

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

December 2017

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## The Lost Christ of Christmas

by Adrian Rogers  
from a previous issue

If you're not careful, you may lose Jesus this Christmas season. Rather than drawing us closer to Christ, our eyes get distracted by parties and gifts. Many times there's a let-down in our prayer life, soul winning, and witnessing. In the very midst of the Christmas celebration, we lose the Lord Jesus.

Now we can never "lose" Him in the sense of our relationship with Him. Once God puts His mighty hands around you through Jesus Christ, no power can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39). But there's a difference between relationship and fellowship.

If you lose fellowship with Him you're going to be sorrowful. That's what happened to Mary and Joseph in Luke chapter 2. After a wonderful Passover trip to Jerusalem, they went a day's journey without realizing Jesus wasn't with them! "Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing," they said when they returned and found Him.

Irony of ironies, in the midst

of Passover, a religious celebration symbolic of Him, they lost Jesus! If you're not careful, you may do the same - lose the Christ

saved one out of fellowship with Jesus.

If Mary and Joseph, the two people most intimately associ-

ated with Jesus, could lose fellowship, then any of us could!

Some of God's best saints - Noah, David, Samson, Peter - did at one time. The closer you are to Jesus, the more fire you're going

*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

Luke 1:32-33



*May God Grant You and Your Family a Blessed Christmas Celebration.*

The Editor and Trustees - Mississippi Baptist

of Christmas in the midst of Christmas.

There's always sorrow when we lose fellowship with Jesus. The most miserable person on earth isn't a lost person, but a

lost person. The closer you are to Jesus, the more fire you're going

to take from the devil. He aims his biggest guns at God's best. You can lose Him in strange places. You can lose your sense of the Lord Jesus while working on the Christmas music and all the festivities. Jesus had rather have you sit at His feet than sing in the choir. He'd rather you spend quiet time alone with Him on your knees than be in church. I'm not against being in church or singing in the choir. But if you're not careful, the things you do become a substitute for your love for Christ. They can come between you and the Lord.

### How They Lost Him

Mary and Joseph, "supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey" (v. 4). Are you "supposing" the Lord Jesus is with you? Have you really checked? Does God's Spirit bear witness with your spirit that Jesus is a right, living real-

ity to you? You can go to church, hear sermons, take notes, sing hymns, give money - and suppose you're in fellowship with Christ, but note! Sometimes even in the middle of religious celebrations you can lose Him, going away one step at a time.

That's how people backslide. Mary and Joseph lost Him one step at a time. They walked away, taking for granted He was with them.

It's dangerous to think we're right with God when we're not. Samson rose up to fight the Philistines not knowing "the Spirit of God had departed." The Laodicean church "knew not." It was "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

Take inventory If God's Spirit is not vibrant in your heart, if there was ever a time you loved Jesus Christ more than you love Him at this moment, to that degree you're backslidden.

You might have left Him when you started neglecting the secret place of prayer. You'll find Him when you go back to that secret place of prayer. You might have started neglecting the house of worship. That's where you'll find Him. You might have left Him when some grudge arose in your heart. You'll find Him when you go back and make that right. You may have left Him when some grievous sin or habit entered.

### Where Did They Find Him Again?

Right where they left Him. And so will you. You're going to find Him right back where you lost Him. Jesus is right there. You're the one who moved.

Let these thoughts be a warning to our hearts in the Christmas season. Help us, Lord, not to get so wrapped up in the things of Christmas that we lose You in the midst of the celebration.

## "...rejoice that the Lamb of God has come"

from newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi - Jason Goodwin, pastor

"I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt." Exodus 12:12-13

God's people had become slaves in Egypt. Joseph has been sold into slavery when he was a teenager by his brothers and ended up a slave in Potiphar's

house. He worked diligently and earned Potiphar's favor, but that also meant trouble for Joseph. Time and time again he was able to avoid the advancements of Potiphar's wife, but the last time Joseph desperately had to run away from the seductress while she held



onto his cloak. That is how he ended up in prison, but he didn't let that get him down.

Joseph served faithfully in the prison till he had earned the respect of all the guards and officials. His ability to interpret dreams even came in handy for

continued on page 7

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson  
Director



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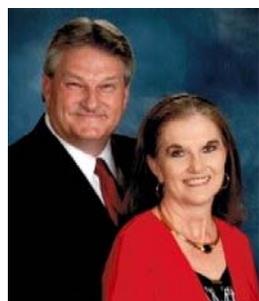
Ed & Patricia  
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Merry Christmas

Cherita and I want to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas. A couple of years ago, I opened my Christmas letter with these remarks, "...this is a great time to count our blessings, and among our blessings this year was the news that our son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Nikki, are going to have their fourth child in early February 2015." This year I repeat those opening remarks, only this time it is number five and she is due on January 25, 2018. The child's name is to be



Larry & Cherita  
Geraldson

Rachel Elizabeth.

Like the story of Mary, Rachel and Elizabeth are tremendous iconic figures in prophetic history. Their birth experiences had so much in common: both were barren, and like Mary, both were touched by God in a miraculous way. Gen 30:22 says, "And God remembered Rachel,..." We are so grateful that God remembers.

Christmas is all about remembering the miraculous event of our Lord's virgin birth. On that glorious day, our Saviour invaded, through the stall of an unnamed Inn Keeper, a fallen world guarded by Satan and all his demons, in which we all found ourselves in bondage. Simeon would rightly testify to God the Father about this baby Jesus, a few days later at the temple, "...mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Luke 2:30b Paul would encourage Titus in chapter 2 to, "... adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,..." What JOY! GLORY!

I've said it before and I'll say it again, among the many reasons we serve the Lord through missions is to ensure that our children and grandchildren have the liberty to know this story and to adorn this doctrine and receive this grace. As those precious children's voices echo in the background of this season, "Oh come let us adore Him...", I challenge you to remember that our work is not done! There is more to do! I cannot think of a better time of the year for all of us to speak the gospel, through the Christmas story, directly to our children.

As Cherita and I plan to spend some time with our children and grandchildren, as we always do by God's grace, I look forward with excitement to seeing their little faces glow as they open their presents. But most of all, I look forward to whispering in their little ears the story of Jesus. For this is my first and most important mission field. Merry Christmas and God bless each of you! - Larry Geraldson

**Thank You, from Redemption at Diamondhead**  
I am very thankful for the blessings we have received

this year. The things that are happening at Redemption can only be explained as God. We have been blessed with new families throughout the year that have become a vital part of our ministry. I am proud of the church family that we have. They are constantly loving



Redemption Church, Diamondhead

people and serving where needed. Now our people are committed to discipleship. They are growing spiritually and preparing for great things to come. I want to thank the Association and all of the churches for your prayers and support. You are a part of the work and we could not accomplish these things without you. - Bro. Wesley Martin

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year From Central in Southaven

We were so blessed in 2017! We give God all the glory



Central Southaven New Facility



and praise! We are thankful for the investment of the BMA of Mississippi in the work going on here! God added many families and we saw souls saved this year! We also were able to open the building on November 5th. We look forward to hosting the Mid-Year Meeting in May! May God pour out His blessing on the entire state work in 2018!!! - Bro. Anders Lee

Grace Baptist Mission, Clinton

Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving to the Lord for all the blessings He gave us this past year at Grace Baptist Church. Thanksgiving for your faithful prayer

and financial support. Thanksgiving for the new people He added to our church family. And recently, thanksgiving for having the first Sunday services November



Grace Baptist Mission, Clinton

5th in our new building! We would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! "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." Isaiah 9:6. - Bro. Danny Bartlett



New Church Sign

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! - Homestretch, Cleveland

The HomeStretch family is grateful for this holiday season. We had one of the most productive years yet, in terms of evangelism. On the other hand, this has been



HomeStretch Baptist Church

by far the most challenging year. I am grateful for the grace that God has given me to do the work of the ministry. We are looking to whatever challenge lies ahead of us this coming year. With each trial and tribulation, we hope to develop a deeper dependence on God. Luke 2:10, says, "And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." - Bro. Ed DuVall

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! - Day Star, Sumrall

We are very thankful for God's blessing upon Day Star Baptist Church throughout this past year. It has been amazing to watch our church grow in number as

continued on page 8

## Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

# Teenage Depression

Merry Christmas from the Lee family! I'm thankful I have the opportunity to share with you throughout the year in this section of the paper. I hope you all have a blessed Christmas!

No one wants to talk about depression during the holidays! The title of the article might have surprised you. I want to address it because depression for many, especially teens, is at its height during Christmas and into January. That sounds crazy, but it's true. Researchers tell us (ref. Barna Research Group) that in polls and surveys they conduct, around 6.9% of Americans (approximately 16 million people) experience depression. That percentage increases to around 11% (approximately 25.2 million people) during the holidays.

It is interesting to note that the percentages of Christians in America who experience depression are about the same percentage of non-churched people. Let me make something clear. Christian leaders once linked depression to someone being under the weight of their own sin. I actually heard a Pastor say one time from the pulpit that believers shouldn't be depressed. "The joy of the Lord is their strength!" If they have no

joy, he asserted, then they are "in a state of sin!" That statement by that brother marked my mind till this day. While it is true that sin will cause depression, sin is not always to blame.



Anders Lee

The vast amount of Christians who struggle with it are going through a deep trial in their life or they have a chemical imbalance that they personally cannot physically overcome without medical help.

I personally know several very godly people who have battled depression. Scott Attebery, Director of Disciple Guide in the BMA, wrote a blog last year about his own battle with depression. My father, a long time pastor and very spiritual man, has battled it on and off through the years. Through my years of ministry, I've known some of the most spiritual people who have gone through it. I have to mention that even Charles Spurgeon and Martin

Luther admitted to bouts with depression in their writings. Youth pastors and pastors should not ignore this in their congregations and they shouldn't approach people struggling with it as if they are in the pit of sin. Help them instead!

In years past, I've known teens who have gone through depression. One in particular went from being active and fun to be around, to distant and

teens, statistically you will see 2-8 of them, over a four year period, have bouts with, even long term problems with depression. You need to know how to recognize it if you have never been around it. Some teens end up so far gone before someone knows and they commit suicide when they could have been loved and helped!

### Recognize the key signs of depression among teens.

Here are some that I have learned through the years or have gathered from different sources.

- *Dramatic change in personality or appearance. All teens change and do things to get attention, so the key word here is "dramatic."*

- *Irrational behavior or acting "weird."*

- *Overwhelming sense of guilt, shame or rejection.*

- *Severe drop in academic performance.*

- *Loss of interests, such as the sport they played, friends they hang with, even video games.*

- *Irritability, agitation and impatience with people.*

- *Loss of sleep or disturbed sleep patterns along with eating disturbances which result in decreased energy and chronic fatigue.*

- *Ongoing feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness or pessimism.*

- *Major depression brings about thoughts or verbalizations about death or suicide.*

*You need to know how to recognize it if you have never been around it.*

almost non-responsive. Most people around this person after a period of time, labeled this teen as being "weird." Later, after much encouragement, the parents got medical help. Not all kids need to be on medication, but this particular one did. Puberty had launched a major change that had resulted in a modification of how serotonin was produced. The levels were so low, doctors were astonished! They stated they had never seen a teen with a serotonin level that low. Within three months, after medication, we saw a drastic change for the positive. We were all relieved to have the real person back!

If you have a youth group (or a church) that runs 40 - 50

I'm sure others could add to that check list, but know this, if 3 or 4 of these are true they could be trending towards depression. If 5 or 6 or more of these are true of a teen in your group, they are in a state of depression. They need help! So what are you going to do? Here are some suggestions.

1. Talk to their parents and see if they are noticing the same things. Tell them you are concerned and only care for their child. They may be so busy with life and two or three or four kids that they haven't noticed. If they haven't noticed, encourage them to begin observation. If they have, give them options and offer help.

2. Talk directly to the teen (with the parents' permission). Let them know you are there for them if they need someone. Ask good questions related to what you see. Don't forget, Jesus asked questions too! You may get the answer from them right off the bat once you show genuine concern for them! Teens don't really care how much you know, they mostly want to know you care!

3. Encourage the parents to get a complete physical done. It may reveal the problem as being a chemical imbalance that can be treated almost immediately.

4. Give them good references to a godly Christian counselor. If you haven't had the opportunity to get references yet, it's time to be determining who you can recommend to your people in times like these.

5. Pray with them and for them fervently! Encourage them frequently! Love them faithfully! Assure them that the Lord is Jehovah Rapha who can heal all the problems of the soul! Lead them to pray and cry out to the Lord for help! The Holy Spirit can do a work in them that no one else can!

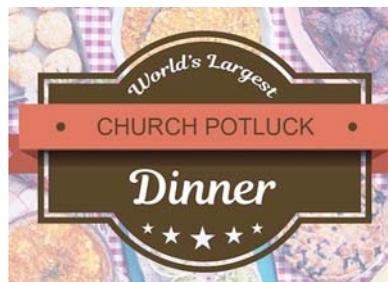
One last word of advice on the matter. If you feel like you are "in over your head" with a specific situation now or in the future, turn to a seasoned pastor or youth pastor who has been down this road. In ministry we don't always have all the answers or experience. Get help so that they can get the help needed!

Have a blessed Christmas, but in the middle of all the festivities, don't overlook the hurting!

*Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

## You Haven't Missed the Potluck!

Thanksgiving has come and gone, but the holiday season is just beginning. If your local church missed out on hosting its World's Largest Potluck offering during Thanksgiving, there's



offering can be during the from Thanksgiving. It's not too late to invest in the of the BMA. DiscipleGuide needs your church's help to reach the goal of raising \$200,000.

When we reach this goal, not only will we be able to continue providing free services to our churches, such as our church revitalization services, help line for pastors, and web-casts to local churches, but we will also be able to provide new services such as an intentional interim program and pastor search services to help churches without pastors. We even have plans to offer teacher trainings, provide resources for pastor's wives, and special conferences for men and women.

As you are thanking God for His blessing on your church this holiday season, be a blessing to other churches by participating in our Potluck Offering.

Visit [discipleguide.org/potluckgiving](http://discipleguide.org/potluckgiving) to give. You can also give by mailing donations to P.O. Box 1749, Conway, AR 72033.

## What does Lifeword do with Walk/Lifeword Sunday contributions?

Lifeword's season of giving continues as BMA churches send in contributions from Walk fund-raising and Lifeword Sunday offerings. Churches who registered for Lifeword Sunday and send in all or partial contributions by December 11 are entered to win two free passages on DiscipleGuide's Church Leaders Cruise January 13-18. If your church gives to Lifeword through LWS/Walk giving, make sure it is registered.

So where do churches' Walk/Lifeword Sunday offerings go? Since the first walk in October of 1980, church contributions from Lifeword's flagship fund-raiser have accounted for one third of the annual budget. The remaining two thirds comes from generous supporters: BMA churches, auxiliaries, groups, and individuals.

Lifeword Chief Financial Officer Steve Crawley says, "While there is no separate fund balance for Lifeword Sunday or Walk funds, 100% of contributions marked 'Walk' or 'Lifeword Sunday' go directly to the field: gospel broadcasts in 40 languages and 121 countries."

As BMA churches continue to keep Bro. Steve and Ellen Siler (fund accountant) busy during this time of year, we want to give a sincere "Thank you!" to our "boots on the ground," our Team Lifeword leaders who plan and implement fund-raising on our behalf. We do not take for granted the generous churches and church members who partner with us.

Call Holly at 501-205-1127 or email [holly@lifeword](mailto:holly@lifeword) if you have any questions.



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Glory to God in the highest

*And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

Luke 1:30-33

### A Most Wonderful Time

Well, December has rolled around again and the thoughts of many are turned to the Christmas season. A popular song uses the words "It's the most wonderful time of the year". The gift of Christ to mankind for the remission of our sins is a most wonderful thing to be thankful for. Christmas time is certainly a special time and it is important for believers to not lose sight of the wonderful gift that has been given through Christ. We give gifts to loved ones because of our love. That is why we rejoice in knowing that we are loved by God and He bestowed that love upon us in such a sacrificial and loving way.

Gifts will be given, hearts will be thrilled and God's people will celebrate the birth of the Savior! The world uses the term "Christmas", but to the large majority it holds no religious or spiritual significance.

Our loving heavenly Father came to this earth in the form of His only Son on a mission. Jesus himself told us in Luke 19:10 that "...the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

That was His mission. He paid the price for salvation so those who come to Him by faith alone might have eternal life.

We give because He gave! May this Christmas be special to those who believe and may those who do not know Him as their personal Savior see the true meaning and purpose of this time of year and turn their hearts toward Him. Let us who have placed our faith in Him continue to be on that same mission - telling others about Jesus and His love for them.

As we look around at the condition and standards of the world, we know the need is great. Pray for those who do not know Him. Share Him with those in need!

### A Wonderful January

Another 'most wonderful time' for this ministry is the month of January each year. It is the time set aside by the Association to take a Special Offering for Publications. We will send information and literature to each of our churches in a few weeks. We ask that you do as you have done every year for the past 40 years - Give A Special Offering to the ministry of your Mississippi Baptist Paper.

Have a blessed Christmas!

### From The Mind of Chuck Lee

## Blending In

I am the youngest of five children. I know what you are thinking, that mom and dad saved the best for last, all the good looks and brains settled to the bottom, or even that mom and dad figured they had achieved perfection and so ended their quest for the perfect child. This is all true. It's a burden that I humbly bear. After all, humility is

my greatest feature, even ahead of my incredibly good looks, charisma, and charm. Oh yeah, and my super-duper smarts. After years of carrying this load, I decided to conceal my virtues so that they wouldn't stand out so much. I must say that even in this I have achieved greatness. So much so, that people never even mention the features that are so obvious to me - my incredibly good looks, charisma, charm, and super-duper smarts.

I've perfected the art of blending in with the common people

so well, that sometimes I can be in a crowd of people and nobody will even acknowledge my existence. In fact, the other day I had to tell someone that I was even



Bro. Chuck Lee

#### QUOTE FROM ARTICLE

I've tried so hard to hide my greatness, that it is often that people can't even remember that we have met before.

greatness, that it is often that people can't even remember that we have met before. A year ago, I was in revival at a church that had morning and evening services all week. On the closing night of services, this one lady had the audacity to say that I looked vaguely familiar. I had preached eleven messages from the pulpit, in front of her, and

she just now acknowledged my existence. "It's me, Mom"! Maybe I have taken this blending in thing a little too far.

I may have to see if I can reverse the

way people view me so they can once again see my excellence. I hope it hasn't changed me to the point that nobody can see the true me. Again, "It's me, Mom"!

Seems like saved people do about the same thing. In Christ, we have been given the privilege of being the children of God, but we try to blend in with the world. Sooner or later, this blending in may make you unrecognizable for who you truly are in Christ.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)

in the room before they recognized my presence. And it's a good thing too, because my legs were falling asleep. If they wouldn't have gotten off my lap, I may not have been able to walk. Still, I think screaming and trying to impale me with an ice cream spoon was a little over the top. It's as if they had never mistaken a person sitting in a recliner for an empty seat before. I may not go to the family reunion again next year if this keeps up.

I've tried so hard to hide my

### Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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# Southeastern Baptist College

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*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

## President's Perspective

Merry Christmas! In the last few Mississippi Baptist publications, I shared three of five talking points for the promotion of Southeastern Baptist College. The first three talking points are:

1. SBC Equips the Saints.
2. SBC Exalts Christ.
3. SBC Expounds God's Word

Point four is: SBC Pursues Excellence.

Okay, get ready, because I get to do a little bragging with this point.

Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

When I first arrived on campus for the first time almost two years ago, one of my first interests was the level of professionalism among our employees. As I began to integrate into the Jones County community, I soon discovered that SBC holds a tremendous amount of respect, not only locally, but throughout the entire state of Mississippi! I met person after person who either was an alumnus, or who was a previous teacher, or that person personally knew of somebody in either category. Every single one of them had nothing but the highest accolades to share with me about the positive influence the college has had. I was totally "blown away" by this school's reputation. I am proud to be part of this great institution with its dedication to excellence in Christian education!

And, following in the footsteps of this fabulous academic legacy, our current Southeastern Baptist College professors and staff are totally dedicated to the pursuit of excellence. They are "all in" and we have the statistics to prove it! Southeastern Baptist College has been rated in the top 25 of Online Bible Colleges for two years in a row! Think about that for a moment. Out of hundreds of Bible colleges across the U.S., SBC is in the top tier among these schools! We may not be the biggest, nor amidst average sized colleges, but our little school is head and shoulders above these larger institutions when it comes to quality in education among the graduates we produce!

This past week I was informed that Niche.com lists SBC as the #8 Best Christian College in Mississippi and the

#17 Best College overall among all higher learning institutions in Mississippi for 2018! Our professors possess accredited and prestigious degrees in conjunction with a tremendous amount of practical experience. This has enabled them to elevate SBC to phenomenal levels of recognition among academia. These awards are a direct reflection on the character and practice of those who work for you!

In addition, in 2017, we were first recognized as a Silver level Veteran Friendly School. Most recently, we were notified that we are elevated to Gold level status as a Veteran Friendly College for 2018! Veterans across America will be informed that, if they choose to attend SBC, they can be confident in knowing that we love our veterans and will lovingly encourage them toward success in their scholastic endeavors.

These accomplishments cannot be done without the passionate pursuit of excellence among our staff and teachers. They are the reason SBC is rated among the best of the best within academic circles throughout Mississippi and across the U.S.

It is exciting to witness first hand employees of your college living the testimony in accordance with Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

## Donors Dinner

We recently honored our much appreciated individual supporters at a Donor



Dr. Carson delivering the State of the College address at the Donor and Volunteer Dinner in the college gym on November 30, 2017



Andrew Ishee performs live for those attending the Donor and Volunteer Dinner. colleges when you can earn your incredibly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today to register for the Spring semester.

and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with a full concert by Andrew Ishee, a multi-talented Christian entertainer. What a great night of celebration! See the related pictures of this great annual event.

## Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication.

## Landscaping Project

Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has graciously volunteered to lead a project to beautify the landscaping of our campus. A major initiative she is promoting is the transferring of flower bulbs from private gardens to SBC. If you would like donate bulbs and participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.



A picture of those who braved the heavy fog to attend the Donor and Volunteer Dinner.

## Yes!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other

dormitory; upgrades to our apartments; new flooring in offices and hallways. This list is not exhaustive, but these are some of the projects that are toward the top of our list.

## You Left Free Money on the Table?

Wow! If I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift toward my college education at one of the finest Christian institutions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Spring semester? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside available for you! Our recruiter, Justin Rhodes, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Brother Ronnie regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

## VA Benefits

What a wonderful announcement! SBC has been elevated to the 2018 Gold Award

**SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE**

★★★★★

**CARSON'S ARMY**

Levels of Donor Giving

<p>General - \$10,000</p> <p>★ \$833 per month over 12 months \$461 per month over 24 months</p>	<p>Colonel - \$7,500</p> <p>✶ \$625 per month over 12 months \$312 per month over 24 months</p>
<p>Major - \$5,000</p> <p>✪ \$416 per month over 12 months \$208 per month over 24 months</p>	<p>Captain - \$2,500</p> <p>✫ \$208 per month over 12 months \$104 per month over 24 months</p>

Please fill in the following information and return to Southeastern Baptist College to enlist in Carson's Army:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

At which level would you like to enlist?

<input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonel
<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift	<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month
<input type="checkbox"/> Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Captain
<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift	<input type="checkbox"/> One time gift
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 month
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 month



**THANKS**  
for your faithful support!

continued on page 7

## MORAL ACTION

**Baptist Missionary Association of America**

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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

On The Web at [www.macbma.net/](http://www.macbma.net/)

Email - [fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com)



John Adams

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

### Judeo-Christian Heritage Series Euthanasia – The Right To Die

Exodus 23:7

Euthanasia is morally and Biblically wrong. As believers we should seek to safe guard the God-given right to life, to which every person is entitled. If you're very old, mentally ill, severely handicapped, according to humanistic philosophy your life is in danger.

These individuals that have God-given life and spiritual desires should be treated with compassion and encouragement. Proverbs 6:16-19...."The Lord hates....hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked plans." We are urged to "keep far from a false matter....in not slaying the innocent or righteous." Those individuals who wish to destroy other individuals by injections are classified as "wicked".

### Historical Aspects of Euthanasia

When Hitler of Germany issued his direct order for euthanasia in 1939, all German state institutions were required to report on patients who had been ill for at least five years or who were unable to work. The decision regarding which patients should be killed as made entirely on the basis of a brief questionnaire. The Nazi authorities who pronounced their death sentences were professors of psychiatry at major universities in Germany. They never saw the individuals themselves.

The first to be killed in the 1940s and at other holocaust times during the Middle Age wars were the aged, the infirmed, the senile, the mentally retarded, and defective children. The German Nazi power even went so far to exterminate children with badly modeled ears, epileptic children, and bed-wetters.

According to American News Service Publication, "The mass extermination of Germany's undesirables started with the acceptance of the attitude basic to euthanasia philosophy, that there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived." That is exactly what is being accepted today in the abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia movement.

### Present Day Concept of Euthanasia

Euthanasia is not a mere fear for the future. It has survived and is now present in American Medical practice. Even today doctors in the United States are debating whether it is better to starve "undesirables" to death or to

administer fatal injections. "Voices in our government are looking for ways to reduce health care costs," Mercy Killing by Denyse Handlen.

Well meaning people are attracted to what might seem to be the beneficial aspects of some sort of euthanasia. Americans must not be misled or tranquilized by assurances that the practice is limited to the terminally ill. Abortion was once proposed as a last resort in desperate cases, but today it is commonplace. "To say that this subject can be carefully controlled is either naïve or deceitful", The Right To Live, The Right To Die – C. Everett Koop.

Former Governor Richard Lamb of Colorado shocked the nation when he told a group of health lawyers that "sick people have a duty to die and get out of the way and let the well society build a reasonable life." There is even now a Church of Euthanasia!

### The Biblical Perspective of the Right To Life

I Corinthians 3:16-17 reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in us. That makes life very precious to God and to us. As the movement continues to gather momentum, euthanasia is moving into the spotlight as the great moral issue of the 21st century. Turning to the Bible for answers is the only possible guideline. This so-called Society is one of 26 organizations of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

The Word encourages life for all ages: Psalms 8:2 for babies; Psalms 127:3-5 for children; Matthew 5:21 for adults.

For more information:  
[www.euthanasiaprocon.org](http://www.euthanasiaprocon.org),  
[www.euthanasia.com](http://www.euthanasia.com)

### Glory to God in the Highest

At this particular time of the year Christmas music adds to the great atmosphere of the season. Everyone has a favorite tune or a special carol. The songs that we as believers sing at this time of the year seem to make the worship services just a little more special. These songs have wonderful messages. Through their words we celebrate the angel's message to the shepherds, the humble place of Christ's birth, or we pledge our adoration to God for His great gift. Once again this year you will hear your favorite songs of Christmas. Let the music lift your heart to the Lord. Join in the singing. Add your voice to the chorus of praise to Jesus!!!

### Recent Visit to the Home

On December 2nd, the youth of the Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church near



Mulberry Church Visit

Richton visited the Home and gave a miscellaneous pounding of items that they had gathered together for the Home. The youth of Mulberry also treated the girls, boys, and Pat and myself with lunch at one of the local restaurants. We enjoyed our time with them and are appreciative of their interest in the ministry of the Home.

### Christmas with the Children's Home

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and pastor Greg Medenwald Sunday evening December 3rd, for their annual "Christmas with the Children's Home" service. They always make this service special for the children. Thank you for the gifts and your prayerful and financial support of this ministry.



Magnolia Church Service

### Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Your prayers are always an encouragement to us. Continue to remember the girls, boys, and ministry of the Home in your prayers. As Christmas approaches may we say with the angels in unison, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

## BMA America Information Services Reminder

### Don't forget to fill out the Annual Church Survey!

By providing the most up-to-date information, your church helps BMA America connect, build relationships and understand the impact BMA churches are making through their local communities with the gospel.

Please choose one of the following options to provide BMA America with the most accurate information for your church.

### What Can My Church Do?

1. Visit [bmaamerica.org](http://bmaamerica.org) to view and edit your church information. Once on the website, select the "BMA Churches" tab listed at the top, then click on "BMA Church Log In."
2. Fill out the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail to: BMA America, PO Box 1188, Conway, AR 72033
3. Request an emailed copy of the survey by contacting Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or [lauren@bmaamerica.org](mailto:lauren@bmaamerica.org)

### Greenwood Church, Dorsey

Seniors from Greenwood Church enjoyed a picnic on the campgrounds of Wayne and Leatrice's farm on October 25. The camp, overlooking a beautiful lake, is nestled in pine and hardwood with a rustic cabin that has a 60 foot long front porch filled with a swing a each end and an assortment of chairs. All 47 in attendance enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs in a setting with a campfire and surrounded by bales of hay. We enjoyed a time of good food and sweet fellowship.

## Compass Classic to be Offered in Spring Quarter

Does your church prefer the traditional format of Compass literature, without the blanks and questions?

Beginning spring 2018, DiscipleGuide will offer Compass Classic, the traditional format of literature. In order to receive copies for your church, pre-order Compass Classic by December 10. Compass Classic can be ordered online at [discipleguide.org/classic](http://discipleguide.org/classic), by calling 1-800-333-1442, or emailing



[info@discipleguide.org](mailto:info@discipleguide.org).

Because DiscipleGuide will now offer both Compass and Compass Classic, every adult class in your local church will be able to choose the format they prefer while all studying the same lesson. Samples of Compass Classic will be placed in each shipment of DiscipleGuide curriculum this winter so that every church can get a preview. If your church needs additional samples of Compass Classic, contact DiscipleGuide today!

## 2017 SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE Like A Family Reunion

This year's Senior Adult Conference was a time of worship and relaxation as members of churches from various states gathered in a family atmosphere.

Speaker Don Chandler, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, delivered three messages entitled, "Defeating Your Goliath," which related the story of David and Goliath to the giants we face in life.



Don Chandler preaching



Dr. Scott Attebery introducing the conference

"David Attebery and Neil Dumas led worship, and I received countless comments on how good they were at leading," said DiscipleGuide Conference Director Thomas Mobly.

Conference goers also attended the Miracle of Christmas at the Sight and Sound Theater. The musical was a favorite due to a top of the line

performance, as well as the heartening presentation of the Christmas story. The CBC Singers also graced attendees with a performance, and Steve Green delivered an inspiring concert.

In addition to the time of family fellowship and worship, gave an offering for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. They raised \$7,000 to help renovate one of the dorms into a retreat center.

The 2017 Senior Adult Conference was a success! Next year it will be held in Branson again November 12 – 14. Stay tuned for more details.



Steve Green



A great crowd for the 2017 Senior Adult Conference

2018 Senior Adult Conference  
Branson, Missouri  
November 12-14, 2018

## "...rejoice that the Lamb of God has come"

continued from page 1

the former cup-bearer and baker of the Pharaoh. Both of them had been given dreams that puzzled them and they wanted them answered. Joseph gave them the news, and in the end it worked out for the cup-bearer that he would return to serve Pharaoh. (Not so much for the baker, though, I guess that teaches us not to burn the Pharaoh's breakfast! HA!) All Joseph asked in return was that the cup-bearer remember him before Pharaoh one day... in hopes he might be released from his false imprisonment.

However, the cup-bearer forgot about Joseph, but providentially Pharaoh had a dream that needed interpreting and the cup-bearer remembered his former friend and recommended him to Pharaoh. Joseph finally got his opportunity before the King of Egypt and he did not disappoint. As we probably all know this led to Joseph being made second in command of all of Egypt. Only Pharaoh himself was of higher rank than Joseph. This also allowed, through another God-inspired series of events, for all of Joseph's family to come to Egypt and settle in the land of Goshen. This is where Jacob, his sons, and their families would live and be blessed for years and years.

As the years passed though and the people of Israel grew and grew in number and strength, the attitude of the Egyptians toward the Hebrews would change. It was about 300 years after the time of Joseph that a Pharaoh would arise in Egypt that did not know of the greatness of Joseph, nor care about what his people had done for the rest of Egypt. He saw the Hebrews as a people that needed to be enslaved and used by the Egyptians, and that is exactly what he did. However, God had not forgotten his promises to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob (Joseph's Dad). He heard his cries from his

people and sent someone who could rescue them from their captivity, that man was Moses.

Moses had spent a little time in Egypt himself and was very aware of the situation of the Hebrew people. God sent him to Pharaoh and on several occasions the king listened and watched as Moses and Aaron performed miracles and relayed the words of God to the king on behalf of God's children. But the wicked king would not let God's people go and God would continue to harden Pharaoh's heart until there was only one thing that could be done. God was going to judge Pharaoh and the Egyptian people for their sin against him and his people. He was going to send the Death Angel to Passover all the land and kill the first born male that was in every home. Yet, for the Hebrews he was going to make a way of salvation. All they had to do was take a spotless lamb, kill it, and wipe its blood on the two doorpost and on the lintel. Then that night, as the Death Angel passed over the homes that had the blood applied, he would pass by and not take their first born sons.

Now fast forward many more years to the birth of Jesus. Remember what the angels foretold to his parents, that he would "save his people from their sins"? Remember what John the Baptist said about Christ as he began his public ministry, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." This Christmas season rejoice that the Lamb of God has come. That he has shed his blood over us. That we who are in him no longer fear the approach of the death angel, but instead trust that we have been given victory over sin, death, and eternal separation from God because of the babe that was born to Mary and Joseph all those years ago in the manger in Bethlehem.

## College

from page 5

level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

### Vehicle

Southeastern Baptist College is in need of a late model four door pickup truck with low mileage. Our current mini-van is old with high mileage and in need of replacement. Contact us if you are interested in donating your truck. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

### Available to Preach

Thank you for the many churches providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregations! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

# Missions Report

from page 2

well as watching it grow spiritually. It has been a blessing to me and my family to grow closer to these individuals that God has brought into our lives. God has been faithful to meet our needs through the churches of the BMA of MS, Day Star Baptist, and different



Day Star, Sumrall

individuals. Our church family is filled with joy as we are moving closer to building a new church building. Thanks for your prayers and financial support! “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11 – Bro. Phillip Burns

## MERRY CHRISTMAS! The Hutchinson Family at D’iberville, Mississippi

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.” (Ephesians 1:15,16) Our family is grateful to the churches of Mississippi for the love and support you have shown in sponsoring us for the new mission in D’iberville. Things are off to a fast start and God is showing us an amazing journey ahead. The Christmas season is allowing us many opportunities to meet new and exciting people. The best part is the community is excited and extremely supportive of the work. We would love to come to your church and share the vision and ministry for D’iberville. – Will Hutchinson



Hutchinson Family

## Greetings from Midway Baptist Mission!

We are just completing our second year as a Mission. What a year it has been! Over the past several months, we have renovated the sanctuary, made improvements



Midway Baptist

in the fellowship hall with new tables and chairs, and most importantly, we have enjoyed an increase in attendance. Although our weekly stats do not show the increase, we now have more than twenty people attending Sunday services on a regular basis. Because of their work schedules we only have about one third of these each week. Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study has been added to our schedule of services. Our high attendance for the year was twenty-one. We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and then to enjoy a new year of growth, both spiritually and numerically. We appreciate the individuals, churches, and associa-

tions who support Midway with prayers and financial gifts. And, it goes without saying, we appreciate the Missions Department and Missionary Committee for their support and encouragement. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. – Bro. Kenneth Pollock

## The Foundation Baptist Mission would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

This year has been slow for us as we work to get people to come to church. Our services began the first



The Foundation Mission

Sunday in October. Even though we are small in number, we are very excited about the people that are attending church with us. We would like to say a big “Thank You” to our mother church, Evergreen Baptist Church, for the wonderful support they have been giving by helping in so many ways! They have been such a blessing to us! We would also like to thank everyone for their financial support and encouragement. We love you all! – Bro. Dale Broom

## Feliz Navidad – Hispanic Missions

We are grateful for every blessing received in the last weeks. Our Lord continues open doors in the Hispanic community in our State of Mississippi. Bro. Lucas Gomes in Canton is doing a good job. He reports 3 professions of faith and is discipling two new believers. Please pray for him, as he starts to look for a place to live in this area. Bro. Daniel Polanco in Southaven reports new contacts and an average of 10 people in small group. He continues to develop the core group for the future Hispanic mission in this area. Way, Truth and Life Ripley



Marroquin Family

MS. Bro. Byron Morales reports an average of 90 people in worship service and 1 addition by Baptism. Leo Adan in Hattiesburg is doing a great job. he reports an average of 35 in Sunday School and 40 in worship service and two people who accepted Christ. Bro. Jorge Galicia in Biloxi reports an average of 15 in worship service on Sundays. Bro. Marciano Montalvo from El Camino Baptist Church in Laurel reports an average of 110 in worship service and four professions of faith.

On December 1 and 2 the Hispanic missionaries received Dynamic church planting training. Bro Buddy Johnson is a DCPI Master Trainer for BMAA. Over 15 people from our churches and missions came to receive this training with the goal to continue to involve more people in missions work. It was a great time for learning and fellowship. Please pray for the Hispanic missions.

This is a special time to for be grateful for all that the Lord has done in our lives and ministry. God has blessed the Hispanic missions in a tremendous way this past year. We have seen his mercy in every Hispanic mission field and also, we are thankful for all the Hispanic Pastors, missionaries and people who serving with passion and love. It has been a great year reaching our goals, sharing the gospel of Jesus, seeing people saved, more additions in every church and

mission, growing not only in numbers but in spiritual way. From the BMA of MS Hispanic missions, we thank you for your continued prayers and help to magnify the Lord’s kingdom. May our Lord fill your hearts with joy and bring peace in this beautiful Season giving the Honor and Glory to our Savior Jesus Christ. May God bless you and Merry Christmas! – Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager

## Merry Christmas from Caledonia Baptist Church

What an exciting year we have had! We became a church in March and ever since that day we have grown and grown. Our membership is over a hundred now and



Caledonia Baptist Church

more people are coming. We want to thank the churches of the BMA and our Missions Department and the Revolving Loan Fund. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. And to all the churches and their pastors, I say, Thank You. “We are excited about next year and we can’t wait to see what the Lord will do. So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. – Bro. Bob Burch

Reports for Nov 2017				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
<b>BMA of Mississippi (Church Planting Coach)</b>				
Dr. Robert Burch (Caledonia)	147	109	\$12,170.00	Missionary Coach
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest)	52	52	\$5,759.00	Missionary Coach
<b>BMA of Mississippi (Church Planters)</b>				
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	39	64	\$1,980.00	Forked Oak
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	30	11	\$8,010.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	39	16	\$2,667.21	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	63	27	\$3,528.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	207	140	\$12,198.00	Charity
Dr. Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	21	9	\$1,259.00	First Baptist Mantachie
Dale Broom (S. Hattiesburg)	34	2	\$886.00	Evergreen Seminary
Will Hutchinson (D’iberville)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Campground
<b>BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin – Manager)</b>				
<small>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co- Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	112	128	\$4,644.00	Mother Church
<b>Church Planters</b>				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	31	18	\$1,173.00	El Camino
Jamie Galicia (Biloxi)	18	2	\$77.00	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)	4	2		El Camino
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)	11	2		Way, Truth & Life
<b>BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)</b>				
<small>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	30	60	\$3,677.00	
<b>Church Planters</b>				
James Cook (Olive Branch)		22		Homestretch
<b>Collectively, our missionaries reported 304 new contacts, 59 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 9 professions of faiths and 3 joined by letter in Nov 2017.</b>				