

# The Mississippi Baptist

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## The Lost Christ of Christmas

from a message by Adrian Rogers

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 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 saved one out of fellowship with Jesus.

If Mary and Joseph, the two people most intimately associated 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 to take from the devil. He aims his biggest guns at God's best.

continued on page 3

## 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

## Scratch-offs, lottery tickets can lead to big losses, addiction

from North Mississippi Daily Journal

It's just a scratch-off game or a lottery ticket, until it isn't.

For most people, buying a lottery ticket or scratch-off game will be an inexpensive, entertaining lark. They might spend a few minutes day dreaming about what they might buy if they won, but they will move on with their day. But for some it will become a compulsion that leads people to chase the elusive big win.

For some people, gambling can be just as addictive as alcohol or drugs.

"It still produces a high, even though the chemical may be adrenaline," said said Dody Vail, executive director of the Northeast Mississippi chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Scratch-off games became available in Mississippi recently, and the multi-state Power Bowl and Mega Millions lottery will come online January 30. Now that people can gamble in real life without driving hours to a casino or crossing

state lines, recovery advocates are concerned that more Mississippians could fall into compulsive gambling.

Spending \$50 a week on scratch offs and lottery tickets may not sound like a lot, but \$2,600 a year is a significant chunk out of the median income in Lee County, about \$45,000, Vail said.

About 10 percent of the population is vulnerable to compulsive gambling, said Kelly Ferguson of Fair Park Counseling in Tupelo. As with other addictions, people who gamble compulsively continue the behavior in the face of negative consequences, like spending money they need to pay the mortgage and groceries.

"At the end of the day, they are all brain diseases," Ferguson said.

Missing money and disappearing items that end up in the pawn shop can be strong indications that gambling has moved from recreation to problem, said Mary Greer, executive director of the Mississippi Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling.

Rationalizing gambling is a significant red flag, Vail said. People with gambling problems will try to justify their actions saying things like "I'll stop when I win it back," or "If I win, it will solve all my problems."

Borrowing money to buy lottery tickets or scratch off games is a sign of serious trouble. People with compulsive gambling problems often become irritable and restless if they try to stop. Priorities shift in unhealthy ways.

"They choose gambling over family time and family outings," said Tupelo licensed professional counselor Chip Peterson of Fair Park Counseling.

Families and friends usually notice there's a problem first.

"It can create family stress and strife," Ferguson said. "It often happens before the gambler starts feeling the consequences."

There are evidence-based tracks to treat compulsive gamblers and specific 12-step groups like Gamblers Anony-

mous. While there is a lot of overlap with treatment for substance abuse, it is typically recommended that people with gambling problems seek out specialized treatment.

"It's more evidence-based for gambling," Peterson said. "If they are with other compulsive gamblers (who are seeking treatment), they are able to relate more."

The Mississippi Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling maintains a hotline for people who think they or a loved one has a gambling addiction. It also has a certification program for health care professionals, based on the accepted training and treatment procedures adopted by other states and the National Council on Problem Gambling. Counseling through the hotline (888) 777-9696 is free.

As with treatment for other addictions, family support and education are also an important part of treatment for compulsive gambling.

# Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346

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

## President's Perspective

"...and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

As we approach the Christmas season, wherein we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we begin to cast our thoughts on gifting our loved ones in preparation to celebrate this momentous occasion of God's grace toward us.

Many companies and individuals choose to donate to commendable causes at the end of the calendar year. Among the numerous worthy charities that one can give to, I ask you to consider including Southeastern Baptist College. SBC is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization and every dollar given to the school is tax deductible.

The Lord has blessed us with amazing opportunities for growth in 2019. Many of these opportunities either required us to revitalize previously neglected infrastructure or, in the case of new initiatives, have cre-

ated additional expenditures. These are all necessary in order for SBC to continue to recover and move toward sustained growth while expanding our Christian influence among students pursuing higher education.

SBC was founded 71 years ago in order to train young men and women in the Bible, while following their calling in ministry and in secular career paths. We continue this tradition today as our graduates finish their course studies, equipped to apply their Christian training wherever the Lord leads them.

As I travel the area and continue to meet alumni of this great institution, it is clear to me that SBC has had real impact on generations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am constantly impressed with former students who give credit to SBC as a major marker that



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

the Lord used in their spiritual journey. Many reflect on fond memories, exciting sporting events, but most of all, how they grew closer to the Lord while on the campus of this institution.

Over the decades this spiritual influence SBC has had on our students was made possible because of generous donors who recognized that their giving to this college had an eternal impact on each student. As God leads us forward would you consider allowing the Lord to use you to bless these current and future students of Southeastern? I guarantee that every dollar donated to the school is used in the manner it has been desig-

nated or used toward essential requirements. The requirement list is long and dollars are few. We really need and truly appreciate all donors and donations.

There are two ways to donate to the college. A check can be sent to the school at 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440, or a person can go online to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/> and select the "Donate Now" button at the top of the landing page. A receipt will be provided for whichever way a person donates.

A person may also have sizable estate money that they can donate to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Inter-

est earned on Foundation donations help SBC to meet financial obligations throughout the year. Currently, the foundation has in excess of \$750,000. The Board of Directors has set a goal to increase this amount to \$1 million. Donations to the Foundation can be mailed to SBC with a notation that it is designated to the SBC Foundation Fund.

God bless you as you make your decision for year-end donations. I pray for a tremendous and blessed Christmas holiday for every person reading this article.

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

Equipping the Saints!  
Dr. Carson

## Big Screen Television

Thank you to the Magnolia Baptist Church of Hattiesburg for donating \$500 towards a big screen TV for the café. Black Friday sales enable us to purchase two for the price of one! Praise the Lord for your generosity!

## Gifts in Memory for Kitchen Fund:

Roy and Bessie Ree Fussell in memory of Brother Boyce Leathers

Sybil Bowman in memory of Brother Boyce Leathers

## Pew

We are looking for a used pew to be utilized as a waiting area in the café. The pew needs to be no shorter than five feet. Please contact Dr. Carson at 601-426-6346 if you can help us with finding one.

## SBC Choir

Does your church or ministry want to host the SBC "Corner-

stone" Choir? Now is the time to reserve dates for their performance during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

## Year End Giving

Are you looking for a worthy cause to donate toward? At the end of the calendar year, many look for organizations where they can contribute in order to impact the world for Jesus Christ and at the same time help in their personal or business annual tax deductions. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your donations to SBC are fully tax deductible. Donate today! You can do so by going to our webpage at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/> and using your credit card. Simply select the "donate" button on the right side of the page. Or, you can send a check to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy 15 N, Laurel MS 39440.

## SBC Foundation

The Southeastern Baptist College Foundation is a fantastic way to support your college well into the future. Interest from the Foundation helps sustain the financial needs of the college. We currently have \$750,000 in the Foundation. Our goal is to grow this amount to one million dollars. If you are interested in transferring assets or including the SBC Foundation in your will planning, contact Dr. Carson for more information on how to invest in the present and future sustainability of SBC.



Alumnus Gary Smith, Pastor of Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Paulding, Mississippi, delivered a powerful sermon in the Fall Semester's final chapel service

## Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award 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! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

## 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).

## Faculty Spotlight

### Bible Professor Ryan Reed

My name is Ryan Reed and I teach biblical studies classes at Southeastern Baptist College. My wife Jordan and I have two amazing children, Knox, who is four, and Lottie, who is nine months old. I also pastor Midway Baptist Church in Newton, Mississippi.

Since the Lord called me into vocational ministry I have always had a desire to teach His word. I knew that in order to teach His word well I needed to prepare myself in every way possible. So as a young man I enrolled in a small Baptist school that was unashamedly committed to proclaiming God's holy word. After earning my degrees, my desire was to help raise up a generation of students who, like Ezra, were committed to knowing God's word, practicing it, and teaching it to others. Southeastern Baptist College is just that place.

At SBC, I am able to introduce a generation of students to God's word. On a weekly basis I am able to show them that regardless of their occupational goals and aspirations, God has called them to devote themselves to knowing Him. Whether it's in parenting, pastoring, or teaching I am mindful of the fact that God has given us an indelible promise: His word shall go forth and it will not return unto Him void. It will accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sends it.

God is at work at Southeastern Baptist College. His word is going forth and it is accomplishing great things!



Ryan Reed Family



SBC Ambassadors recruiting new students at Wayne Academy's College and Career Day in Waynesboro

# Lost Christ of Christmas

from page 1

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 reality 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 Phillistines 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.

# MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

## MERRY CHRIST-MESS!!!

They say that Christmas is the "most wonderful time of year!" I for one would agree, because I love the music, the lights and the food!!! YUM!!!

But... it is one of the busiest times of the year. Quite frankly, it's chaotic! If your family and ministry is anything like ours, your calendar is as full as we all were at Thanksgiving! In the first twenty two days of December, we have 4 school events with our kids, 5 church parties and 4 special Christmas services to finish organizing and lead in, not to mention going to work. Come the New Year I'll be glad it's over! Many times Christmas seems like a Christ-MESS! LOL



Anders Lee

So how do we deal with all of this as it approaches? Here are 5 thoughts for the busy Youth Ministry leader or for that matter any ministry leader!

### Get Organized

With parties and year-end deadlines, our calendars are packed! It's easy to forget things. And, when you forget, you become even more overwhelmed. Take a morning and focus on getting organized. Once you can see everything clearly laid out for you, you'll feel some relief.

### It's Okay to Say No

This time of year almost ev-

everyone will be asking something of you. Prioritize who you say yes to. Once you do, it's okay to simply tell someone your calendar is packed and has no more room for other events. In order to avoid the unnecessary stress of an over packed calendar, don't take on last minute projects or feel like you have to attend every event thrown at you.

### Make Time for your Family

Trust me when I say this, your kids grow up FAST. When I was in youth ministry my kids were little. I spent untold hours with our youth because of a packed calendar. Take my advice, before you schedule all your youth events, schedule important family time! You won't regret it!

### Give Back

Certainly it's the time of year when the youth calendar should have fun events on it. Teens are expecting it to be "the most wonderful time of the year and to GET a lot. Lead your youth group to serve and give back to their church & community! When you plan all those events, include some opportunities for your teens to love others by doing service projects. Last year I witnessed a youth group spending part of their time off from school cleaning leaves out of the yards of some elderly folks who needed help. That's the kind of thing that teaches them a work ethic and to care for others... I loved seeing that!!! Christmas is a

Christ-MESS if teens are only getting. So GIVE BACK this Christmas through your youth in some way!

### Remember What the Season is All About

Don't get so busy that you lose sight that it's all about the Gospel! All ministry events should point people to Jesus! If your ministry calendar is sim-



ply full, but not full with the intent on maximizing the Gospel, you're busy for the wrong reasons!

Hope those tips help... buckle your seat belts!!! Here comes CHRISTMAS!!!

### On a personal note

I am so thankful to be able to share with you throughout the year here in the Mississippi Baptist. I pray that my articles are a blessing in one way or another! I want to wish you and all of yours a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and productive New Year!!! I pray that 2020 will be a great year for the cause of Christ and the churches of the BMA!!!

*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*



The SBC Chargers and the Trinity College of Florida men's teams pray together at the end of the game



Another near capacity crowd at the SBC home game against William Carey University

## 2019-20 Southeastern Charger Basketball Schedule

### Men's Schedule

October 21, 2019	@ Dillard University	New Orleans, LA	6:00pm
October 26, 2019	@ Loyola University	New Orleans, LA	TBA
October 28, 2019	Edward Waters College	HOME	7:00pm
November 2, 2019	@ Life University	Marietta, GA	4:00pm
November 5, 2019	@ Blue Mountain	Blue Mountain, MS	7:00pm
November 8, 2019	Loyola	HOME	TBA
November 9, 2019	MLUW	HOME	4:00pm
November 10, 2019	LSU Alexandria	HOME	5:00pm
November 12, 2019	@ Jackson State Univ	Jackson, MS	7:00pm
November 16, 2019	@ West Alabama University	Livingston, AL	4:00pm
November 19, 2019	William Carey	HOME	7:00pm
November 22, 2019	Trinity College of Florida	HOME	7:00pm
November 23, 2019	@ MLUW	Columbus, MS	4:00pm
December 3, 2019	Mississippi College	HOME	6:00pm
December 5, 2019	Blue Mountain College	HOME	7:00pm
December 7, 2019	@ Tougaloo	Tougaloo, MS	TBA
December 10, 2019	@ William Carey	Hattiesburg, MS	7:00pm
December 12, 2019	Webber International Univ	HOME	4:00pm
December 14, 2019	University of Mobile	HOME	4:00pm
December 16, 2019	@ Jackson State University	Jackson, MS	TBA
January 9, 2020	Pensacola Christian College	HOME	7:00pm
January 11, 2020	@ LSU Eunice	Eunice, LA	4:00pm
January 16, 2020	@ University of Mobile	Mobile, AL	7:00pm
January 24, 2020	Johnson University of Florida	HOME	7:00pm
January 25, 2020	Trinity College of Florida	HOME	3:00pm
February 13, 2020	@ Pensacola Christian	Pensacola, FL	7:00pm
February 18, 2020	@ LSU Shreveport	Shreveport, LA	7:00pm
February 21-22, 2020	Oakland City Univ (2 games)	Oakland City, IN	7:00pm

### Lady's Schedule

October 28, 2019	Edward Waters College	Home	5:00pm
November 1-2, 2019	@ Faulkner University Classic	Montgomery, AL	TBA
November 5, 2019	@ Blue Mountain	Blue Mountain, MS	5:00pm
November 7, 2019	@ Judson College	Marion, AL	6:00pm
November 9, 2019	Ms College for Women	HOME	2:00pm
November 16, 2019	@ West Alabama University	Livingston, AL	2:00pm
November 19, 2019	William Carey	HOME	5:00pm
November 22, 2019	Trinity College of Florida	HOME	5:00pm
November 23, 2019	@ MS College for Women	Columbus, MS	2:00pm
December 5, 2019	Blue Mountain College	HOME	5:00pm
December 10, 2019	@ William Carey	Hattiesburg, MS	5:00pm
December 14, 2019	University of Mobile	HOME	2:00pm
January 9, 2020	Pensacola Christian College	HOME	5:00pm
January 11, 2020	@ LSU Eunice	Eunice, LA	TBA
January 18, 2020	@ Coastal Alabama CC South	AL	2:00pm
January 24, 2020	Johnson University of Florida	HOME	5:00pm
January 25, 2020	Trinity College of Florida	HOME	1:00pm
January 28, 2020	Judson College	HOME	6:00pm
January 31, 2020	Coastal Alabama CC North	Monroeville, AL	TBA
February 3, 2020	@ Coastal Alabama CC North	HOME	TBA
February 7, 2020	Coastal Alabama CC South	HOME	6:00pm
February 13, 2020	@ Pensacola Christian College	Pensacola, FL	5:00pm
February 18, 2020	@ LSU Shreveport	Shreveport, LA	5:00pm
February 21-22, 2020	Oakland City University	Oakland City, IN	TBA

Support Southeastern Basketball

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

## It Certainly IS The Season!

The last two months of each year present us with opportunities to reflect on our lives, our blessings, and our relationship with our God.

The two holidays that present themselves, Thanksgiving and Christmas, should give us pause. They should cause us to reflect on the One who should be the center of each.

The Lord God has richly blessed us as a nation, as individuals, and as His children. Regardless of our health, wealth, or circumstances, we can all agree that He has blessed us beyond our expectations, our needs, and beyond that which we deserve. A popular radio host's response when asked how he is doing is, "Better than I deserve". That certainly applies to the rest of us also.

When we stop and reflect on the blessings we enjoy, we must admit that we are deeply "thankful" for God's care for us.

Christmas gives us opportunity to reflect on the great-

est gift ever bestowed upon humanity. He gave His Only Son. He has showered His love upon all mankind by providing a Savior, a Deliverer, an Advocate for

the lost souls of mankind. What a love God has for us!

We are truly thankful for all the blessings of life that God gives. Let us be mindful of the great-

est gift as stated by the physician Luke as he

wrote the following words, *"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

May you all have a Very Blessed Christmas Celebration.



## 2019 Senior Adult Conference Held in Branson

Hundreds of senior adult BMA Baptists from across America gathered for three days of worship, entertainment and fun at the 2019 edition of the BMA National Senior Adult Conference. The site for the event was the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri.

Greg Medenwald, pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, brought three inspiring messages and David Attebery, director of Celebrate Recovery at Northwest Bible Church in Rogers, Arkansas and Neil

Dumas, worship pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas, led in worship. Attendees also enjoyed a



concert by the Gold City Quartet, a comedy set from Dennis Swanburg and attended the Haygood Family Music Show.

Donny Parrish, executive director at Lifeword, said that every department in the BMA had a hand in making the event special for BMA Senior Adults. "Your BMA department directors have a special love for these folks who have not only been a blessing to God's work in the past, but are a vital part of God's work today! It was a joy to see all of our national directors present and each of our national departments play a role in the confer-

ence." Not only did the participants enjoy a great week of fun, they also helped fund missions in a critical part of the work — the Middle East. An offering was taken, and \$15,000 was raised to help the ministry of Charlie Costa in Beirut, Lebanon.

National Senior Adult 2020 will be held November 16-18 at Chateau On The Lake in Branson, Missouri. Kirk Shelton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, will be the conference speaker.

-Via Baptist Trumpet

### Fulton Church calls pastor

Bro. Matt Hudson has accepted the call as pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi.

### Long Time Texas Pastor Dies

J.D. Hudson was born on September 22, 1918 in Runnels County, Texas and was blessed with 101 years of life. He left this earthly home on October 29, 2019 to be with his Lord and Savior. A World War Two veteran he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. He married Charlie Faye Bowles in 1939 and the couple had three beautiful children together. He graduated from Jacksonville College in 1954. He pastored Baptist Churches for 38 years in Texas but preached until he was in his 90's.



J.D. Hudson

Bro. Hudson was preceded in death by his parents, adoring wife Faye, Son Jimmy, 2 sisters and 3 brothers, and son-in-law Phil Simons.

He is remembered by 2 daughters, Gloria and husband Ron Chesser, and Ann Simons; two grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

### Long Time Pastor Dies

Reverend Carl Garrett Willis, 86, passed away November 15, 2019, in Conway, Arkansas. He was born on May 20, 1933, in Wheaton, Missouri, to John Garrett Willis and Georgia Willis. He was the oldest of 4 children.

He started his ministry at age 18 and continued to preach

and pastor for 57 years until his retirement in 2008. He presented the gospel with great enthusiasm and had an amazing knowledge of the Bible which



Carl Willis

was evident in his messages. He pastored 8 churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. His last pastorate was at Grace Temple Baptist Church in Ar-

lington, Texas, from 1977-2008. He enlisted in the Air Force at age 19 and served as a crew chief on a B-47 bomber for 4 years.

He is preceded in death by his father, mother and one sister, Mary Snell.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Virginia, son Gary Willis (Janette) of Conway, Arkansas, daughter Linda Knight of Midlothian, Texas, grandchildren Heather (Brian) Thomas, Ryan Knight, Kirby (Taylor) Willis, Ross (Bailey) Knight, Raquel Knight, four great granddaughters, brother James (Betty) Willis, sister Faye (Don) Kunze, and a host of nieces and nephews and extended family.

Services were held at Central Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas, on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. Memorials can be made to LifeWord Ministries, 611 Locust St. Conway, Arkansas 72034.



### Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

#### And It Came To Pass

My favorite scripture is "And it came to pass". We've all had unpleasant things come into our lives and I am thankful that it didn't come to stay but "it came to pass".

The Psalm 30:5 confirms this. ".....weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

# Mississippi Baptist

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Cherita and I want to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas. For us, this is a great time to count our blessings, and among our blessings is the visit of our children and grandchildren. It is with great anticipation they we await their arrival.

Our anticipation cannot compare to the anticipation that all humanity agonized with, just prior to the birth of Jesus. Prophets had foretold, and events had pointed to the day. Their search is recorded in 1 Pet 1, "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:"

One can only imagine what it was

like to hear, "... Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

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!

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 am challenged to remember that our work is not done! There is so much more to do! We need new missionaries to go plant churches in new locations across Mississippi.

Our current missionaries are doing an excellent job. Enclosed is a brief report from some of them along with their well wishes at Christmas.

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 I do not want to forget that this is my first and most important mission field. God bless each of you and Merry Christmas!

## Refuge Baptist Mission at Kiln, Mississippi, Holds First Service



116 folks attended the first service of Refuge Baptist Mission in Kiln, Mississippi

Weeks and months of planning finally came to fruition this past Sunday when 116 people gathered at the Kiln public library to experience and participate in the first corporate worship service of Refuge Baptist Mission. Missionary Josh Daniels and his wife Mary Helen, along with the team of volunteers from Refuge, led in a wonderful service. From the parking lot to the pew, the team had all the bases covered and was very well organized in its effort to make all who came feel welcome. Midway First Baptist, the mother church, was represented in the service with 9 people who drove down. We are praising the Lord for a great first day.

## Salt Light Baptist Mission Baptizes Four

"Salt Light Baptist Mission has been blessed the past few weeks! We've had visitors each service with a high attendance of 32 for morning worship. We recently had our Thanksgiving service and dinner at the Mission and we baptized four people that morning. There's still a few more that need to be baptized.

We also started mid-week Disciple training classes on Wednesday nights. We had three men and three women participate. The Lord is blessing us and we are so thankful! We very grateful for all the prayers and support from the people



Salt Light Baptist Mission hold first Thanksgiving fellowship

and Churches of the BMAMS. With the Lord and your help, we're going forward with the Gospel of Jesus." – Missionary Johnny Williams

## Merry Christmas from Midway at Batesville, Mississippi

We "give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good," His mercy toward us continues day by day. The blessings of the Lord are upon us we know, even though our congregation has been touched by various bouts of illness. Attendance has been below average for a few weeks but should be building back soon. In spite of low numbers, our worship services have



Christmas Shoe Boxes

continued and have been great moments together with God. Bro. Tommy Shroads, our worship leader, has begun a children's church segment as a regular part of our morning service. Even though there is usually only one child present, everyone enjoys the brief lessons. Last year we decided to participate in the annual Operation Christmas Child program and put together about 30 boxes. This year we collected designated items each month and when the boxes were packed this time, we had 42 boxes. On the third Sunday in November, we surrounded those boxes and had a prayer for those who would receive them this Christmas. It was exciting to see our members working together on this project and to see them looking beyond our needs as a Mission Church to those who are in much greater

need. At this writing, Thanksgiving is past, and Christmas is almost here. I hope that everyone enjoyed a great and blessed time with family at Thanksgiving, and I am praying that everyone has a merry and joyful time at Christmas, remembering our dear Savior's birth and allowing His love to flow through all of us to those around us. Merry Christmas and blessings to all." – Missionary Kenneth Pollock

## Redemption Baptist Mission Adds Two New Families

"As we finish the Thanksgiving holiday season, I look around and marvel at how God has blessed the mission this past year. We were able to buy a building, remodel it and begin services. The Lord added to our congregation and grew the people we had previously. We are almost finished discipling 14 people who will become leaders of various ministries throughout the church. We are looking forward to some service projects in our community and the chance to be a blessing to needy families during the holidays. I am thankful for all the financial support and prayers that have been given on our behalf. On behalf of everyone at Redemption, I would like to thank the Association for loving and investing in us. We hope you have a blessed holiday season, and may God bless all of your churches." – Missionary Wesley Martin

## Canaan Baptist Mission at Waynesboro

Merry Christmas to you all! The year

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## Missions

from page 5

has flown by. As it comes to an end and we approach Christmas, I have to pause and thank God for all He has done for me, my family and the Mission Church. When I began this journey and the work of planting a Missionary Baptist Church in the Waynesboro area, there were many things I did not know! But what I did know was that there was a need and that God would bless through His churches to meet the needs we would have. Neither the Lord nor His churches have failed us! You have been generous with your prayers and your giving, and all at the Mission Church thank you! We will continue to press forward for the glory of God. We will continue to reach out to the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will not in the process compromise our beliefs. And by the grace and help of God working through His churches we will plant a New Testament Missionary Baptist Church! May God bless you all this Christmas! This December we will be putting together small gift bags and giving them out in the community. Pray for us that the Lord will allow this to meet and minister to new people! – Missionary Jason Howard

### Merry Christmas from Bro. Ed DuVall

Homestretch is excited about where we are in terms of spiritual growth. We are halfway through our discipleship training in the ABC's of Christian Growth. We will continue our Discipleship training with a transition into using the Disciple Way material at the beginning of the year. Our people are excited about getting to know God in a deeper way. We are grateful to Bro. Sidney Farmer for traveling to Cleveland to provide us with training in the use of the Disciple Way material. We have some hopeful prospects for a new missions' opportunities in the upcoming year. We will share more about this opportunity later. Please keep us in your prayers.

### Congratulations to the Farmer Family!

Missionary Coach and Pastor of South Forrest Baptist Church, Sidney Farmer and his wife Becky, announced that their son, Austin and his wife, Caitlin are expecting a child in May of 2020. "Sidney and I are extremely excited to share the news that Austin and Caitlin have received a blessing from God. This sweet little blessing will be arriving in May."

### Report on Restoration Ministry

Paul Spurlin, Coordinator of Restoration Jail Ministry, visited with the Big Creek, Oak Grove, and Washington Associations during their respective meetings held during the month of November, introducing the churches to our efforts to help them minister to

# Mississippi Baptist



Don Brown  
Editor

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January of each year is designated as the "Special Emphasis Month" for your Publications Department. Our churches and people are asked to receive a special offering during January to raise funds for the continued operation of this ministry.

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DON BROWN, EDITOR

people in their local county jails. He thanks each of these associations for their encouraging comments, discussions, and prayer support and thanks the Washington association for agreeing to financially support the new ministry. Restoration Jail Ministry also thanks Pastor Donald Brown, Buffalo Baptist Church, for offering to provide Bibles from Prisoners Bible Crusade as churches need them within local jail ministry. Paul reports having a con-

versation with one county sheriff who has agreed to a meeting in early January to discuss how churches may begin ministering in his jail.

As always, if your church would like to help with local jail ministry, please contact Paul at paul.restoration.ministry@gmail.com. Finally, as we enter December, Restoration Jail Ministry wishes all of you a "Merry Christmas" as you take time to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

### New Website On The Way

I am told that our new website should be ready to launch by January 1, 2020. I am excited! We have been waiting patiently for the redesign and construction and I will be meeting with the designer next week to finalize things. I want to thank each of you for being patient with us, as we have gone through this transition.

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## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

# BUFFET

"Supper!" I can still recall the countless times as a child when I would hear mom holler us in from outside with the news that supper was ready. As a child, I knew that it was time to leave what I was doing and promptly return home to eat. There were times that we would go inside and sit down on the bench to a plate of those huge white beans with pieces of ham in it. To this day, I still don't like those big old white beans. At that point in my life though, I had no choice. I had to eat the white beans. My portion would be the size of a postage stamp, about half the size of a whole bean, and was still more than sufficient.

Every now and then, mom would "treat" us to beef liver. I'm not sure if anyone in our household liked beef liver, but I think mom had heard that it was a good source of iron. I don't care how much ketchup you put on liver, it still tastes like liver. Most of the time it would be liver and onions, but sometimes she would try and trick us by frying it up with rice and gravy. I think she felt that if she fried it, that we would enjoy it more. It was that or she was just being mean by tricking us into believing we were eating

fried tenderized steak.

Here in Purvis, Mississippi, we have a restaurant that has a buffet for lunch during the week. Every day they have fried chicken on the menu, but they generally have another meat of some sort for each day of the week. My favorite is fried and blackened catfish Friday with some gumbo slathered over



Bro. Chuck Lee



the top. On one day of the week though, he always puts out liver and onions as one of the choices. Ha! You're not fooling me! Well, you did that one time, but after that I knew it was liver and not steak. I asked the owner why he would subject his patrons to such misery and he said, "Believe it or not, people really like it". And sure enough, I looked

around and people were eating the stuff. It was mostly the older crowd that went through the depression and learned to eat just about anything, but they were eating it.

Growing up, I was always taught to not overfill my plate so as not to seem like a pig. There were some things said about being polite too. The other day I watched a man put, not one, not two, not three, but four grilled pork chops on his plate. I was getting worried that there would be none left by the time I got there. In fact, I had a little bit of self-righteous thinking going on in my mind and I am not sure why. I thought that the polite thing to do would be to get just one so that other people in line could get one as well and therefore not have to hold up the line while waiting for the cook to bring out another pan of pork chops. Then I looked around and it seemed that everyone had the same idea as this man. Plates were filled to overflowing. It was as if everyone was worried that the kitchen would run out of food and they were going to get theirs before it was all gone! I got a little nervous and wondered if I had missed something on the news. But alas, it was just people being people.

I know what you are thinking. Bro. Chuck is going to use this as a way to point out how we should crave the spiritual food that God provides just like we indulge ourselves at the buffet. That would be a good

## Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

1 Peter 4.16 "But if anyone suffers as a Christian..."

Persecution is a real thing. It is an act against someone in this case Christians with focus to damage them, to intimidate them, to stop them, to discredit them, to imprison them, or even to silence them in death. Sometimes a Christian believes he or she is being persecuted, but it is not because of their stand for Christ and His Church. They are being persecuted probably being socially shunned and shamed because they are simply unpleasant and obnoxious people.



Tony Cleaver

It is not for Christ they are persecuted; it is for their unbearable and unending diatribes regarding others. It is not for Christ they are persecuted, it is because they have a life goal of telling others they are wrong because they do not behave in the same manner as the spiteful speaker requires.

Dear Reader, let us not make others miserable with our rants. Don't confuse this kind of malevolent behavior with doing the work of God. Oh yes, you will be the one rejected because of your conduct, but you are not suffering as a Christian. You are suffering because of your own unjustifiable behavior. But if anyone suffers, really suffers, for the cause of Christ, let them entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.

thought, but I just wanted to share that people really do eat a whole lot when it comes to all you can eat buffets. It is a sight to behold. You should try just observing this phenomenon someday. It is really very entertaining.

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



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### The Whitsitt Controversy

One of the great truths that Missionary Baptists have had to contend for is that Baptist people and churches are of Divine origin and have continued in succession from the personal ministry of Christ. Our Doctrinal Statement affirms that we believe in 1) the establishment of the visible church of Christ during His personal ministry and 2) the perpetuity of Missionary Baptist churches from Christ's days on earth until His second coming. Leading up to 1800 to mid-1800s, it was the consensus among Baptist historians that Baptists were of ancient origin. A few of the great

but nearly forgotten Baptist history books are Ray's Baptist Succession by D.B. Ray; Baptist Church Perpetuity by W.A. Jarrel; History of Baptists by G.H. Orchard; The History of the Baptists, Thomas Armitage; A History of the Baptists by J.T. Christian; and The Trail of Blood by J.M. Carrol to name a few.

There was one great "Controversy" and one great "Movement" that took place during the 1800s through early 1900s. One involved Baptist history, "The Whitsitt Controversy." The other involved church doctrine, "The Landmark Movement." While the Whitsitt controversy dealt a blow to the confidence of

Baptist People concerning their origin, the Landmark Movement helped restore Baptist churches to their primitive purity. The churches of the BMA are one of a few groups left who have held and should hold tenaciously to the old paths.

In 1880, while serving as President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, Dr. William Whitsitt published an article in the New York Independent, a widely circulated pedobaptist paper, concerning what is called the 1641 "Discovery." This published finding was that, in 1641, a group of English Separatists began the practice of immersing. If this were true, it would mean there were no Baptist churches prior to 1641, and that Baptists find their origin in the Church of England – the daughter of Rome. Whitsitt's article in the Independent did not bear his name, though it later came to light that he was the author. In 1896, Dr. Whitsitt was cho-

sen to write an article for Johnson's Universal Encyclopedia. In Johnson's Encyclopedia he made the statement that "prior to the year 1641 the Baptists of England practiced sprinkling and pouring for baptism; but that about 1641 immersion was substituted in the place of sprinkling and pouring for baptism." This statement itself is contradictory. If there was no one baptizing by immersion prior to 1641, then there were no Baptists. And yet, he stated, "prior to the year 1641 BAPTISTS practiced sprinkling and pouring for baptism."

Of course, this caused a great deal of controversy, so much so that he was pressured to resign as President of the Baptist Theological Seminary in 1899. D.B. Ray wrote to the Seminary, asking for their position concerning Baptist History prior to Dr. Whitsitt's article. The response was received in letter as follows, "Rev. D.B. Ray, Dear Bro. yours of June 22nd is just received,

owing to my absence for some months from the State. I hasten now to reply by saying that it is not true that the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary through its Professor of History ascribes the origin of Baptists to the Church of Rome, or the Reformation of the 16th century. You ask – 'Have the Baptists as churches a divine or human origin? Have the Baptists originated from the church of Rome, or the Reformation of the 16th century?' I answer that Baptist churches in my opinion are of divine origin, and originated in the first century under the preaching and founding of the apostles of our Lord. They were not then called Baptist churches, because they had no need of any distinctive title inasmuch as there were not in that age any other kind of churches under the divine order of things. Very truly, your brother in Christ, Wm. Williams."

continued on page 8

# Activities from State Mission Projects

## Refuge Church Holds Public Service



Folks greeted as they arrive for the first service at Refuge Baptist Mission



Missionary Josh Daniels casting his vision and expounding upon Ps 46 - God is our Refuge



Missionary Josh Daniels and Director Larry Geraldson at the first service of Refuge Baptist Mission in the Kiln, Mississippi

## Midway Mission, Batesville



Kenneth and Carole Pollock



Childrens Church with Tommy and Stella



Great Music and Worship at Refuge Baptist Mission's first service



Missionary Josh Daniels and his wife Mary Helen

## Salt Light Mission



Salt Light Baptist Mission hold first Thanksgiving fellowship



Midway Baptist Mission Prepares to send Christmas Shoe Boxes

## History

from page 7

This blow dealt by Whitsitt, while serving at the sacrifices of Baptist people, has proven to be the tool of our adversary to identify and reconstruct Baptists as Protestant. It was not long until the commonly and almost unanimously held view of succession was largely discarded by our SBC brothers, who are now credited for being the largest Protestant denomination in America. Dr. Whitsitt stated that "if in the future it shall ever be made to appear that I have erred in my conclusions, I would promptly and cheerfully say so." Dr. Whitsitt's "Discovery" was, in fact, proven to be in error and refuted by Baptist historian David Benedict and others. In 1897, Dr. Joseph

Angus, English preacher and writer, cited the existence of 26 churches practicing immersion before 1641 and gave the names of 21 pamphlets opposing Baptists and their manner of immersion. However, Dr. Whitsitt never did labor to heal the wound he inflicted upon the Baptist People. D. B. Ray said, "No man now living will see the end of the hurt Dr. Whitsitt has done the Baptists, no matter how often his position is refuted." History influences doctrine. Once a Protestant origin was assigned to Baptist churches and accepted, it was not long until the doctrine of those accepting this error began to reflect that of Protestantism. History Matters!!! (Information credited to Ray's Baptist History, D.B.Ray, The Battle for Baptist History, I.K. Cross, and The Coming Destruction of the Baptist People by James R. Beller.)



Photo on Left Salt Light Baptizes Four