos! They were viscous and hungry and I can tell you that nobody slept during the preaching that night. They were all over the people, legs, and arms, head wherever they could get you. Praise the Lord for Mosquito repellent. Just a little humor on my side (do not tell them) I had repellent on and I felt so bad for them that I pretended to

swat the pesky things away from me so they did not feel so bad.

Now the time had come and we are getting ready to go to Pitit-Goâve to help some families that we know. This trip is about 5 hours. During the trip our Ford overheated and we had to stop many times to give him water. We are loaded with food, mattresses, clothing, shoes and more. Arriving to the meeting place on the side of the road we give the material that was designated to the families.

News had come of thieves stopping the supplies from coming into the regions (Les Cayes) and they were steal-

ing all the contents from the trucks. But Praise be to God that we were protected from ALL of this. The Lord allowed us to be traveling in the middle of a UN caravan that was heading to the same place. God is So Good To Us my friend!

Now we are on our way to Les Cayes, oh yeah the truck is overheating again! We had to stop for another ½ hour. Now a few weeks after Hurricane Matthew passed through things are settling down. We have a clear view of the devastation that happened in the South Western part of Haiti. After three weeks of help-

continued on page 6

From The Mind of Chuck Lee Bacon!

I had flame-grilled, bacon wrapped corn the other day. I must say that it was quite tasty. In fact, I'm not that much of a corn eater, so I was a bit hesitant to even try it. The next night, we took some tenderized deer steak, cut in strips, with a mixture of cream cheese and jalepeno peppers, and wrapped the whole thing with strips of bacon. Watching Alabama beat my LSU Tigers didn't even slack my appetite for this delicacy. So I made an educated assumption. Bacon is really, really good.

I have yet to find anything that bacon doesn't enhance. Sure, there have been attempts to make bacon flavored ice cream, but I am speaking of the crispy, salty, heaven sent bacon that sizzles when it is in a frying pan. The kind that encourages heart doctors to immediately purchase a second home when seeing television commercials in high definition promoting bacon. If the industry could figure out how to make bacon smell come through the speakers of a car radio, the Waffle Hut would be as busy as Wal-Mart on Black Friday every day of the week.

They say the best tasting food is the

worst for the body. That's probably true. However, is life really worth living if you can't enjoy the moments? More than likely, video games, computers, and television sets are guiltier than bacon for the decline in health of people, and I-phones probably should share some of the blame.



Bro. Chuck Lee

Grab you a handful of your favorite blood pressure medicines; get the black, cast iron pan hot; scramble an egg or two; and cook you some bacon to go with it. Put it on a salad if you are a health nut...er...advocate. Make it crispy, not soggy. Seize the day.

It may be the last one you get to enjoy.

So, while bacon tastes great but clogs your arteries, it also makes you aware that one day you will go into eternity. Maybe the bacon industry will hire me to write their slogans, but I'm not sitting around holding my breath until they do. I hear bacon frying.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



Haitian Hurricane Relief

From page 5

The only one that can make a difference in their life situation is Christ, Praise the Lord for the churches of the BMA of America for giving thousands of dollars to help the people recover. Food, like rice, peas, sugar, spaghetti, oil, clothing, and 400 sheets of tin (to repair roofs) was divided between 100 families. We would love to do more because not every one got food and tin in the community. Most of all thank you for your

prayers, generosity and loving heart towards the people in Haiti.

There were two other Haitian preachers with me who preached to the crowd, giving the gospel of Christ and a hope of eternal salvation. We don't know how many trusted Christ after we left, but they heard the gospel. I wish I could spend more time with the people of Les Cayes, but the money has run out and I had to go home. The old saying is out



People waiting to get some roofing tin to repair their homes

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

18 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

The Glory of the Lord Shone Round About Them

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord, came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." Luke 2:9.

On what otherwise was a quiet and ordinary night the shepherds trembled as they witnessed the unusual appearance of an angel. This magnificent sight frightened them, but soon they heard the message that had been predicted for centuries. The Messiah had come!

That very night, a Savior, Jesus, had been born. The shepherds were among the first to share in the glory of His birth. But praise be to the Lord, the splendor of that night continues to shine forth every time a lost sinner receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior. May we celebrate the glory of Christ's birth during this Christmas season!

The children and staff of the Home would like to convey our thoughts, prayers, and best wishes to you during this Christmas season. Thank you for your friendship, prayers, and love. May the joy of Christ fill your hearts. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Special Emphasis

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the response thus far to the 2016 Special Emphasis for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home for the months of October and November. As this emphasis time comes to a close we would like to thank each church, Sunday School class, auxiliary, and individual for your participation in meeting the needs of the Home through your generous giving. May the Lord richly bless you all according to his riches in glory by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Student Recognized on Awards Day

Recently our sixth grade girl received the Student of the Month Award and also the Principal's List for the first nine weeks of the school year. We rejoice to see our girls and boys do well in their studies at school.



Student of the Month

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your daily prayers. "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." Luke 2:9.

site out of mind, but in this case it is out of site and on my heart.

My prayer is that in the weeks to come this letter would affect your heart for the victims of Haiti. I am so thankful for all that you have done and sacrificed, but please do not forget this mis-

sion field. We Love you all in Christ.

For the cause of Christ in Haiti. Michel Poirier (418) 209-3710, 52 Rte Président Kennedy, Vallee Jonction. Qc. Canada, G0S3J0. Email: ostervald@axion.ca or pastorpoirier@gmail.com



Two young boys trying to help with donated rice

The Women in Jesus' Lineage

continued from page 1

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 practice. 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 lineage 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.

Christ can come right here, right now, this very minute, and in this very place into your life if you will ask Him to do so.

Oak Grove Association Report

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met with Cornerstone Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on November 17. Following a wonderful meal served by the church, the meeting began at 7:00 with ten churches being represented. Bro. Kenneth Flynt was present to speak on behalf of the Commission on Senior Adults. The message was delivered by Cornerstone Pastor, Bro. Glen Pace.

The next meeting will be with Good Hope Baptist Church near Columbia on January 12. Each year, the January meeting is designated as the time for a rally for the Children's Home. Each church is encouraged to be represented and come to be a blessing to the Children's Home.

God put a cross
between you and hell.
If you want to go to hell,
you will have to crawl
over the cross of Jesus

Missions Report - continued from page 3

South Forrest Baptist Mission Baptized Three Recently

Recently, The Big Creek Baptist Church "J.O.Y." Group visited South Forrest and received a tour of the facility and a presentation from Missionary Sidney Farmer concerning the work at South Forrest. Big Creek raised over \$500.00 as a special offering which was donated to South Forrest. The membership at South Forrest now stands at 51 after these most recent baptisms.



Missionary Philip Burns recently baptized two at Day Star Mission. Above with Jennifer Davis and below with Carie Tomblin



pray that God will open the door for us to find a used mobile home or a large enough RV to meet this need.

Bro. Marroquin also reported that the mission in Biloxi will hold its first

cooperate Sunday School at Temple Baptist Church next Sunday. They are expecting 15-20 people to attend. This is a huge step forward and we request that you lift them up in your prayers. Missionary Jaimes Galicia, brother of Bro. Rodolfo Galicia, has stepped up to lead in the mission, along with his brother George, after the debilitating health issue of Bro. Rodolfo.

Mission and Mother Church Work Together to Host Evangelism Event

Campground Baptist Church and Pastor Bryan Atwood, will host an outreach event during Mardi Gras along the Mississippi Gulf Coast on February 17-18, 2017. Missionary Wesley Martin and members of Redemption Baptist Mission will be participating in this event. The two day event begins with outreach training at 6:00 pm at Campground Baptist Church on Friday, February 17th (Meal will be provided.). The following day, participants will gather at 9:30 am and the event will go until 2:00 pm. If you have a group from your church that would like to participate, call Pastor Bryan Atwood at 228-224-



Big Creek Church JOY Group visits South Forrest Baptist Mission

6466 to register. The cost is \$35.00 and this covers the price of a T-Shirt and the purchase of Bibles. Please register by February 1, 2017.

Revolving Loan Fund Update

Our RLF Fund continues to be sound with plenty of money available to loan. Our current rate of interest on loans is 4.25%. We can also loan money to refinance and pay off a loan which your church may have taken with a commercial bank.

Contact Us - You can email us at missions@bmams.org or call us at 601-428-8616. Visit our website at www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

President
Linda Smith
2816 Old Bay Springs Rd.
Laurel, MS 39440
601-470-1398



Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Mississippi State WMA Treasurer's Report

November 1, 2016

Shirlene Smith, Treasurer

Mississippi State WMA Project for 2015-2016

75% WATER FOR CHRIST \$13,386.23
25% GENERAL FUND \$ 2,096.69
Total Received \$15,482.92

The WMA voted to transfer \$1,613.77 from the General Fund to make a total of \$5,000.00 for Water 4 Christ to finance the drilling of another well in Ghana, Africa. This makes a total of \$15,000.00 given this year. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl, contributed \$5,000.00 for a well and the Mississippi State WMA contributed a total of \$10,000.00 for two wells. We are indeed grateful to God for blessing the WMA to be able to give this amount—the most that has ever been given in one year to a project!

After contributing \$2,000.00 to the hurricane relief fund in Haiti and other special projects, the balance in the State WMA General Fund at this time is \$7,319.26. Our project for 2016-2017 is Water 4 Christ and the General Fund. May God give us another year of record-breaking giving for His honor and glory! Please send your funds for the State Project and General Fund to: Shirlene Smith; 730 Highway 533; Laurel, MS 39443. God bless each of you.

BMA of Mississippi Churches receiving certificates for contributing \$100.00 or more to the WMA Project

Berean Baptist Church, Soso
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso
East Amory Baptist Church, Amory
East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton
First Baptist Church, Bay springs
First Baptist Church, Calhoun
First Baptist Church,
Henleyfield (Mary Rhoden)
First Baptist Church, Shady Grove
Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton
Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel
Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church,
Picayune
Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale
Paramount Baptist Church, Wiggins
Parkview Baptist Church,
Gautier, Reunion Offering
Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel
Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis

Sharon Baptist Church, Laurel
Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl
Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale
Ten Mile Baptist Church, Wiggins
Vardaman St. Baptist Church,
Wiggins
Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg

Associations:

Washington Asso. District WMA
Hoblochitto Asso. District WMA

Top Five Churches in Contributions

Skyway Hills, Pearl \$5,774.76
Parkview, Laurel 1,000.00
First, Calhoun 920.00
Temple, Lucedale 820.00
Vardaman St. Church 722.40

Girls Missionary Auxilliary

State Youth Auxiliary Director
Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011



State GMA Promoter
Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
becky@southforrest.org

GMA Officer Report

by Amy Mitchell, State GMA Historian

Hey guys! We are so excited to have camp this year and we've been working hard to make it a good and fun one. We'd like everyone to come join us March 17th & 18th. The theme for this year is the Peace of God and the verse is Philippians 4:17. Please pray for the camp for God's will to be done. Can't wait to see y'all!

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department



Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth

Kelby Johnson
Director

As we come to the end of another year, many people will reflect back over the past 12 months and think of all that has taken place. For many, it was a great year! Blessings abounded. For others, it was a year filled with difficulties and trials. For most of us, it was a mixture. We faced ups and downs, but we know our God was with us every step of the way! Regardless of how your 2016 went, we can all look forward to 2017. We can hope and pray for a better year! We can be excited to see our families and churches move forward in the way the Lord has called us to go. And as we look into 2017, we have 3 dates we encourage you to mark on your calendar.

The "Sharpen" Youth Leadership Conference returns this year and will be on February 18 at Temple Baptist in Laurel. Bro. Josh Daniels will be the speaker.

The State Youth Camp will be June 5-7 at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center. Bro. Donnie Parrish will be the speaker.

The State Youth Mission Day will be on June 24.

We will release more information about each event in the coming weeks!

As you look forward to 2017, I encourage you to take part in our activities so that we can enjoy fellowship with our churches and strengthen the faith of our children and youth in the BMA of Mississippi. Your State Youth Department wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Daniel Springs Investment



By Jason Prewitt, Camp Director

Daniel Springs invests in young lives. Since 1965, countless children and teenagers have attended camp with over 10,000 professing faith in Christ! Many BMA pastors and missionaries have surrendered to ministry under the roof of the main tabernacle. The investment Daniel Springs has made into the lives of our young people has produced great fruit.

Now, the camp is in need of investment. Over the past two years, lower-than-expected income has resulted in a difficult financial position. Most likely, the camp will be forced to borrow money to cover operating expenses this year.

The camp belongs to BMA churches. That's why I want to make the need known to you. We need an increase of \$13,000 in monthly support. We are asking churches and individuals to prayerfully consider helping.

The need is urgent and the cause is great. If Daniel Springs has invested in your life, would you be willing to invest in the life of Daniel Springs? With your help, we can ensure a great camp experience for BMA young people for years to come.

You can give online at danielsprings.com/give or by sending support (marked "Daniel Springs") to P.O. Box 1749, Conway, AR 72033.

Thank you in advance for your Daniel Springs investment.